

**Xi Focus: Xi stresses healthy, high-quality development of private sector**

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, on Monday urged proper guidance for the healthy and high-quality development of the private sector. (Report on Page 2)

**PTI appoints Elahi as PTI's president, notification issued**

Former chief minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has been made the president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The notification in this regard has been issued. Fawad Chaudhry, PTI's central leader met the former chief minister and presented the notification on behalf of PTI's chief. Mr Elahi said he was grateful to the PTI's chairman. He said Imran Khan was making efforts for the supremacy of the constitution and fighting the case of the ordinary

**Ramazan Package**



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Ramazan Package on Tuesday.

**PM announces free wheat flour for poor under Ramazan package**

ISLAMABAD: In a big relief for poor, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced a Ramazan package providing free wheat flour to the inflation-hit people. The package is first of its kind aimed at facilitating the poor population. Chairing a review meeting, the prime minister said after its launch in Punjab, the federal government would extend cooperation to provinces to replicate the programme. The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to complete the comprehensive strategy for the supply of flour to the poor families as soon as possible. Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman and Finance Secretary Mujahid Sherdil briefed the prime minister about the Ramazan package. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi, the Secretary Food and other senior officials attended the meeting. Meanwhile, on his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that he realized the severe difficulties faced by millions of people living below the poverty line due to price hike. On the advent of Ramazan ul Mubarak, the people should come forward and become a source of relief and comfort to the poor segment of society, the prime minister stressed. So, a decision over provision of free flour had been taken, he said and expressed the hope that other provinces would also share their part in this kind gesture.

**Bilawal arrives in New York**

**News Desk**

UNITED NATIONS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari flew into New York Tuesday morning to begin a 5-day visit during which he will preside over a conference on 'Women in Islam', which is set to take place Wednesday on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). He was received at New York's John F Kennedy International airport by Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram, Deputy Permanent Representative Aamir Khan, Consul General Ayesha Ali, and officials of the Pakistan Mission to the UN. Later today, the foreign minister will participate in a high-level UN Security Council debate on 'Women, Peace and Security', sponsored by Mozambique in its capacity as the 15-member Council's President for March. On Wednesday, the one-day conference on Women in Islam will be held in the Economic and Social Council's chamber at the UN headquarters. It is being hosted by Pakistan in its capacity as the chair of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM). The stated objective of the conference is to bridge the perception-reality gap on the rights of women in Islam and celebrate the experiences and successes of iconic Muslim women. It is aimed at establishing an annual policy dialogue to address challenges and explore opportunities to advance the role of women role in OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) countries. Titled "Women in Islam: Understanding the Rights and Identity of Women in the Islamic World", FM Bilawal will open the high-level segment of the conference with an address. He will be followed by the UN General Assembly President, Csaba Korosi; OIC Secretary General, Houssein Brahim Taha; Executive Director of UN-Women, Sima Bahous; Chairperson of 67th CSW, South African Ambassador Mathu Joyini; dignitaries and representatives of the OIC member states.

**Spokesman Report**

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**GPM urges nation to pray for country's progress, prosperity on Shab-e-Barat**

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the nation to pray for the progress and prosperity of the dear country on Shab-e-Barat, a night of forgiveness which falls on the 15th of Holy month of Shaban. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister felicitated the Muslim Ummah and prayed for the alleviation of the difficulties of flood-affected people of Pakistan and earthquake victims of Turkiye and Syria, besides an end to the sufferings of the Muslim brethren and sisters of the Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

**CEC stresses women's crucial role in national development, promoting democracy**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Tuesday emphasized the crucial role of women in promoting national development and maintaining stable democracy. In a message on International Women's Day, the CEC asserted that democracy could not flourish without the active participation and representation of women at all levels of governance. He highlighted the efforts of the Election Commission of Pakistan in promoting the registration of women and the deprived sections of society as voters, urging political parties to provide more opportunities to ensure the participation of women in the electoral process and to create a favorable environment for their political training. "On this important day, all the women of Pakistan who are above 18 years of age must register their vote and show their political awareness by casting their votes on the polling day in 2023 elections," he added. The CEC also reassured women in their struggle for equal representation, saying that the ECP has always been with them in their efforts to ensure their right to vote and have a say in the democratic process.

**Pak, US reaffirm commitment to address common threat of terrorism**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In the two-day Pakistan-US counterterrorism dialogue, both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the common threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They also agreed to develop a better understanding of the terrorist threat. Pakistan side was led by Additional Secretary (UN&ED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Syed Haider Shah and the US team was headed by Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism, State Department, Christopher Landberg, Foreign Office Spokesperson said.

**Imran must be brought to justice for corruption, other crimes: Marriyum**

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday called for bringing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan to justice for his crimes, including massive corruption. "Till date, Imran Khan has not appeared before courts in any case whether it is related to Malam Jabba, Billion Tree Tsunami, BRT Peshawar, Toshkhana, foreign funding or Tyrin White's parental issue," the minister said while talking to the media. Imran Khan, she said, had been avoiding the courts as he had nothing in defence to escape from punishment for the crimes. She said Imran Khan was a "foreign agent", who had "indulged in laundering money through his cronies and using charity in his politics". By evading court appearances, Imran Khan, in fact, had made fun of the law and the Constitution, the minister said, adding he was the first accused who despite being summoned repeatedly, was not appearing before the courts. It would be better that Imran Khan should be arrested and produced in the courts. If Imran Khan were not brought to justice for his crimes, then it would set a precedent for other accused to stop appearing before courts, Marriyum said. She said ironically, Imran Khan had run his government through video links and now wanted to face the law in the same way. The minister said, "Like a jackal, he had hidden at his Zaman Park residence while his workers were receiving bullets in the long march." She said Imran Khan had announced to start another movement, aiming to escape from accountability. His "save judiciary" movement was, in fact, an "Adalat Sy Bacho Tehreek" (movement for escaping from courts), she added. Marriyum said Imran Khan would never appear before the courts as he was bent on creating chaos in the country to hamper the economic stabilization process. The PTI chief was afraid of the police and got himself hidden whenever the policemen visited his home, she added.

**Illegal Arms Case: Shahbaz Gill's arrest warrant issued**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The district and sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday issued the arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Shahbaz Gill in the illegal arms case. The judicial magistrate Waqas Ahmed Raja conducted the hearing of illegal arms case against the PTI leader Dr Shahbaz Gill. The court issued bailable arrest warrant for Gill due to his absence. Gill has also been directed to submit Rs50,000 surety bond to the court and ordered to ensure his appearance in the next hearing. The hearing was adjourned till May 9. Earlier in the day, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) directed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan to appear before the sessions court in the Toshakhana case. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) announced its reserved verdict on a plea challenging the issuance of the arrest warrant against Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case. The IHC ordered Khan to appear before the sessions court on March 13. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the verdict.

**Ahsan Iqbal says 'some miscreants want to sabotage census'**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said all resources were being provided by the federal government to complete the census as it was a national agenda. The next general election would be based on the census, but some miscreants wanted to sabotage the process, he said while chairing a meeting of the 7th Census Monitoring Committee to review the progress of the country's first Digital Census. The meeting was attended by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, chief secretaries of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, the National Database Registration Authority chairman, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) chairman and other representatives, according to the state news agency. Ahsan Iqbal said, "It is our responsibility to focus on this exercise by ensuring its transparency and accuracy." The Federal Government would make the whole process successful by taking all the stakeholders on board. Ahsan Iqbal directed the PBS chief to meet the Sindh chief minister along with his technical team on Wednesday to address the concerns of the province. Chief Minister Murad appreciated the efforts of the planning minister. The minister said the government would take all the provinces on board regarding the census and the concerns of Sindh province would be removed immediately.

**IHC reserves verdict on Imran Khan's plea against arrest warrant**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday reserved its verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan's plea seeking cancellation of his non-bailable arrest warrant. Imran Khan through his lawyer Ali Bukhari moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to quash non-bailable arrest warrants issued in the Toshakhana case. The verdict was reserved by IHC CJ Justice Amir Farooq after hearing arguments from both sides. After the resumption of the hearing, Imran Khan's lawyer sought 4 weeks time his [Imran] court appearance. Cannot give the time of four weeks, should we ask the court to initiate proceedings of absconder against your client? Justice Farooq asked Imran Khan's lawyer. The Islamabad High Court reserved the verdict seeking the quashing of the non-bailable arrest warrant for Imran Khan. Before the adjournment of the hearing for thirty minutes, the IHC top judge asked Imran Khan's lawyers to ask his client to appear before the sessions court for indictment first and later seek exemptions. We want the IHC to cancel the non-bailable arrest warrant of my client, Imran Khan's counsel said. The court is summoning your client for indictment and this is the way to ensure the presence of the accused in the court, the IHC CJ remarked. The former prime minister appeared before three courts on February 28, but the time ran out and he could not appear before the sessions court, after which his arrest warrant was issued, the counsel said.



## Group photo

ISLAMABAD: President urges students to enhance their intellectual abilities on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## President urges students to enhance their intellectual abilities

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday asked the students to enhance their intellectual abilities and play their role in the development of the country.

He said that it was essential to improve intellectual resources as well as IT knowledge and skills to help address the socio-economic challenges being faced by the country.

The president expressed

these views while talking to the students and staff of the Cadet College, Jaffarabad, Balochistan, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Highlighting the importance of education, the President stated that nations had achieved progress by focusing on science and education.

He regretted that 22 million children were out of school whereas the countries in the region had achieved almost 100 percent primary enrol-

ment rate, adding that tangible and immediate steps needed to be taken to bring these children into schools.

He also underlined the need to equip the youth with skills and education to improve the economic health of the country.

The president said that Pakistan had great potential in terms of both its natural and human resources that needed to be fully harnessed for the uplift of the country.

He said that Balochistan was rich in natural resources and steps were being taken to bring the province at par with other provinces.

He emphasized the need for constructing dams and water storage to mitigate the impacts of floods and natural calamities.

The president also called upon the college management to train students in emerging technologies like the Internet of Things, Robotics, Virtual

Reality and Artificial Intelligence, which had vast applications in every sphere of life.

He urged the students to focus on their studies and contribute towards the development of Pakistan.

The president was informed that Cadet College Jaffarabad was established on 5th March 2009. The college runs classes from 7th till 12th class. Eight entries of 12 grade (around 570) have been passed out from college so far.

## Belt and Road Initiative a high-quality public good: Chinese FM



## Xinhua

BEIJING: The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a high-quality public good initiated by China and jointly built by all partners, with its benefits shared by the world, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress, Qin said the BRI has attracted the participation of over three-fourths of countries in the world and 32 international organizations.

Over the past decade, the BRI has brought nearly a trillion U.S. dollars of investment, established over 3,000 cooperation projects, creat-

ed some 420,000 jobs in countries along the routes and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty, according to Qin.

Responding to allegations that the BRI can lead to debt traps, Qin said it is never China that should be accused of creating the so-called debt traps, citing data that multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors account for over 80 percent of developing countries' sovereign debt.

China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation this year and will take it as an opportunity and work with all parties for more fruitful outcomes from the Belt and Road cooperation, Qin said.

## Trouble in store for Imran as ECP issues his bailable arrest warrants

## ABC

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued on Tuesday bailable arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

The arrest warrants for the deposed premier were issued in the ECP contempt case. According to the ECP, Mr Khan was not appearing before the electoral watchdog despite being summoned persistently.

On Tuesday, the ECP dismissed a plea against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's possible removal as the party chief. A three-member bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikan-dar Sultan Raja, heard the plea.

Barrister Gohar, Mr Khan's lawyer, argued that the Lahore High Court (LHC) had barred the commission from issuing any verdict in the case to which the chief election commissioner replied that the LHC had barred from issuing the verdict and not discontinuing the hearing. Mr Gohar argued that neither he was asking him to do so.

Afaq Ahmad said the ECP had been

serving false notices on him, adding that the notices issued to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar were being sent to him. "The notices could not reach me on time due to the negligence of the deputy director of the Law department," he added.

The CEC rebuked him saying he should not point fingers at anyone, lower his voice and talk about the relevant case. Mr Ahmad argued who was responsible for serving a notice after the case had been taken up for hearing. The CEC remarked what he meant by that to which he argued he would not say what Mr Raja wanted to listen to.

Upon this, the CEC ordered police to send Mr Ahmad out of the courtroom. Later, the ECP dismissed the plea.

PTI chairman Imran Khan, in his reply, stated that the LHC had barred the ECP from issuing a verdict in the case so the ECP should adjourn the hearing until the LHC issued a verdict. "The Supreme Court had issued a declaration of disqualification in Nawaz Sharif's case but no forum did so in Imran Khan's case," he added. A party head could be removed only, he said, if the declaration had been issued.

## Nawaz conviction brought disaster to Pakistan: Maryam

## News Desk

SHEIKHUPURA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz said on Tuesday that all those involved in illegal conviction of Nawaz Sharif had met their ultimate fate.

Speaking at PML-N workers convention here, she said that Nawaz Sharif had left the matter of the injustice committed to him to Allah Almighty.

And today, all those hatching conspiracies against him were themselves admitting that injustice was committed to the former prime minister, she added.

Referring to former chief justice Saqib Nisar's press talk the other day, she said he had not spoken the full truth yet, but soon he would tell the nation who were other characters involved in the



conspiracy hatched against Nawaz Sharif.

She said those who were bestowed with the quality of speaking the truth, do it in their life like Nawaz Sharif, and those who had ever told lies say that they would tell the truth in their post-humously published book.

Flying former CJP's claim that his whatsapp account was hacked, she said it was not Saqib Nisar's account which was hacked, but it was the future of

Pakistan. An injustice was committed with the 220 million Pakistanis by making Imran Khan prime minister of the country. She said Imran was not only incompetent but also a coward person.

She said even today his lawyer told the court that he (Imran Khan) could not appear in the court as his leg was still under plaster cast. She said Imran must have borrowed some bravery from Nawaz Sharif.

The PML-N chief organiser said there was no comparison between Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif. The PML-N supremo came to Pakistan from London like a 'lion' to appear before courts, along with his daughter.

But Imran Khan was escaping from courts even while sitting in Lahore. She said how come this coward person could compete with the PML-N supremo

Pakistani youth which was hacked due to his wrong decisions.

Calling PTI chairman Imran Khan a coward and a 'jackal' she said judiciary at that time supported him and people were facing unprecedented price hike due to those wrong decisions.

Citing the statement of Saqib Nisar, she said those behind such wrong decisions should have thought of the Pakistani children like their own children while giving

## Afghan delegation to visit Pakistan soon: Khawaja Asif

## Raja Furqan Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday said that a government-level delegation from Afghanistan is due in Pakistan soon for the continuation of talks related to various issues including regional security and counter-terrorism measures. In a press conference, Asif emphasised that the Afghan territory must not be used by terrorists, especially in light of the agreement signed in Doha. "We asked them to honour the accord and they agreed," the minister added. "We further said Pakistan fought hard to rein in terrorism and vowed the government would do so again. "We will fight as we did in the past."

## ICSTSI hosts Kyrgyz Ambassador Ulanbek Totuiaev to foster business ties

## GNP

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuiaev, visited the Islamabad Chambers of Small Trade and Small Industry (ICSTSI) Office today.

The agenda of the meeting was to interact with the business community of ICSTSI. Wajida Saleem, the Vice President, gave the opening remarks highlighting the cordial diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Sajjad Sarwar, the President of the ICSTSI, gave the welcome address. In his speech, he shares that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have long-standing economic and cultural ties.

He said that the small



business sector is critical to Pakistan's economy because it provides jobs, opportunities, and places for community gatherings.

He added that following the completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pakistan has emerged as an emerging market and logistics hub, making it an appealing investment destination.

Along these lines, he pointed out that textiles, transportation, tourism, and vegetables are just a few industries where the two countries could work together.

The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan underscored bilateral relations between the two countries. Ambassador highlighted that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoy

deep-rooted relations and greater potential for cooperation in business and trade.

He said that both countries are celebrating 30 years of strong relations. In this vein, he shared the significance of small and medium enterprises in strengthening bilateral ties.

He lauded ICSTSI on its role in enhancing ties and facilitating small and medium businesses. It is doing well, and the business environment favors foreign investment.

The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation and ties. The office bearers of the ICSTSI and executive members participated in the event. A question-answer session was also held.

## CONDOLLENCE

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا رَجَعُونَ



We express profound grief over the sad demise of

**Munir Shaikh**

Chief Executive  
Kenad (Pvt.) Ltd

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss

Afzal Shaikh 03105465050  
Akhtar Munir 03335723842





# Xi Focus: Xi stresses healthy, high-quality development of private sector

**Xinhua**  
BEIJING : President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, on Monday urged proper guidance for the healthy and high-quality development of the private sector.

Xi made the remarks when visiting national political advisors from the China National Democratic Construction Association and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, who are attending the first session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). He participated in their joint group meeting, and listened to their comments and suggestions.

Xi stressed that the CPC Central Committee always unwaveringly consolidates and develops the public sector, and unwaveringly encourages,

supports and guides the development of the non-public sector.

The CPC Central Committee always maintains that the non-public sector's status and functions in the country's economic and social development have not changed, the principle and policies to unwaveringly encourage, support and guide the development of the sector have not changed, and the principle and policies to provide a sound environment and more opportunities to the sector have not changed, Xi said.

He also said the CPC Central Committee always believes that private enterprises and entrepreneurs "belong to our own family."

Xi extended festive greetings and best wishes to the country's women of all ethnic groups and from all walks of life ahead of International Women's Day, which falls on March 8.

Wang Huning, Cai Qi and Ding Xuexiang, members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, joined



the visit and discussion.

Xi said that the year 2022 was of great importance in the history of the CPC and the country as it saw fruitful

achievements in the cause of the Party and the country.

The past five years have been truly momentous and remarkable, Xi said.

China registered an annual average economic growth rate of 5.2 percent during the period, won the critical battle against poverty as scheduled, finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and embarked on a new journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects, he said.

Xi stressed the need to stay calm, maintain resolve, pursue progress while ensuring stability, take active steps, unite as one and have the courage to fight as the country faces profound and complex changes in both the domestic and international landscape.

Xi hailed the private sector as an important force in the endeavor to realize the two centenary goals and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Efforts should be made to optimize the environment for private enterprises' development, remove institutional barriers that impede their participation in market competition in a fair

manner, protect their property rights and the rights and interests of entrepreneurs in accordance with the law, and ensure the equal treatment of private enterprises and state-owned enterprises, Xi said.

Xi also underlined the need to regulate all types of capital according to laws and guide their sound development, and effectively prevent and defuse systemic financial risks.

Noting that Chinese modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all, Xi said both state-owned and private enterprises must shoulder the social responsibility of promoting common prosperity.

Xi called on private enterprises to ensure that all employees share their development outcomes.

Private enterprises and entrepreneurs should operate in accordance with laws and regulations, and actively participate in and launch public welfare and charitable undertakings, Xi said.

## Pakistan, Denmark express satisfaction on bilateral trade

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: Denmark is trying to promote direct relations with Faisalabad to complete the textile value chain and his visit is a link in this chain. This was said by the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Mr. HE Jacob Lenliff while addressing the elite business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry today.

He expressed satisfaction over the bilateral trade relations between Denmark and Pakistan and said that Denmark is primarily a country of traders and entrepreneurs. It has a long-standing relationship with Pakistan and even now more than fifty Danish business companies are present in Pakistan, including many other shipping companies including Müller and Maersk.

He highlighted the role of Denmark for the promotion of textile industry and said that his country will provide full support for value addition in this sector. He further highlighted that Denmark is providing chemicals and modern technology to the industries of Faisalabad, while



Denmark is also setting up a plant for the treatment of waste water in Faisalabad with huge capital. He elaborated that he wants Danish businessmen to come to Faisalabad so that steps can be taken to purchase local products. In this regard, he also assured his cooperation to increase the communication between the businessmen of the two countries. Regarding GSP Plus, he said that he wants this facility to be continued so that Pakistan can be helped to overcome its economic difficulties. In response to a question, he said that Pakistan's agricultural sector has to take immediate steps to increase its production. He also appreciated the taste and quality of Pakistan's fruits which can be value

added on a large scale. Regarding the Russia-Ukraine war, he said that it has had negative effects on the whole world, including Denmark.

They want the dispute to be resolved quickly so that the global economy can be put back on the road to recovery. He added that due to the suspension of gasoline supplies from Russia, Denmark is adopting a long-term strategy to generate cheap and reliable wind energy. He further said that Denmark can help Pakistan to secure milk and produce different types of value added products from it. Earlier, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq said that this city was established as

a market town a century ago. It was designed for a population of 50,000, but now its population has exceeded 50,000, and perhaps next year it will exceed the population of Denmark. Regarding the location of Faisalabad, he said that this city is located in the very center of the country, which is connected to all parts of the country through means of communication.

About the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said that it is the second largest chamber in the country, its members are 8 thousand who belong to 118 sectors and sub-sectors. He further said that the chamber is trying to protect the interests of its members while also supporting the government in poli-

cy making. He welcomed the installation of a water treatment plant in Faisalabad through the Danish investment fund and said that he also wants to complete other projects of the city with this fund and in this regard he will also need the help of the Danish embassy. He mentioned Denmark's success in promoting solar energy and dairy industry and said that we want to benefit from Denmark's experience in this field. He also expressed the expectation that Denmark will play a positive role in the expansion of the GSP Plus facility. A short question and answer session was also held in which Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Engineer Ahmed Hasan and other members participated. Finally, Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad thanked the guests while President Dr. Khurram Tariq presented the honorary shield of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the Ambassador of Denmark. Later, Danish Ambassador Jacob Laniluf also recorded his comments in the guest book of Faisalabad Chamber.

## Fesco is ensuring uninterrupted power supply: Rana Ayub says

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: Certain specific efforts will be spared to ensure uninterrupted power supply & quality services to the consumers. In view of the convenience of the consumers, the duration of unavoidable shut-downs should be minimised and consumers should be kept informed about the power outage through all possible means, said General Manager (Operation) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Rana Muhammad Ayub.

After assuming the charge of GM (Operation) FESCO he has issued orders to the Superintending Engineers (SEs) of all the five operation circles to ensure the uninterrupted electric supply to the consumers and take all measures to provide them maximum relief. In view of the arrival of summer, he directed that all ongoing maintenance works in the FESCO region should be completed by March 15.

In this regard, he held meetings with the officers of various formations and directed to speed up the ongoing maintenance works across the region so that consumers do not have to face any kind of electricity related problem.

He further said that defects should be identified on the lines by patrolling the feeders and immediate steps should be taken to remove the defects, while the trees touching the electric lines should be removed and the old wires should be replaced immediately. He also ordered the removal of the kite strings and flexes hanging on the 11-KV lines, which may cause tripping problems.

He directed Executive Engineers (XENs) and Sub Divisional Officers (SDOs) to supervise the work of line staff and said to ensure the use of full T&P during the work and to strictly follow the safety rules and regulations issued by the FESCO authority so that any kind of fatal or non fatal accidents could be avoided. Apart from this, he has also issued orders to speed up the ongoing special campaign against electricity theft and said that night raids should also be conducted to suppress electricity thieves.



## Shab-e-Barat

KARACHI: An illuminated view of a masjid decorated with colourful lights in connection with Shab-e-Barat in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Switzerland keen to develop trade ties with Pakistan: Ambassador

**News Desk**

SIALKOT : Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan Georg Steiner has stressed the need for making sincere efforts to strengthened mutual trade ties between Pakistan and his country.

Addressing a meeting of exporters at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Tuesday, he said that Switzerland was keen to boost trade ties and enhance mutual trade volume between the two countries.

Senior Vice President (SVP) SCCI Wahab Jahangir, Vice President (VP) Amer Majeed Sheikh and Sialkot business community were also present.

The Swiss Ambassador promised full cooperation to ensure easy access of Sialkot exporters to Switzerland international trade markets. He said bilateral trade and business relations



among two countries should be further promoted with the exchange of trade delegations.

The ambassador said that both of countries had been enjoying the cordial relations. He said that exchange of goods would facilitate creation of economic relations. "Our government

fully supported Pakistan for rehabilitation of flood victims," he said.

Ambassador Georg Steiner said that the people of Pakistan were very hospitable. "I have come to Pakistan in September 2022, and found hospitality of Pakistan very impressive," he said.

He said Switzerland is one of the

most globalised countries in the world. He stressed that contribution of women was crucial in society.

He also showed keen interest in SCCI's documentary "Sialkot, the City of Progressive People", which was screened during the meeting.

For improving bilateral trade, Sialkot business community suggested that exchange of trade delegations and one-to-one meetings of business-people should be arranged.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, in his welcome address, said that Switzerland and Pakistan enjoyed the most cordial relations since the independence of Pakistan.

He said that the SCCI, a representative body of the private sector of the city, was greatly contributing to the economic uplift and development of the country.

## All Pakistan Football Tournaments in collaboration with FC South (KP) continued



**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In the Wana Scouts Sports Stadium in Lower South Waziristan, the sensational matches of the ongoing All Pakistan Football Championship tournament in collaboration with FC South (KP) are going on, teams from all over the country are participating.

Today, a great match took place between Wazir Club Wana and Naeem Academy Club, Wazir Club won the match by three goals.

While another sensational match took place between Shaheen Club Shapishhta and Azam warsak Club Shaheen Club Shapishhta won the match by defeating the opposing team by two goals.

Wasim Sijjad, manager of Sono FM Radio Waziristan, was the chief guest of the match,

On this occasion, he was accompanied by Gul Zaman, Noor Ali Abdul Qadoos and Adnan

The players gave a grand welcome to the chief guest, Wasim Sijjad, the chief guest of the match, said while addressing the players

That today I am very happy, I

watched the All Pakistan Football Tournament here in collaboration with FC South (KP).

He said that Sports is an essential part of life, along with education, sports should also be given time.

**Where there is sport there is peace and joy**

Therefore, we will try our best to promote joint sports activities there is a lot of talent in the field of sports in Waziristan, but opportunities need to be provided.

Journalist Noor Ali expressed his opinion and said that holding the All Pakistan Football Tournament in the area shows that we are peaceful people

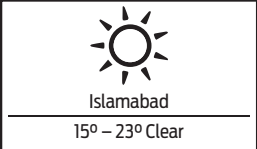
We need to focus on the development of sports fields, there are many sports fans who love sports

National level teams are participating in this tournament which is a good initiative.

So to the security forces authorities especially FC South (KP) for their cooperation in this tournament as people are enjoying the game

The organizer thanked the National Sports player aman Ullah Wazir for always working hard to promote sports.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:07 am  
Zohr ..... 12:19 pm  
Asr ..... 4:28 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:09 pm  
Isha ..... 7:32 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9276044  
Motorway Police ..... 9276061-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9276061-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway Inquiry ..... 117  
Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224

**Delegations of World Bank, ADB & AFD (France) called on MD NTDC**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Three delegations of World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) called on Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan separately here at WAPDA House Lahore to review the progress of various ongoing and upcoming projects.

The foreign delegations of the lenders along with PMU NTDC teams briefed Managing Director NTDC about the developments and challenges of foreign funded projects included in NTMP-I (WB), MFF-II program (ADB) and proposed projects for AFD's loan, i.e., 500 kV Sialkot, 500 kV Vehari and 220 kV Arifwala Substations.

Managing Director NTDC emphasized that these development projects need to be completed in time to meet the increasing demand of electricity of respective areas.

He urged for modernization of NTDC grid system by utilizing the modern supervisory control systems. He further asked the delegates to work with NTDC teams for taking a step towards implementation of smart grids in NTDC. Sharing of technical knowledge on emerging technologies in the power sector and training of NTDC engineers also came under discussion.

**'Decade of Learning' event marks progress on Pak-UK education reform efforts**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission hosted Pakistan's leading education experts, academics, and policy makers for a two-day event in Islamabad to mark the impact of ten years of UK support for education reform in Pakistan.

Titled 'A Decade of Learning: Informing Education Policy and Practice', the event showcased the positive outcomes and lessons learnt through eight UK supported education programmes. The event also delivered sessions outlining other global education development initiatives taking place to highlight best practice, and facilitated discussions on interventions needed to further improve education standards in the next decade as well as ways to increase the number of girls accessing 12 years of education.

Pakistan has benefitted from the UK's largest ever bilateral education portfolio, totalling more than £900m investment over a decade. This funding has helped increase the number of children in schools, improved teaching quality, upgraded teaching facilities and influenced uplifts



in public sector spending. The structural reforms brought through UK interventions have benefited more than 15.6 million children including 8.1 million girls.

Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Federal Minister, Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the inaugural session, which was chaired by British Chargé d'affaires, Andrew Dalgleish.

Chargé d'affaires, Andrew Dalgleish

said the following "A focus this year for the Commonwealth is on securing a better future for young people. I am therefore delighted that the UK and Pakistan, working in cooperation, have achieved such impressive results over the last ten years in improving education and therefore outcomes, particularly for girls. Quality education is the key that will unlock Pakistan's full potential."

**Pak-UAE Relation**

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Hamad Obaid Alzaabi Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Japan Embassy Organized Karate Workshop**

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in cooperation with the Japan Karate Association (JKA) of Pakistan organized Karate Workshop on March 7th at the Hamidi Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. This workshop was held under the title of "7th JKA national Karate Camp" and was participated by Pakistani people who love Karate from Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

The Workshop with the presence of Mr. SHIINA Katsutoshi, leading Karate player from Japan and JKA official instructor, 7th Dan (The levels consist of "Kyu(10 to 1)" and "Dan(1 to 10)") offered opportunities for the participants not only to enhance their skills but also to explore the excitement of



Karate as the Japanese martial arts. Mr. SHIINA was assisted by his co-instructors Mr. KANDA Osamu, Ms. TANAKA Junko as well as the instructors from JKA Pakistan during the workshop.

Mr. ITO Takeshi, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan together with the Deputy Director General (Technical) Mr. Muhammad

Shahid Islam from Pakistan Sports Boards inaugurated this one-day Workshop. Mr. ITO witnessed the training sessions and expressed his gratitude to Mr. SHIINA and his team for arriving all the way from Japan to supervise and give valuable tips to the young karate learners in Pakistan. Later Mr. ITO presented certificates to the participants of the training

camp.

While appreciating the participants for showing their keen interest in traditional Japanese martial arts of Karate, Mr. ITO said that the purpose of holding this karate training camp was to provide an opportunity to the Pakistani youth to learn "real" karate which requires courtesy as well as mental endurance together with physical strength. He hoped that this training opportunity would prove beneficial for them to further polish their karate skills and also further strength ties between Japan and Pakistan through cooperation in various sectors including sports.

Mr. ITO also thanked Japan Karate Association of Pakistan for holding Karate Workshop in Pakistan.



Principal Suriya Parveen and Vice-Principal Sana Qaisar, along with teachers and students of Fatima Montessori School, on the occasion of the annual results announcement.

**OICCI, Unilever Pakistan and Circle mark Women's Day**

**News Desk**

KARACHI: The Overseas Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI), partnered with Unilever Pakistan and Circle, marked International Women's Day with an event to celebrate the opportunities and challenges of enabling equity within the workplace.

The event included a series of talks and mentoring sessions, connecting leaders from the corporate and startup world with women leaders of the future from across Pakistan. The event provided an opportunity for women leaders from the corporate world as well as leaders of women-owned businesses to network, upskill and learn from each other.

Keynote speakers of the event Amir Paracha, President OICCI & CEO Unilever Pakistan, Rehan Shaikh, Vice President OICCI & CEO Standard Chartered, Mushtaq Chapra, Founder, The Citizens Foundation, Sidra Iqbal, Consultant and TV Presenter along with Sadaf-e Abid, Founder & CEO, CIRCLE. The esteemed panelists spoke about the breadth of equity opportunities available to women in the modern, digital age.

In addition to the speakers, the event also featured mentors such as Atyab Tahir, Founder Trayle, Andrew Bailey-MD BASF Pakistan, Fathema Zuberi, HR Director, Unilever Pakistan, Nuzhat Hussain, Head of HR, Chevron, Sabahat Bokhari, Director Diversity & Inclusion Jazz, Lubna Azam Tiwana - CCRO and Reena Ebrahim - Country Lead, People's Capabilities, Standard Chartered, and Azima Dhanjee, Co-Founder, ConnectHear.

Amir Paracha, President OICCI and Chairman & CEO Unilever Pakistan, expressed; "There is an urgent need for women to distinguish between equity and equality to reshape their narrative and career trajectories for the future.

"There is a high need for private-public partnerships to work towards removing barriers hindering equity", shared Rehan Shaikh, Vice President OICCI, in his closing remarks at the event. "Sustainable economic growth holds no meaning unless equity is brought into the equation. OICCI's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Handbook 2022 is one resource which can be taken as a benchmark standard on improving inclusive work policies and practices."

**Federal Government will share Contingency Plan for Bird Flu with provinces**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary National Food Security and Research, Zafar Hassan, chaired a meeting to review the situation of Bird Flu disease in the country on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by officials from the provinces and relevant departments.

While briefing on the current situation of Bird Flu disease, Animal Husbandry Commissioner Muhammad Akram said that the disease is not yet reported from any part of the country. However, vaccination of Bird Flu is being carried out as a preventive measure, he added.

Secretary National Food Security and Research, Zafar Hassan, directed the provincial representatives to increase the surveillance activities in their respective provinces/areas and send samples to the National Reference Laboratory for Poultry Diseases (NRLPD).

He also directed the Animal Husbandry Commissioner to seek input from the provinces on the Contingency Plan for Bird Flu. The Federal Government will finalize the Contingency Plan and share it with the provinces for implementation soon.

**Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy Launches "Museum of Food"**

**ABC**

KARACHI: Pakistan's culinary heritage is an intrinsic part of the country's cultural identity, but with the passing of generations and the challenges of globalization, certain domestic practices and traditional recipes are at high risk of being lost. To address this concern, with two-time Academy Award Winning film-maker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy at the helm, Pakistan's leading production house, SOC Films, has been documenting and recording important food stories from all over Pakistan for the past 3 years and is now set to launch the Museum of Food initiative, which aims to further preserve and revive the country's unique and diverse food culture.

The Museum of Food will be an online repository featuring Pakistani food stories, for which SOC Films is now actively researching and looking for further authentic and uncommon recipes and food practices from all over the country, especially from women, which are in danger of being forgotten.

**China-Pakistan Study Center launches three books on Mao Zedong**

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a book-launch event of three books authored by Chinese writers and translated by Pakistani authors. The books include, "Mao Zedong and Contemporary China", "How the Chinese Communist Party Manages the Development Issue", and "Beyond the Karakoram: A Photographic Dialogue Between a Chinese and a Pakistani Scholar". The Chief Guest at the event was Senator Dr. Musaddiq Malik, Minister of State for Petroleum; Guest of Honour on the occasion was Mr. Fahd Haroon, Minister of State/SAPM on Public Communication and Digital Platform. Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi

mi, former Ambassador to China, and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt Associate Professor, Bahria University, reviewed the books. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director of the China-Pakistan Study Centre, welcomed the guests and highlighted the significance of literature in building people-to-people contacts.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks, underlined that Pakistan's relations with China were the "cornerstone" of its foreign policy. He highlighted the key features and growing trajectory of Pakistan-China 'All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership'; role of Chairman Mao in the Chinese revolution and China's modernization; the CPC's role in China's socio-economic development.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi in her remarks

stressed upon Mao's vision in reference to the book "毛泽东与当代中国". She argued that history has always been important in understanding modern China. The vision of the country is different from that of other nations worldwide.

Dr Hassan Daud Butt in his detailed presentation highlighted the geo-strategic, geo-economic and geopolitical significance of China in current international politics.

Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d' Affaires, highlighted the strong Pakistan-China relationship. Literature has always played a dominant role in understanding the visions of nations. These books translated into Urdu depict the commitments of both countries to understand each other.

SAPM Mr. Fahad Haroon

acknowledged that China's current leadership is following what Mao had visioned decades earlier. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further deepen and broaden the relations with China.

Senator Dr. Musaddiq Malik, in his address, shed light on the current international dynamics and how China is rising as a resilient nation under courageous and visionary leadership. He stressed that China's leaders have served in the best interests of their country and set a unique growth and development trajectory, which was something to be emulated.

At the closing of the event, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood gave his concluding remarks, which were followed by a presentation of memento to the speakers.





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# How emergency situations impact education

**Rubab Meraj**

It is no secret that climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have created unstable and unfathomable circumstances globally. Those who took the greatest hit during the pandemic were educational institutions including millions of schools and universities. The inability to successfully conduct schooling during the dreadful lockdowns and social distancing was a wakeup call on an international scale that the education sector was completely unprepared for such situations. Before COVID-19 it was easier to overlook the lack of facilitation of education during regional natural disasters, be it earthquakes or floods. These problems were considered temporary, and provision of consistent education was not exactly a priority for victims. By the mid-20th century gears were shifting as education was declared a human right in Article 26 under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This means education has in fact become a priority without discrimination for all races and socio-economic classes over the past several decades. However, with the concerning rise of climate change and its unpredictable effects, there is a need for all nations to maintain a preparedness in efforts to provide normalcy in rehabilitation of disaster victims. This is where centuries of technological innovation and advancements post Industrial Revolution come

into play. Although mankind has been able to invent and incorporate technology of great utility to the education sector, there was no framework in place to effectively facilitate education beyond a physical classroom setting. Despite the scattered, unpopular online learning courses, a dynamic, independent structure for a thorough educational environment simply did not exist. Following COVID-19, academics and relevant education sector stakeholders recognized the potential of fulfilling the basic right of education regardless of physical circumstances. This in turn meant that education would be more inclusive and easily accessible. Not to mention, E-learning, which is fairly recent nomenclature designated to a method of teaching and learning that utilizes digital technologies and tools to deliver educational content and facilitate student-teacher interactions, is cost-effective and even flexible. Not everyone is able to afford private education, and often public schools in developing countries lack the resources to provide a quality education to its

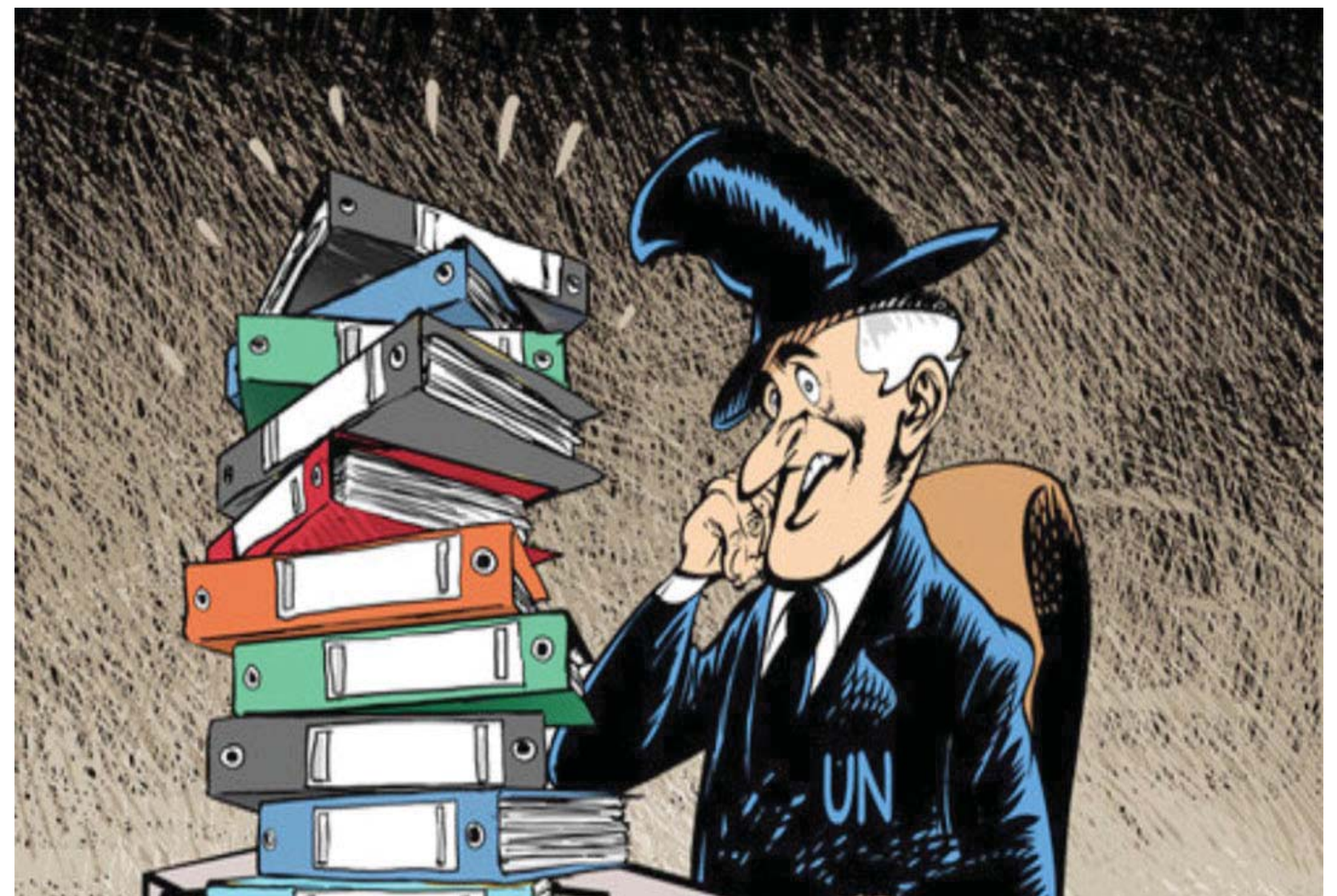
learners. E-learning helps combat this by saving governments overhead costs such as infrastructure and energy use. Further, the flexibility offered by E-learning means learners can obtain lesson knowledge and complete tasks at their convenience. It is important to note, however, that the novelty of E-learning does present challenges of its own. Parents and educators alike lack the awareness of not only the resources they can avail but they also lack the required digital literacy so help operate an E-learning mode of education. Parents play a huge role in the facilitation of their children's schooling. Without their cooperation or support it is easy for a learner to be left behind. A proactive addition to legislation is necessary to clearly lay out allocated budgets, resources and means of receiving them for the general public. The more we work towards mainstreaming the avenue of E-learning, the more structural improvement this mode of education will achieve. Consequently, it will become easier to implement education provision policies due to adoption of affordable and flexible E-learning.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training has already worked on online admission systems in FDE institutions as well as collaborated with Jazz and Smart Learn Pakistan to improve blended learning approaches. These initiatives need to continue if more ground-work is to be done in the revolutionizing of education for greater inclusivity and accessibility in response to challenges created by emergencies. In light of the severe floods in Sindh, which has partially or fully destroyed school infrastructure, E-learning proves an excellent means of continuous education provision to flood-affected learners. It is the responsibility of the government, parents, development sector and teachers alike to ensure that the basic human right of education is not obstructed. An emphatic response is undeniably self-fulfilling. If a greater population is guaranteed at least a secondary education by any means, only then can a new generation of skilled, well-rounded and self-motivated individuals be fostered. Only a literate generation can breed a newer well-educated one, where more minds can collaborate in tackling socio-economic, political, and even environmental issues. As a result, we would be gratified as a nation to see more employment, more innovation, more civil engagement and most importantly a snowball effect on a consistently improving economy.

*This writer is a Communications Officer at Digital Time Communications*

## Japan to provide grant for development projects

The Government of Japan has decided to provide grant assistance of up to USD 295,430 to five non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for development projects in Pakistan. The grant contracts were signed between Ito Takeshi, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan and representatives of the five NGOs at the Embassy of Japan, said a news release issued here on Tuesday. The NGOs, including Rural Aid Pakistan, Rumbur Development Welfare & Conservation Society, Hana Development Council, Saibaan Development Organization, and Dir Area Development Organization, will implement the projects. According to details Rural Aid Pakistan will receive a USD 65,617 grant to install solar power irrigation systems in four agricultural villages in Narowal district, Punjab. The project will improve agricultural infrastructure in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable way, and then contribute to boosting farmers' income with the efficient increase in food crops. Rumbur Development Welfare & Conservation Society will receive a USD 51,907 grant to construct check dams and protection walls for disaster prevention and an incinerator for a hygienic environment in Chitral district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The project will enhance security when natural disasters such as sediment flow caused by heavy rain occur, and also help environment preservation by introducing proper disposal of waste. Hana Development Council will receive a USD 49,489 grant to install electricity facilities in seven villages in Mandi Bahauddin district of Punjab. The project will make electricity available for the villagers and improve their living standards by enabling them, for example, to turn on a light at night and use home electrical appliances and farm equipment. Saibaan Development Organization will receive a USD 56,418 grant to pave one kilometre of link road in Mansehra district, KP. The project will offer local people better transportation infrastructure, and then make it easier and safer for children to go to school as well as improve access to medical facilities and cities. Dir Area Development Organization will receive a USD 71,999 grant to construct a micro hydropower station in Upper Dir district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This project will supply reliable, low-cost, and environmentally-friendly electricity to local people. Its availability will allow them to turn on a light at night and encourage them to use heating appliances in winter instead of bonfires. At the signing ceremony, Ito congratulated the five organizations on winning grants from the Japanese government. He also expressed his expectation that these development projects, in cooperation with local communities, would have a positive impact on improving the living standards of Pakistani people at the grassroots level. The Government of Japan will provide further flexible and timely support for local NGOs through grant assistance to improve the social well-being of the people of Pakistan at the grassroots level.



# Indian Stealing Jammu and Kashmir Resources

The Latin meaning for democracy is a combination of two words 'demos' meaning people and 'kratos' meaning power. Combining these two phrases together can lead us to see democracy referring to as power of the people or the will of the people. Keeping this in mind I often look at countries who legitimise their rules over communities, or the whole society disguised as acting on behalf of the people, the very people that are subjected and dominated by oppression and force that has the opposite effect to what a democracy was supposed to portray. There are examples of such repressive countries where freedom and human rights are spoken about but never provided to the very people that need it the most. Countries such as Palestine (occupied by Israeli forces) and North Korea. There are countries where we are led to believe are repressive such as Syria and Iraq, but worn torn nations or nations involved in civil wars can hardly be seen as a beacon championing democracy and should not be relied upon as a benchmark for countries to compare themselves to, as that creates the real risk of overshadowing the real threat that lurks disguised in a society as a civil, democratic nation but in reality it is a monster that feeds on false depiction of civil liberties for all. The self-proclaimed champion of democracy; the United States of America has undertaken wars that has killed millions and imprisoned thousands of people without trial. One can hardly say that those that champion democracy are the only ones that can set the standard for democratic

nations. The ability to vote and select leaders is only a small component of what democracy is, as I am sure when people voted in governments, they never expected their governments to be part of a cabal of nations that attack the defenceless and pillage their resources. These nations have a Jekyll and Hyde persona, and although we have to be scared of the monster that lurks behind our human features, but I am more concerned about the scientist who created the monster, fed it and protected it in the hope of controlling it for his own benefit, until the monster cannot be controlled and we have a repeat of history starting from with a similar speech made at Reichstag on 30 January 1939, but this time the intended victim will be innocent Muslims and their heritage. This brings me now to India. Since Indian independence on August 15, 1947, the vision of a strong and 'together' India was similar to other nations who have fought to gain independence from British rule. It starts with powerful words of equality, human rights, protection of civil liberties and the hopes of not becoming like the colonial powers that Indians had fought so hard to free themselves from. I am aware of the horrific practices of the colonial powers over the indigenous people, and I will always condemn such practices and crimes. However, India, or more specifically the succession of Indian governments since 1947 have committed similar horrific practices imitating those of the colonial powers against certain minority groups. Amnesty International outlined in 2021 that the Indian authorities "used repressive laws to

silence critics by curbing freedom of expression... Human rights defenders... continued to face intimidation and harassment. Independent investigations revealed a massive unlawful surveillance apparatus being used by the government against human rights defenders... Police and security forces used excessive force against members of minority communities... protesting peacefully against laws... Courts undermined the right to a fair trial and delayed hearing crucial cases involving violations of human rights... Caste-based discrimination and violence against Dalits and Adivasis continued unabated. Vigilante cow protection groups attacked minority communities, adversely affecting their livelihoods." It has always been a concern where the oppressed have become the oppressors once authority, power and influence is granted to them. No real change has been made for the benefit of the people. Power has remained with a select few, and the average baba still fights to have equal rights to those of the rich. Further concerns have also been raised in the House of Lords relating to Kashmir where it was highlighted that India has conducted extrajudicial

killings or arbitrary arrests and detention by the government or its agents, as well as other forms of alleged abuse. The abuses are not located to a single place, but abuses have been surrounding the treatment of religious minorities which include Christians, Sikhs and Muslims. I am concerned for all minorities in India due to the increased support for nationalist and fascist ideologies being propagated at the highest level of the authorities. India has discriminatory policies against religious minorities with a view to control and demean the minorities. India prides itself as being the largest democracy in the world, and albeit that may true, the possibility that India may also be the country that has the most being committed. The concern is surrounding all religious minorities. This brings me to the occupied territory of Kashmir. India has removed Article 370 which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian constitution. There have been many comments made against this and in favour of this, and Indian will have you believe that by removing Article 370 it has enabled India to promote democracy to the 'grassroot' levels in Kashmir. I have always seen

the words 'promoting democracy' with scepticism ever since we were all told that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and we needed to stop Saddam Hussain and promote democracy to a region. It transpired later that there were no weapons of mass destruction, and the promotion of democracy was rather the 'profiting from democracy' by accessing the oil wealth of Iraq by the American forces. Keeping that in mind, I wondered if it may be the same promotion of democracy by the Indian authorities. It was reported in a little while after the promotion of democracy by Indian authorities that shockingly they have discovered 5.5% of the world's lithium reserves in, yes you have guessed it in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. India must have amazing luck, that once they promoted democracy to an occupied territory which was peaceful in nature, beautiful in character and serene in its locality prior to the persistent abuses of Indian authorities against the people of Kashmir, they now wish for the world to believe that democracy has yielded such an enormous profit which they will now assist to extract for the betterment of the people of Kashmir. Indian occupied Kashmir has more than 500 mineral blocks and is the sole producer borax and sapphire resources in India, in addition Jammu Kashmir possess India's 36% graphite 21% Marble and 14% gypsum resources. There are greater reserves in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir of Coal, magnesite and limestone resources which India will look to help them too. I sense a repeat of history where the colonial powers extracted wealth from the occupied India and gave

them breadcrumbs in return. India must have forgotten its own history and the oppression their people faced under colonial rule. Forgotten history could be an explanation of how India could commit the same crimes as colonial powers did in India. We should think long and hard when India points a finger from its right hand towards the past crimes of colonial powers, all the while hiding its own present crimes with its left hand. It appears that anyone can now in the name of democracy remove the resources of an occupied territory. There appears to be little or no outcry by the international community, probably due to the sale of lithium benefiting certain large economies. The people of Kashmir continue to live under a repressive regime, and their rights and liberties are abused. The longer we continue to remain silent, the greater the abuses that will occur, after all India is the largest democracy, and its nationalistic agenda to 'make everything Indian' will come at the cost of removing heritage, history and identities of minorities will and has always come at a price of human life, which India is too eager to pay, to achieve its nationalistic agenda under the guise of democracy. The only way to protect the people, the territory and resources of Jammu and Kashmir is for the international community to support the effort of self-determination which would afford the relevant international protections to Kashmir and its people which otherwise are not given.

*Writer is Overseas Advisor to Prime Minister, Azad Jammu & Kashmir*



There appears to be little or no outcry by the international community, probably due to the sale of lithium benefiting certain large economies.



# Pakistan-China friendship getting stronger with each passing day: Ammad Rasheed

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Honorary Consul General of Tunisia for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ammad Rasheed has said that Pakistan-China friendship is getting stronger with each passing day and CPEC project will prove to be very important for the strengthening of Pakistan's economy. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar.



Ammad Rasheed, who has also been the senior vice-pres-

ident of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Peshawar, visited the various galleries of the Chinese Cultural Center, signed the friendship wall and recorded his comments in the guest book. On this occasion, he said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have seen a very difficult time during terrorism and now they believe that the economy of the province will develop after the investment by the brotherly neighboring country China in Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Ammad Rasheed said that Pakistan is facing economic challenges in the present era, which we have to learn from China's economic development. He also described the establishment of China Window in Peshawar as an important step towards strengthening the friendship between the two countries and said that where people get the opportunity to have fun in China Window, they also learn about their brotherly neighboring country China.

# Pakistan showcasing tourism potential in world largest travel show-ITB Berlin 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) along with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Embassy of Pakistan in Germany, provincial tourism departments and private sector stakeholders is participating in ITB Berlin 2023 to showcase the rich tourism potential of Pakistan with a view to boost inbound tourism in the country. Pakistan pavilion in ITB Berlin 2023 was formally inaugurated by H.E. Ambassador of Pakistan in Germany - Dr Mohammad Faisal.

It is due to the continuous efforts and active participation of Advisor to Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports/ Chairman - PTDC and Managing Director PTDC that a joint delegation of public and private sector stakeholders is attending the event under one umbrella after the interval of 14 years.

Keeping in view the Austerity measures of government of Pakistan, APM on Tourism and MD PTDC are attending ITB in virtual mode to minimize the cost of Participation. Efforts have been made that maximum number of private tour operators could participate in this travel to showcase their tour products and develop B2B linkages. 13 private sector companies and 4 provincial tourism departments including KPK, Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan along with PTDC and T-DAP are part of delegation representing Pakistan in ITB Berlin 2023.

Mr. Awan Chaudhry, Advisor to Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports and Managing Director PTDC attend-



ed the inauguration ceremony of Pakistan Pavilion in ITB Berlin 2023 via zoom link. Addressing the event virtually, expressed that Pakistan is known for its bewitching natural beauty, cultural richness, and unparalleled hospitality offered to tourists. He added that the government is committed to boost tourism and is making all-out effort to improve the infrastructure for tourists and recover the inbound tourism to the pre-pandemic level. Advisor appreciated the organizers and assured that government of Pakistan is ready to extend its full assistance in the tourism and hospitality industry to enhance foreign tourists' influx in the country.

Aftab ur Rehman Rana-Managing Director, PTDC, also attended the event virtually and said that Pakistan is home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world, has innumerable locations of scenic beauty, world's highest mountains, many religious and historic places, unique arts and crafts and a rich culture and heritage.

H.E. Ambassador of Pakistan in Germany, Dr Mohammad Faisal inaugurated the Pavilion of Pakistan and expressed his great appreciation for the efforts of PTDC and T-DAP for putting together a national delegation for participation in ITB 2023. He said, that Pakistan's participation in this biggest glob-

al event will certainly paved the way to build the image of Pakistan at international level.

The Pakistan Pavilion attracted lots of trade visitors, exhibitors, tour operators and trade delegates. Many social media influencers and media persons also visited Pakistan Pavilion.

The ITB Berlin (Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin) is the world's largest tourism trade fair held every year in Germany where travel industry comes together. Over 10,000 exhibitors and 160,000 visitors from 180 countries are meeting together during the 3 days' travel show which will prove to be a staple in the travel event industry.

## Palestine calls on the int'l community to take immediate, concrete measures

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine calls on the international community to take immediate, concrete measures to hold Israeli officials accountable for their crimes and continual incitement and threats to commit crimes against the Palestinian people



The very existence of the Palestinian people in their homeland is being threatened and requires urgent action in line with international law to hold Israeli government and military officials and settlers responsible for their crimes and to deter further violations

Bezale Smotrich, Minister of Finance of Israel, must be sanctioned and held accountable for inciting violence and destruction and knowingly leading and contributing to the mass persecution of the Palestinian people

The State of Palestine warns that Israel's systematic hate speech, provocative rhetoric, violence and dehumanization of the Palestinian people across decades are fomenting mass violence at levels that remind of the destruction visited upon Palestinians in the Nakba of 1948;

Clearly overjoyed by the carnage and terrorism wrought by settlers in Huwwara, Smotrich's fascism is neither a "slip of the tongue" nor an aberration;

Smotrich's incitement is the inevitable culmination of 75 years of Israeli hate-mongering, rooted in the Nakba and sustained by Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid regime of Jewish supremacy which institutionally relegates the Palestinian people to inhuman status;

Only the end of Israel's occupation and the dismantlement of its apartheid regime will end this violence, racism and fascism against the Palestinian people;

If not accompanied by action for accountability, statements of condemnation will not suffice. Urgent international intervention is needed to curb Israel's dangerous aggressions against the Palestinian people and to provide necessary protection;

## India cannot hoodwink world by holding G-20 summit in IloĳK: PM AĳK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, while terming Kashmir as a UN recognized disputed territory, has said that the Indian government has no justification whatsoever to hold a G-20 summit in Srinagar or elsewhere in the illegally occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in the lake view city of Mirpur on Tuesday, the AĳK PM said that India cannot hoodwink the world by holding such events in the region. Condemning in strong terms the BJP government's crafty move, he said, "India has no moral, diplomatic and political justification to hold such a conference in a disputed state". Referring to the Modi government's unilateral decision to abrogate article 370 of the Indian constitution, the PM said that the move was a sheer injustice to the people of occupied Kashmir. He, however, maintained that the Kashmiris had rejected the move and refused to accept the Indian dictates. While mentioning various development projects of his government, the PM said that an international standard airport would be built in Lakeview city; "Mirpur Dry Port will be inaugurated next week", he said, adding that bus service to Gilgit was also an important initiative of the government. He said that the government has sought two lakh kanals of agricultural land from Sindh government and ten thousand kanals of land for residential facilities of the Kashmiri community settled in the port city of Karachi. He said that the government has also allocated land for construction of Gilgit Baltistan and Sindh House in Azad Kashmir. Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that Mirpur is a city of the overseas Kashmiris. He said that the government would utilize all its available resources for the development of the city besides addressing the issue faced by the Kashmiri diaspora community.

The PM said that PTI government was trying to create a corruption-free society in the region. "Even if the accountability process was damaged by the legislation of the previous governments, we will correct the course to ensure across the board accountability", he added. He said that the government was working to get the Maharaja's properties in Punjab and other provinces back under its ownership. He said that efforts were also afoot to improve the education system across Azad Kashmir. Hailing the journalist community's role in society, the PM said that the journalists of Azad Kashmir would be given all the facilities and privileges to perform their duties. He said that residential colonies would be built for the journalists. On this occasion, Government Minister Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Central Senior Vice President of PTI Chaudhry Zafar Anwar and newly elected District Council Chairman Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga and Deputy Mayor Mohammad Ramzan Chaghatai were also present.

# Ambassador Masood Khan calls on President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ambassador to the US, Sardar Masood Khan, called on President Azad Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern, particularly the prevailing political and human rights situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

Voicing their serious concerns over the simmering situation in the held territory, they agreed to intensify efforts to raise the Kashmir issue at international level and expose atrocities being committed by Indian forces against helpless Kashmiris.



# Ceremony held in memory of Persian poet Nizami Ganjvi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A special event was organized in the Cultural Consulate Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamabad in memory of the famous Iranian poet Hakeem Nizami Ganjvi.

At this occasion a book of Professor Dr. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri was also launched.

The Deputy Ambassador of Iran Agha Shirazi was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Mir Amini from Shaheed Behishti University, Dr. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri, Amber Yasmeen, Head of Persian Department, NUML University, Islamabad, were among the speakers.

Ehsan Khazai, Cultural Consular Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran Islamabad presented the welcome speech and Amber Yasmeen welcomed

the attendees. And highlighted the importance of deep ties between the two countries, other important personalities also addressed in this meeting.

Teachers and students of different universities also participated in this meeting.

Ehsan Khazai said that I welcome the researchers of Nizami Ganjavi from Pakistan and Iran to this event and first of all I am grateful to the honorable dean of the department of Persian language and literature of NUML University who assisted in organizing this program.

It is a matter of pride for us that Dr. Anjum Hameed and Dr. Amir Ameen of the Department of Persian Language and Literature of Shaheed Beheshti University of Iran are present in this event today and we benefited from their

conversation. Today is a day of great significance for many reasons. Today is Shab e Barat, the Shaban ul Moazzam and Hakeem Nizami, on which I congratulate all the distinguished guests.

Khazai said that in another part of the program, we will unveil the translation of a book by a scholar and cultural figure, Dr. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri.

An important focus of public diplomacy is the familiarity with each other's cultural personalities, which provides an opportunity for cross-cultural mutual understanding between cultures and nations.

Prominent literary figures are not bound by geographical boundaries and literary figures like Nizami and Iqbal play a prominent role in the promotion of cultural and literary relations between the two countries.

Nizami was also engaged in learning art and perfections in his youth like all scholars.

Due to his hard work and dedication in acquiring knowledge and dignity, he has reached this high position and status of civilization and eloquence.

Persian literature has a great role in bringing to light the great culture of Iran, and Hakeem Nizami, one of the four peaks of Persian literature and master of storytelling, is considered one of Iran's cultural architects.

Undoubtedly, the study of Nizami can create an effective movement among the his lovers, whether it is Iran or other countries that have a passion for the Persian language.

This day is celebrated by organizing various events and conferences to get familiar with Nizami and its scientific works.





**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index       |                          |         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Current                             | Prev. Close              |         |
| 41,334.69                           | 41,434.33                |         |
| Day's High                          | Day's Low:               |         |
| 41,530.19                           | 41,334.69                |         |
| Index Value                         | Change                   |         |
| 4,683,687,484                       | -99.64                   |         |
| Percentage                          | Time                     |         |
| -0.24%                              | 7 Mar, 2023<br>5:00 pm   |         |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index              |                          |         |
| Index Value                         | Change                   |         |
| 7,919.48                            | -10.31                   |         |
| Percentage                          | Time                     |         |
| -0.13%                              | 7 Mar, 4:35 pm<br>GMT    |         |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average   |                          |         |
| Index Value                         | Change                   |         |
| 33,149.33                           | -282                     |         |
| Percentage                          | Time                     |         |
| -0.84%                              | 7 Mar, 12:27 pm<br>GMT-5 |         |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average |                          |         |
| Index Value                         | Change                   |         |
| 28,309.16                           | +71.38                   |         |
| Percentage                          | Time                     |         |
| +0.25%                              | 7 Mar, 3:15 pm<br>GMT+9  |         |
| Open Market Forex Rates             |                          |         |
| Currency                            | Buying                   | Selling |
| Australian Dollar                   | 182.5                    | 184.5   |
| Bahrain Dinar                       | 733.09                   | 741.09  |
| Canadian Dollar                     | 202                      | 204.2   |
| China Yuan                          | 39.79                    | 40.19   |
| Danish Krone                        | 39.6                     | 40      |
| Euro                                | 292.5                    | 295.5   |
| Hong Kong Dollar                    | 35.16                    | 35.51   |
| Indian Rupee                        | 3.17                     | 3.28    |
| Japanese Yen                        | 2.06                     | 2.11    |
| Kuwaiti Dinar                       | 890.5                    | 899.5   |
| Malaysian Ringgit                   | 60.58                    | 61.18   |
| New Zealand \$                      | 170.67                   | 172.67  |
| Norwegians Krone                    | 25.19                    | 25.49   |
| Omani Riyal                         | 716.76                   | 724.76  |
| Qatari Riyal                        | 71.84                    | 72.54   |
| Saudi Riyal                         | 73.3                     | 74      |
| Singapore Dollar                    | 194.93                   | 196.93  |
| Swedish Korona                      | 25.09                    | 25.39   |
| Swiss Franc                         | 296.12                   | 298.62  |
| Thai Bhat                           | 7.98                     | 8.13    |
| U.A.E Dirham                        | 75.3                     | 76      |
| UK Pound Sterling                   | 330                      | 333     |
| US Dollar                           | 277.2                    | 280     |

# Pakistan-Belarus held joint working group meeting on agri cooperation

**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Agricultural Cooperation between the governments of Pakistan and Belarus was held on Tuesday.

Minister for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir Cheema, while co-chairing the meeting, said that this meeting provides an opportunity to further strengthen partnerships in all sectors, especially in agriculture.

"The establishment of a joint working group and joint ministerial commission reflects a commitment to explore opportunities for collaboration," he added.

While appreciating the MOUs signed between the two countries to cooperate in the agriculture sector, Tariq Bashir Cheema said that such initiatives will enable both sides to fully harness the potential in improving yield in economically important crops, food processing, seed production, irrigation water management, management of animal diseases, and improving milk and meat production.

The Minister said that Belarus has achieved excellence in agriculture machinery production and Pakistan can benefit from the expertise of Belarus in areas such as manufacturing tractors, the establishment of modern abattoirs, improvement of livestock breeds, installation of milk processing units, and institu-

tionalization of disease surveillance, monitoring, and reporting systems.

We can work together to leverage our strengths and expertise to achieve our shared goals of promoting sustainable agriculture, enhancing food security, and improving nutrition for the citizens, he said.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, Vadim Shagoiko, said that the trade between the two countries has increased by 9.4% compared to the last year. He hoped that the trade volume will continue to grow.

He said that Pakistan and Belarus complement each other, where Belarus exports dairy products, baby food and baby powder to Paki-

stan, while Pakistan exports fruits, dates, rice and confectionery items to Belarus.

He commended the efforts of Pakistan in facilitating trade, especially in Halal meat certification. He hoped that cooperation in scientific research and joint projects will help to ensure food security.

During the meeting, the Pakistani side showed interest in increasing direct supplies of rice, potato, citrus and mango to the markets of Belarus.

The Republic of Belarus will present its National Exposition at the International Trade Fair (ITIF), which will be held on March 10-11, 2023 in the Karachi Expo Center.

## Aircraft Maintenance

KARACHI: Pakistani women work to repair aircraft engine at Sky Wings Flight Academy on the eve of International Women's Day in Karachi on Tuesday, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## PPL clinches Corporate Philanthropy Award



**News Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has once again been adjudged as one of the largest corporate givers by volume of donations for 2020-21 and 2021-22 by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP). This is the 18th consecutive year since 2004 that the company has maintained this philanthropic tradition.

General Manager Shared Services PPL, Syed Mahmood ul Hassan received the award from Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Akif Saeed at a distinguished ceremony organized by PCP at Marriott Hotel, Karachi attended by business leaders, civil soci-

ety officials, bilateral donors and media.

PPL continues to uphold its seven-decades old legacy of sharing the benefits of development with deserving communities. The company's CSR programme reaches deserving communities, from remote operational areas to urban centres across the country, to improve their quality of life. For this, the company works with reputable development organizations on need-based projects in education, health-care, livelihood generation, infrastructure development, post-disaster relief and rehabilitation. PPL's CSR budget during 2020-21 crossed two-billion-rupee mark which is a record.

## Listed companies' contribution in corporate donations is nearing globally accepted level: SECP Chairman

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The contribution of listed companies to corporate donations is approaching the globally accepted level of 1% of profit after taxes, said SECP Chairman Akif Saeed at the launch and award ceremony of Corporate Philanthropy Survey Reports, by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP).

Akif said that, in Pakistan the understanding and practices around concepts of philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, sustainability and ESG practices are evolving and generally intertwined. Speaking on the role of SECP in this regard, he said that the preliminary landscape to inculcate awareness about corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Pakistan was developed by SECP through consensus-based CSR Guidelines in 2013.

These guidelines facilitated in not only raising awareness among the corporate sector, they also encouraged collabo-



ration through public-private partnership, he added.

These guidelines also paved the way for more formal legislative intervention through Companies Act, 2017, by moving towards Environmental, Social, and Governance or ESG agenda, by introducing more inclusive boards better disclosure and transparency regime for listed companies to communicate to shareholders, the impact of company's business on the environment, CSR activities undertaken during

the year and a description of principle risks and uncertainties faced by the company.

He said that the corporate sector can enhance its contribution to the social and economic development of Pakistan through long-term strategies focusing on outcomes, with better employee engagement and better synergies. He said that these four factors are also mirrored in SECP's objectives, "as we move away from our traditional role of a regulator, to strategically redefining the role

of SECP to align with economic and social development needs of the country".

He said that while the annual donations to charities in Pakistan can be estimated to be nearly \$1.5 billion, its utility and effective use cannot be gauged efficiently as most of this amount is not documented properly. Likewise, effective implementation of donation programs is a challenge because of lack of transparency and accountability, as well as due to lack of coordination between different charitable organizations to ensure efficient utilization of resources. "However, corporate donations play a vital role in social uplift and it is heartening to note that the corporate sector has been doing its part in Pakistan," he added.

He also appreciated the role of PCP towards improving transparency of the non-profit sector, by documenting the corporate sector's contribution through philanthropy surveys on annual basis.

## CBD Punjab takes to the road: showcasing innovative projects on wheels

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has participated in the Jashan E Baharan celebration organized by the Government of Punjab, which is being carried out all over the province from March 4, 2023, till March 14, 2023. The authority has created a magnificent float that has taken the roads of Lahore. Along with the model of Minar E Pakistan, which represents the freedom and excellence of the country, the float also showcases the signature projects of CBD Punjab, including SIRIUS, The Runway, and The Regalia.

CEO of CBD Punjab, Mr. Imran Amin, expressed his

pleasure and said, "As a responsible authority, we believe in actively engaging with the community and contributing to its growth and development. This event is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase our commitment to the development of Punjab and to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of our province.

The signature projects showcased on the float are a testament to CBD Punjab's commitment of developing modern infrastructure. SIRIUS will be a mixed-use tallest skyscraper in Punjab. The Runway will be a commercial strip that will feature a mix of retail, entertainment, and dining options. Regalia is a luxury residential project which will offer premium living spaces in the heart of Lahore.

## Careem to launch female-driven motorbike service for women, opens registrations

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: On the occasion of International Women's Day, Careem announces plans to launch a new women-driven motorbike service, catering exclusively to its female customers. The service will commence in Karachi and make its way to other cities in Pakistan. Careem welcomes registrations from women who are interested in working as a female Captain to access flexible income opportunities.

The service includes two models—part time (5 hours) and full time (10 hours)—for which Careem guarantees a monthly payment of PKR 30,000 and PKR 50,000 respectively. In addition to this, Careem is offering female motorbike Captains 0% commission, bonuses and guarantees as well as priority access to Careem's safety and security helpline. Women interested in the service can visit the DHA or Gulshan Careem opportunity centre or visit the Careem Captain facebook page.

Currently, more than 1,700 female Captains drive Careem customers across multiple car types on the platform. In recent developments, Careem is incentivizing all its female Captains across all car types by offering special bonuses, making it further lucrative for them to work on the platform.

Careem's new women-driven motorbike service enables Careem's large female customer base to access affordable yet safe and reliable transport in an environment of rising inflation, especially everyday office and university goers. It also enables and empowers women in Pakistan society to access flexible income generating options and achieve financial stability as Captains.

Commenting on the new service, Imran Saleem, General Manager—Ride Hailing at Careem Pakistan, stated, "Women are an integral part of our society and constitute a large number of our overall customer base. Careem's women-driven motorbike service will help our female customers to break barriers through access to safe, reliable and affordable transport. This affordable transport is particularly needed during such challenging economic times which have made it harder for families to run households on a single income.

## 46 organizations win Annual GDEIB awards 2023

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of International Women's Day, Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Benchmarks (GDEIB) awards 2023 were held at Hotel Pearl Continental Karachi. 46 Pakistani organization have won annual GDEIB awards 2023. HR Metrics conducts GDEIB awards on annual basis through a merit-based scoring process. Organizations from all sectors are eligible to take part in the awards.

GDEIB are the standards for organizations around the world. GDEIB Standards contain 15 categories, 275 benchmarks and 5 levels. It helps organizations determine strategy and measure progress in managing diversity and fostering inclusion for sustainable financial and social performance. The Centre for Global Inclusion USA is the home of GDEIB.

HBL was declared as the most inclusive company. Top 10 companies were Engro Fertilizers, Engro Vopak Terminal, METRO Pakistan, Engro Polymer & Chemicals, Bank Alfalah, HBL Microfinance Bank, Engro

Energy, Pakistan Tobacco Company, and Standard Chartered Bank. Overall winner companies were Jazz, AGP Limited, Aga Khan University, Faysal Bank, Soneri Bank, Allied Bank, HRSNG, Engro Corporation, PTCL, ABACUS Consulting, Novo Nordisk Pharma, National Bank of Pakistan, Greenstar Social Marketing, JS Bank, Hashoo Foundation, U Microfinance Bank, UBL, TPL Properties, TPL Corp, Foodpanda, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank, Martin Dow Group, Bayer Pakistan, Philip Morris Pakistan, PepsiCo, Jubilee Life Insurance, Feroze1888 Mills, Nishat Mills, Telenor Pakistan, FFBL, ACT Engineering, Roots Millennium Education, FINCA Microfinance Bank and MITE. Nestlé Pakistan was the most inclusive company for the years 2018-2022.

Mr. Akif Saeed Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan presented GDEIB Awards winner companies. Distinguished speakers included Ms. Elizabeth Sunday, Consular Chief, US Consulate Karachi, Muhammad Aurangzeb, President

HBL, Ghias Khan CEO Engro Corporation, Maheen Rahman CEO Infra Zamin, Moneeza Butt Partner KPMG, Ms. Fatima Asad-Said CEO Abacus Consulting, Mimi Bangash Consultant IFC Singapore and Zahid Mubarak, CEO HR Metrics.

Jury for GDEIB Awards comprised of leading global DEI experts including Lynda White, President Meleod White, Montreal Canada, Former Board Chair The Centre for Global Inclusion USA, Karen Francis Ph.D. Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Officer, American Institutes for Research USA, Moneeza Usman Butt, Partner KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co, Pakistan, Saad Amanullah Khan, Chairman of Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan, Dr. Jawad Syed, Professor of Organizational Behavior and Leadership at the Suleman Dawood School of Business Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and Zahid Mubarak CEO HR Metrics. Awards were assessed on merit-based scoring method including Best Practice, Progressive, Proactive, Reactive, and Inactive.

## British High Commission's Development Director meets Chairman FBR



**Commerce Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: British High Commission's Development Director, Jo Moir, met Chairman FBR, Mr. Asim Ahmad, along with Economic Practice team to discuss continued cooperation with FBR through the Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) Programme.

During the meeting, various areas of cooperation were discussed including sales tax harmonisation,

track and trace, POS, land borders for trade facilitation, support on international taxation, taxpayers' facilitation and data integration for tax compliance.

Jo Moir pointed out importance of revenue mobilisation for effective public service delivery. Chairman FBR Mr. Asim Ahmad appreciated the support that REMIT has provided and committed continued cooperation in future.



# Women's League Exhibition matches begins Wednesday

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: As part of the launch of the Pakistan Women's League, the Amazons would be up against Super Women in the first of the three Women's League exhibition matches beginning at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi on Wednesday.

The women's match would begin at 2 pm and will be followed by HBL PSL 8 fixture between Peshawar Zalmi and Quetta Gladiators, at 7 pm.

Pakistan's 26 elite and emerging women cricketers would be joined by 10 international stars from seven countries in the extravaganza.

Two women's umpires, Humaira Farah and Saleema Imtiaz will share on-field umpiring responsibilities with Shozab Raza and Tariq Rasheed.

The matches were a soft launch of the Pakistan Women's League, which was tentatively planned in September. The four-team competition was expected to be held on a single-league basis.

The Wednesday's match would mark International Women's Day while the second game on Friday will be used to spread awareness about breast cancer in collaboration with Pink Ribbon. The third and final match on Saturday would promote women's empowerment through education in collaboration with CIRCLE Women.

Pakistan's most successful women's captain Bismah Maroof would lead the Amazons, while Nida Dar, who has the most T20I wickets (126), will captain the Super Women.

Ireland captain Laura Delany, England's trio of Danni Wyatt, Maia Bouchier and Tammy Beaumont, and Australia's Tess Flintoff are the international stars in the Amazons, while the foreign players in the Super Women squad are Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, Lauren Winfield-Hill of England, Jahanara Alam of Bangladesh, South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt and Lea Tahuhu of New Zealand.

Wolvaardt was the top-scorer at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 with 230 runs and is the sixth-ranked T20I batter in the world. She is followed by Athapaththu (11th), Wyatt (16th), Beaumont (44th) and Delany (61st). Amongst the bowlers, Tahuhu is the highest-ranked foreign bowler in eighth position, followed by Jahanara (60th).

Beaumont and Wyatt have hit three T20I centuries between them. Beaumont hit the third-quickest T20I century off 47 balls while scoring 116 against South Africa in 2018. Wyatt struck the seventh and 12th quickest T20I centuries while scoring 100 (vs Australia) and 124 (vs India) in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Pakistan's high-ranked players in the field were Bismah Maroof (33rd), Nida Dar (38th), Aliya Riaz (56th) (all batters); Sadia Iqbal (19th), Nida Dar (21st), Nashra Sundhu (26th), Anam Amin (37th) and Tuba Hassan (39th) (all bowlers).

Pakistan's batting sensation Muneeba Ali would also be in action in the three matches. The 25-year-old left-handed bespectacled wicketkeeper/batter made international headlines when she scored 102 against Ireland in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023. This was the only century of the competition and the sixth overall since the inception of the tournament in 2009.

Apart from Nida Dar, two Pakistan women cricketers, who have been adjudged ICC Women's Player of the Month, would show their skills in front of home crowds. They were Sidra Amin and Tuba Hassan.

The 36 cricketers (26 local and 10 foreign players) have been equally divided into two sides with the playing line-ups to include a maximum of four and a minimum of three foreign players and a minimum of one emerging or U19 player.

Amazons captain Bismah Maroof, "I am super-excited for the upcoming matches.

The presence of foreign cricketers

will especially provide our young and upcoming cricketers with a chance to learn from their experiences and knowledge, and incorporate these into their lifestyles, daily workouts and match preparations so that they can become better cricketers.

"Women's cricket in Pakistan needed exactly this shot in the arm and I am confident these three matches followed by the league in September will accelerate the process of narrowing the gap with the top sides."

Super Women captain Nida Dar said, "The PCB has done its bit by arranging these matches and now the onus is on the players to make optimum use of this opportunity and show the world what we're capable of. This is a great opportunity for parents to bring their children and let them fall in love with cricket.

Squads (to be selected from): Amazons - Bismah Maroof (captain), Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Areesha Noor, Danni Wyatt (England), Eymen Fatima, Fatima Khan, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Gull Feroza, Kainat Imtiaz, Laura Delany (Ireland), Maia Bouchier (England), Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Nawaz, Tammy Beaumont (England) and Tess Flintoff (Australia).

Super Women - Nida Dar (captain) Aimen Anwar, Chamari Athapaththu



(Sri Lanka), Iram Javed, Jahanara Alam (Bangladesh), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Lauren Winfield-Hill (England), Lea Tahuhu (New Zealand), Muneeba Ali, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaidha Sohail, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Syeda Masooma Zahra, Tuba Hassan and Umm-e-Hani.

Schedule: March 8 - Shozab Raza and Saleema Imtiaz (on-field umpires), Tariq Rasheed (third umpire) and

Humaira Farah fourth umpire. Mohammad Anees (match referee).

March 10 - Shozab Raza and Humaira Farah (on-field umpires), Tariq Rasheed (third umpire) and Saleema Imtiaz (fourth umpire). Mohammad Anees (match referee).

March 11 - Tariq Rasheed and Saleema Imtiaz (on-field umpires), Shozab Raza (third umpire) and Humaira Farah (fourth umpire). Mohammad Anees (match referee).

## Faheem Ashraf's incredible six leaves Simon Doull stunned

### By A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Faheem Ashraf's astounding six off Mohammad Ilyas in the final over of the high-scoring thriller between Islamabad United and Multan Sultans left commentator Simon Doull stunned.

In a tense final over with United needing 18 off it, Sultans' skipper Mohammad Rizwan handed over the ball to right-arm pacer Ilyas.

Despite Sultans being the favourite to win the crucial match, nervousness was on display by the bowler as he bowled a wide first-up to start off.

Ilyas then fired in another



wide yorker which Faheem attempted to work towards the leg-side but an under-edge took the ball past the keeper to fine leg for a lucky boundary.

After conceding a boundary, skipper Rizwan tried

to console his bowler, who then looked to go for another wide yorker but went a bit too fuller only for Faheem to manoeuvre the wide full toss over the third man for an astonishing six.

Faheem's six stunned the

renowned commentator Doull, whose open-mouthed reaction in the commentary box displayed his disbelief at the stroke.

Following a wide and two back-to-back boundaries, the United then needed seven off four with Faheem breathing fire. The all-rounder took a couple before smashing successive boundaries to pull off the second-highest run chase in Pakistan Super League (PSL) history with a ball to spare.

Furthermore, before Faheem's heroics, no side had ever chased 18 runs off the final over in the league's history.

## Schedule for Pakistan-Afghanistan T20I series announced

### By A Sports

KABUL: The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Tuesday, announced the schedule of the three-match home T20I series against Pakistan, which will be played from March 25 to 29 in Sharjah.

In an official statement, the ACB shared the schedule of their home T20I series against Pakistan, which will roll into action on March 25 in Sharjah before the second and third matches between the two teams taking place on March 27th and 29th, respectively, at the same venue.

The chairman of ACB Mr. Mirwais Ashraf thanked the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for their willingness to play against Afghanistan and expressed his hope for close working ties between the two cricket boards.

"We appreciate Pakistan Cricket Board's willingness to play Afghanistan in March. This is a significant accomplishment for two neighbouring countries.

"We are hopeful and looking forward to extending our ties with PCB, as well as continuing great partnerships and frequent cricketing assignments with them, which will help us further strengthen our team and our cricket altogether. Overall, we are excited to host and play Pakistan in what will be a thrilling series of cricket games between the two countries."

It is worth mentioning here that the ACB executives contacted the PCB to play a three-match ODI series, following Australia's withdrawal from the ODI series against Afghanistan, citing restrictions on women's rights in the country.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the PCB management committee Najam Sethi in a press conference in January, shared that the cricketing governing body had no interest in the ODI series, however, the T20I series could be an option subject to approval from the Pakistan government.

"I met the chairman and executives of the Afghanistan [Board] in Dubai. The crux of the matter is that they requested us to play three matches," shared Sethi.

"My stance was that even if we play those matches, it would not benefit either cricketing nation, so we are not really interested in going ahead and playing those matches.

"Again, keeping it short, since I had a detailed conversation with them. We came to the conclusion that subject to the government's approval, Pakistan and Afghanistan will play three T20I matches in Sharjah, just after the conclusion of PSL 8 and before the arrival of New Zealand."

## Robbers take away cash worth millions from Muhammad Hafeez's house



### Sports Desk

LAHORE: A robbery was reported at former cricketer Mohammad Hafeez's house here late Sunday.

According to the details, the intruders stormed into the cricketer's house from the rare entrance before breaking into the former cricketer's room to steal foreign currency, worth millions of rupees.

Following the unfortunate incident, the uncle of Hafeez's wife lodged First Information Report (FIR) at the Defence Police Station.

As per the FIR, the robbers looted foreign currency - 20,000 US Dollars, 4,000 Pounds, 3,000 Euros and 5,000 AED - alongside the cricketer's wife's jewellery.

Notably, Hafeez is currently in Rawalpindi as he is representing Quetta Gladiators in the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight, while his wife is also in the capital city.

Meanwhile, the police have started the investigation after taking the CCTV footage into the record.

## Mbappe determined to carry PSG past Bayern

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe heads to Munich fresh from a record-breaking weekend with Paris Saint-Germain and determined to lead the French giants past Bayern and into the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

PSG trail 1-0 from the first leg of the heavyweight last-16 tie, after injury reduced Mbappe to a cameo appearance off the bench in that match last month.

Yet the 24-year-old France superstar did enough in his short time on the pitch then - including having a goal disallowed for a marginal offside - to make it clear that he can swing the tie the Parisians' way.

Since that game, the Ligue 1 leaders have recovered from a worrying slump in form to claim three straight domestic wins, scoring 11 goals in the process.

Mbappe has netted five of them, including one in Saturday's 4-2 win over Nantes that saw him overtake Edinson Cavani and become PSG's all-time top scorer, five and a half years after signing from Monaco in 2017.

## PSL T 20

RAWALPINDI: Cricket fans watching cricket during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Twenty20 cricket match between Multan Sultan and Islamabad United at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, in the City.



Photo: Online

## Faheem's heroics deny Sultans playoff berth as United prevail

### By A Sports -

RAWALPINDI: Faheem Ashraf's astounding 51-run knock barred Multan Sultans from qualifying for the playoff as Islamabad United pulled off the second-highest successful run chase of Pakistan Super League (PSL) history.

Set to chase the second-highest total in the league's history, United witnessed valuable efforts from their skipper Shadab Khan and all-rounder Faheem to seal an astounding victory by two wickets and a ball to spare.

Earlier, the two-time champions were off to a dismal start to the pursuit as the hosts lost their in-form opener Alex Hales (1) for a combined score of 17 runs in the third over.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz contin-

ued charging on the Sultans' bowlers with his brief cameo of 14-ball 25 before Anwar Ali struck again for the visitors.

Following back-to-back setbacks, skipper Shadab joined hands with in-form Colin Munro and stitched a crucial partnership for the third wicket and added 59 runs.

Munro appeared on song to score another half-century but Usama Mir castled the explosive batter to roar back his side's comeback in the run chase. He scored 40 in just 21 balls with the help of four boundaries and three sixes.

The home side then dealt a major blow as their another in-form batter Azam Khan (3) perished cheaply as Usama struck again in his next over.

With their side in heaps of

trouble, Faheem joined Shadab in the middle and put on an anchoring 39-run partnership for the fifth wicket before the latter fell victim to Ihsanullah.

Shadab scored a brisk 25-ball 44, smashing three boundaries and as many sixes.

The United then began to lose wickets at regular intervals and eventually slipped to 187/8 in the 19th over before needing 18 runs in the final over with Faheem on strike.

The all-rounder held his nerves calm in the final over and powered United to an astonishing victory as he chased down the target for his side with a ball to spare, hitting three boundaries and a six.

Faheem top-scored for United with an unbeaten 51 in just 26

balls, hitting five boundaries and two sixes.

Anwar led the bowling attack for the Sultans with 3/33 while Ihsanullah and Usama bagged two wickets each. Abbas Afridi, on the other hand, struck out a batter.

Put into bat first, the Sultans piled a massive total on the board at the back of fantastic knocks by Masood and David.

Earlier, the dependable opening pair of Sultans once again laid a solid foundation as the duo accumulated 57 runs in the first powerplay.

United's skipper Shadab Khan, however, struck on the first delivery of his spell to break the crucial partnership as he got rid of the danger man Mohammad Rizwan, who scored a brisk



18-ball 33, hitting a boundary and three sixes.

Shadab then struck again in his third over to draw second success for his side as he removed in-form Rilee Rossouw cheaply for just 15.

Following the slump, David joined Masood in the middle

his half-century in just 20 deliveries after Faheem Ashraf broke the threatening stand by removing Shan.

The left-handed opener top-scored for the Sultans with a 50-ball 75, which featured 12 boundaries.

David continued charging on the United bowlers before falling to Mohammad Wasim Jr in the final over. He scored a brisk 60 off a mere 27 balls, hitting four boundaries and five sixes.

Meanwhile, Wasim Jr struck again and removed David Miller (11) on the final delivery of the last over to restrict Sultans to 205/5 in the allotted 20 overs.

Shadab and Wasim Jr led the bowling attack for the United with two wickets each, while Faheem could pick up a wicket.