



**Rana Sanaullah says Imran Khan wants to cheat people in elections**

Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Friday said that Imran Khan wanted to give nation a bitter pill under the garb of immediate elections with ulterior motive to avoid accountability in Toshka Khana and foreign funding cases. (Report on Page 8)



**WB Economists meet Chairman FBR**

ISLAMABAD: A team of World Bank Economists met Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Asim Ahmad here Friday to discuss improvement in tax compliance and facilitation through behavioral intervention. The World Bank team comprising Jonathan Karver, Ms. Ana Maria Mendez, Ms. Lucy Pan and Ms. Irum Tauqeer apprised Chairman FBR about international experiences and discussed potential areas of interventions in Pakistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Relief activities**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review relief activities for earthquake victims of Turkiye and Syria by Pakistan on Friday.



Photo: PID

**PM greets President Xi Jinping on his 3rd term in office**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated China's President Xi Jinping on being elected for the position for third time.

"The confidence of the Chinese people and parliament in President Xi Jinping is a recognition of his extraordinary leadership skills," the Prime Minister said in

a message of greetings on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan.

President Xi Jinping was voted unanimously by the People National People's Congress (NPC), as the President of China for the next five years.

The prime minister extended his best wishes to President Xi Jinping, and the government and people of China.

**Iran and Saudi Arabia agree to resume ties**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed on Friday to re-establish relations after seven years of hostility which had threatened stability and security in the Gulf and helped fuel conflicts in the Middle East from Yemen to Syria.

The deal was announced after four days of previously undisclosed talks in Beijing between top security officials from the two rival Middle East powers.

Tehran and Riyadh agreed to resume diplomatic relations and re-open embassies within two months, according to a statement issued by Iran, Saudi Arabia and China.

In recent years Saudi Arabia has blamed Iran for missile and drone attacks on the kingdom's oil facilities in 2019 as well as attacks on tankers in Gulf waters. Iran denied the charges.

Friday's agreement, signed by Iran's top security official, Ali Shamkhani, and Saudi Arabia's national security adviser Musaed bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, agreed to re-activate a 2001 security cooperation accord, as well as another earlier pact on trade, economy and investment.

China's top diplomat Wang Yi described the deal as a victory for dialogue and peace, adding that Beijing would continue to play a constructive role in addressing tough global issues.

A White House national security spokesperson said the United States was aware of reports of

the agreement and welcomed any efforts to help end war in Yemen and de-escalate tensions in the Middle East.

In contrast, Saudi Arabia's growing ties with China were highlighted by the high profile



visit of President Xi Jinping three months ago.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran in 2016 after its embassy in Tehran was stormed during a dispute between the two countries over Riyadh's execution of a cleric.

Normalising relations offered great prospects for both countries and for the Middle East, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said, hinting at further steps.

"The neighbourhood policy, as the key axis of the Iranian government's foreign policy, is strongly moving in the right direction and the diplomatic apparatus is actively behind the preparation of more regional steps," Amirabdollahian tweeted.

A senior Iranian official said that addressing the tensions with Saudi Arabia had become a top priority for Tehran in recent months and would help resolve long-running talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

"It will encourage the West to reach a nuclear agreement with Iran," the official told Reuters.

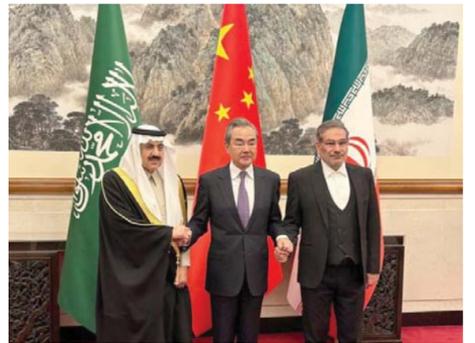
Cinzia Bianco, research fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said Riyadh had been seeking security guarantees from the Iranians, which may have been addressed by the re-activation of the 2001 security accord.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said in January that progress was being made towards ending the Yemen conflict.

Responding to Friday's announcement, Oman Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said on Twitter that the resumption of Saudi-Iranian diplomatic ties was a "win-win for everyone and will benefit regional and global security".

Oman and Iraq hosted talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia in 2021 and 2022.

**Pakistan welcomes normalization of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia, Iran**



**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Friday warmly welcomed the normalization of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The normalization of relations between the two countries was facilitated by China.

The Foreign Office Spokesperson in a statement here said, "Pakistan firmly believes that this important diplomatic breakthrough will contribute to peace and stability in the region and beyond."

"We commend the role played by China's visionary leadership in coordinating

this historic agreement which reflects the power of constructive engagement and meaningful dialogue. We laud sagacious leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for this very positive development."

"With a history of consistently supporting and coordinating efforts for bridging gaps between the two brotherly countries, Pakistan will continue to play a constructive role in the Middle East and the region. We hope this positive step would define a template for regional cooperation and harmony," she added.

**PMLN fully prepared for polls: Maryam Nawaz**

**Main Abdul Rasheed**

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Friday said the PMLN was fully prepared to go to the polls but level playing field was imperative for all political players to ensure the credibility of elections.

Addressing a workers' convention in al-Fateh Sports Complex here, she said that election was just knocking at the doors but workers should not be afraid of it. They should be ready to face it as a brave political workers.

**At UN, FM Bilawal calls for global unity to fight against growing Islamophobia**

**Spokesman Report**

UNITED NATIONS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday opened a special high-level meeting to commemorate International Day to Combat Islamophobia, with a fervent call to everyone - from any religion or creed - to stand together in the fight against hatred, bigotry and intolerance.

"The observance of this Day serves to reinforce our shared commitment to raise awareness about the insidious phenomenon of Islamophobia, advance mutual respect and understanding, and develop concrete measures to eradicate this contemporary plague," he told delegates in the UN General Assembly Hall, while highlighting that Islam is a religion of moderation, tolerance



and pluralism.

The meeting is co-convened by the Office of the President of the General Assembly and Pakistan in its capacity as the Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers.

Last year, the 193-member Assembly adopted Resolution 76/254 designating March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

Apart from Casaba Korosi, the Assembly's President, present at the

meeting, among others, were UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Miguel Moratinos.

OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taham and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Nazila Ghanea, were due to address by video link.

In his opening remarks, FM Bilawal said since 9/11, animosity and institutional suspicion of Muslims and Islam across the world escalated to "epidemic proportions".

"Despite protestations to the contrary," the foreign minister said, "Islam and Muslims are routinely linked to terrorism".

In some cases, he said, the rhetoric of hate and incitement to violence was officially inspired, noting that

**Quetta Police team reaches Lahore to arrest Imran Khan**

**News Desk**

LAHORE: A team of Quetta police on Friday reached Lahore to arrest the former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan.

The Quetta police team is led by Superintendent Police (SP) City Nadeem departed for Lahore from Quetta with the arrest warrant of Imran Khan on Thursday.

The team led by the SP city includes a sub-inspector, two guards and a driver.

Sources privy to the development said CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddiq has been informed about the presence of Quetta police in Lahore for Imran Khan's arrest.

The judicial magistrate of a local court in Quetta issued non-bailable arrest warrant for the PTI chief following a case registered at the Bijli Ghar police station. The case was filed against Imran Khan for maligning the national institutions.

On Monday, the Balochistan police registered a case against the PTI chairman on the complaint of a citizen - named Abdul Khalil Karak. The case was registered at Bijli road police station against Imran Khan's recent speech.

**President for enhanced focus of dentists on prevention, awareness of oral hygiene**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said that as curative dentistry had more financial implications, particularly for a developing country like Pakistan, dentists should think out of the box to promote preventive dentistry through public awareness of oral hygiene.

The president, addressing the inaugural

ceremony of the International Oral Pathology and Aesthetic Dentistry Conference held here, said preventive healthcare was more important as tertiary care was costlier and unaffordable for Pakistan.

Urging the participants comprising oral pathologists, dentists, professors and students, he said that regular brushing of teeth provided almost 99% of prevention from oral diseases.

He said Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) also taught the frequent use of Miswak as had been evident from around 20 Ahadith.

The president, also a renowned dentist, shared the success stories of his career in dentistry which marked massive awareness campaigns on oral health which created a win-win situation for both the private partners as well as the field of dentistry.

## Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants and speakers of the 2nd Annual Conference of Pakistan Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Rana Sanaullah says Imran Khan wants to cheat people in elections

Spokesman Report

FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Friday said that Imran Khan wanted to give nation a bitter pill under the garb of immediate elections with ulterior motive to avoid accountability in Toshka Khana and foreign funding cases.

Addressing the workers' convention at al-Fateh Sports Complex here, he said the PML-N was fully prepared for the elections. "We would not only take part in the elections but would emerge as victori-



ous with the masses support", he added.

He said that Imran Khan had inflicted colossal loss of Rs.50 billion to the national

kitty in collaboration with property tycoon out of which a property of Rs.15 billion was registered in the name of his wife.

He said that the time had

come for the accountability and the law would take its own course.

He warned that Imran Khan could be arrested as the hide and seek could not save him (Imran) from the accountability.

He asked the workers to buckle up their shoes as the elections and accountability would be held simultaneously. He said that Imran Khan would be in jail because of his loot and plunder.

He alleged that Imran Khan was taking refuge under fake excuses of illness but one day he

would have to surrender before the law.

He said that Nawaz Sharif would certainly return back to lead the masses and give a shameful defeat to the so-called leader who had usurped power through conspiracies.

He said that Nawaz Sharif was actually a panacea for all national ills and he would very soon steer the country out of crises.

He announced that next public meeting would be held in Iqbal Park Dhubi Ghat and Nawaz Sharif would himself address it.

## Govt gears up efforts to implement Rs 110b post-flood reconstruction package for Balochistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has geared up its efforts to implement Rs 110 billion (USD 400 million) post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction package for Balochistan as the first formal Steering Committee meeting of the Post-Flood 2022 Reconstruction and Rehabilitation project was held on Friday.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Provincial Ministers for Finance and Planning

on the behalf of Chief Minister Balochistan and attended by the Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Planning, representatives from Economic Affairs Division, provincial representatives of Balochistan and other stakeholders.

The Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, highlighted that the socio-economic development of Balochistan had remained a top priority of the PDM government since coming into power in April last year. The Minister noted that the efforts of the Government

were disrupted by the devastating floods, which hit the poorest regions of the country hardest especially Balochistan.

In the wake of the devastating floods, the provincial Government lacked the financial resources to support post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. The Federal Government obtained a loan from the World Bank and is spending this amount on post-flood rehabilitation and livelihood enhancement in Balochistan as a grant.

The Minister for Planning and Minister for Finance from the Government of

Balochistan appreciated the efforts of the Federal Government for taking special interest in the development of Balochistan and for mobilizing loans for financing post-flood work in Balochistan. They emphasized the fiscal challenges faced by the provincial government and thanked the federal government for providing much-needed funds through this project. They assured the full cooperation and support of the Government of Balochistan.

Member Social Sector & Devolution, Rafiullah Kakar, informed the participants

that the ECNEC had recently approved the project and that the first phase of the project will be completed in two years.

Under the project, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of community infrastructure, establishment of a hydro-meteorological early warning system, and reconstruction of damaged and partially damaged housing units will be financed.

Furthermore, to address the issues of youth unemployment, the federal government will provide 10,000 paid internships to the youth of Balochistan under this project.

## Govt seeks another electricity surcharge to recover Rs335b

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Friday sought imposition of another surcharge on electricity consumers to recover Rs335 billion.

The federal government has filed a plea with the NEPRA seeking imposition of surcharge up to Rs3.23 paisas/unit. The NEPRA is scheduled to hear the plea of the government on March 16.

As per the plea, the government has sought the imposition of Rs0.43 paisas/unit surcharge on electricity consumers from July to October 30.

The consumers using above 300 units of electricity per month will be slapped with Rs3.23/unit surcharge during the same corresponding period.

## India must end illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Jammu and Kashmir has never been, nor will ever be India's "integral part" and India must end its illegal occupation of the disputed territory and let Kashmiris exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices.

Lieutenant Governor of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) Manoj Sinha recently falsely claimed that Azad Kashmir was an integral part of India. He also said that the dream of Akhand Bharat will be a reality in the coming times.

According to political analysts, this statement is yet another manifestation of Indian leaders' aggressive designs, which remain a constant threat to regional peace and stability.

These claims can neither change the facts of history nor the legal status of Jammu and Kashmir that remains an internationally recognized disputed territory. India should stop resorting to false and misleading



ing assertions.

The analysts say as for the boasts of "Akhand Bharat", the gratuitous assertion is nothing but a manifestation of the 'Hindutva' majoritarian agenda of India's ruling dispensation and its revisionist and expansionist mindset that seeks to subjugate the identity and culture of its neighboring

countries as well as its own religious minorities.

The Indian leaders would be well advised not to indulge in political rhetoric against other countries merely to further their divisive and parochial political agenda.

Pakistan has time and again urged the United Nations, as human rights machinery as

well as member states to counsel India to rescind its illegal and unilateral actions taken since 5th August 2019, and forthwith its gross human rights violations of the Kashmiri people, provide access to independent organizations and comply with its international human rights obligations.

## The CTD Punjab arrests 12 'terrorists' of banned outfit

Raja Furqan Ahmed

LAHORE: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Friday apprehended 12 terrorists belonging to banned outfits, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Al-Qaeda group, during multiple operations in Punjab. According to details, CTD conducted a grand operation on the hideouts of terrorists in several districts of Punjab including Lahore, Sargodha and arrested 12 terror suspects. During the operation in Lahore, forces arrested three terrorists belonging to banned TTP, said a CTD spokesperson.

Apart from suicide jackets, explosives, guns, ammunition and literature pertaining to terror activities

were recovered from the arrested suspects. The arrested terrorist had already planned to carry out an attack in sensitive districts, he said.

The spokesperson said that 12 cases were registered against the terrorists and the investigation was underway. On March 7, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in separate Intelligence-Based Operations claimed to have arrested 11 operatives of banned outfits in Karachi.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the IBOs were carried out in different localities of Karachi. During raids as many as 11 'operatives' of banned outfits had been taken into custody, who were wanted in terrorism cases.

## Pakistan demands joint probe into supersonic missile firing in South Punjab

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A year ago, a supersonic missile BrahMos was fired from Suratgarh India into Pakistani territory Near Mian Channu in South Punjab on March 9, 2022. It endangered human life and property and posed a grave threat to regional and international peace, security and stability. Pakistan demonstrated exemplary restraint which is testament of our systemic maturity and unflinching commitment to peace as a responsible nuclear state.

The irresponsible act by India was in violation of international law, United Nations Charter, Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, civil aviation rules and safety protocols. It exposed many loopholes and technical lapses in the Indian system regarding

handling of its strategic weapons.

Despite the lapse of one year, the Government of India has not acceded to Pakistan's demand of a joint probe in order to accurately establish the facts surrounding this serious incident. India has also not shared findings of its internal inquiry with Pakistan. Its unilateral and hasty closure of the so-called internal inquiry have raised serious questions on the command and control systems in place in India for its strategic weapons.

Pakistan reiterates its demand for joint probe into this irresponsible incident. We also expect satisfactory response to and clarification of several fundamental questions regarding security protocols and technical safeguards against accidental or unauthorized launch of missiles in a nuclearized environment.



Islamabad: Mr. Masood Ahmed, Senior Police officer called on H.E. Hamad Obaid Alzaabi the Ambassador of UAE in Islamabad and discusses joint initiatives and future cooperation and coordination.

## Incomplete K-IV Project Causes Rs14b Financial Dent to Exchequer

News Desk

KARACHI: The incomplete K-IV water project for Karachi citizens cost dearly to the national exchequer, causing Rs14 billion financial dent, ARY News reported on Friday.

The govt failed to complete the K-IV project after spending seven years of its launching by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah back in 2016. The national treasury suffered a huge financial loss of approximately Rs14 billion on the account of the K-IV water supply project.

Water pipes worth millions were stolen which were procured for the old design of the project.

According to sources, back in 2018, after the work on the old design stopped, the pipes were left unattended. The thieves stole the pipes by cutting them in short pieces with gas cutters but the management remained unaware of the theft.

"K-IV project is not completed after seven years but the goods started to be stolen," said sources.

A case of the theft was registered at the Jang Shahi police station, meanwhile, the police also arrested two accused. It should be noted here that Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is currently working on the new design of the K-IV project, the cost of the new design of the water supply project is estimated at Rs126 billion.

## Federal hospitals asked to ensure dengue special measures

City Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has directed all federal hospitals and clinics to make all necessary arrangements to manage dengue cases.

According to an official of the ministry, a letter has been written to the heads of federal health establishments in this regard by the ministry and directed them to take special measures.

He said that all hospitals have been asked to ensure the allocation of a substantial number of beds in wards including isolated wards as per standard operating procedures.

Similarly, hospitals' heads have been directed to ensure the availability of all required staff and screening and testing facilities along with medicines and other required needs for dengue treatment and prevention.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel directed to utilize of all available resources to manage dengue cases in all four provinces along with Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that these measures were necessary to protect citizens and ensure free treatment services for dengue patients.

# In-house session on 'Latest Developments on Issues of Arms Control & Disarmament'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) organised an In-House Session on "Latest Developments on Issues of Arms Control & Disarmament" with Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.

The discussion was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI. The participants included: Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS); Ambassador Zamir Akram, Pakistan's former Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva; Ambassador Shah M Jamal; Brigadier Haroon Rashid, Director General (SECDIV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Professor Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Director,



School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU); Major General (Retd) Ausaf Ali; Dr. Pervez Butt, former Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC); Dr. Salma Malik, Assistant Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU); Ms. Rubina Waseem, Assistant Professor, National Defence University (NDU);

Commodore Baber Bilal Haider, Director, National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA); and Major General (Retd) Naseer Ali Khan. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, made the introductory remarks.

DG Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, highlighted the obtaining global environment marked by revival of traditional geopol-

itics, great-power competition, military conflicts, existential threat posed by Climate Change, and an evidently weakening commitment to multilateralism. He noted that these dynamics had profound implications for international cooperation, including on issues related to arms control and disarmament.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi apprised the participants of recent developments on the issues of arms control and disarmament, especially with reference to the discourse in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). He shared his assessment of the state of play on important agenda-points in the CD and Pakistan's approach.

Ambassador Hashmi's insightful presentation was followed by an engaging interactive session with the participants.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG of ISSI, made concluding remarks.

# Hamdard Foundation organizes walk on 'Health for All' to raise awareness

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) organized an awareness walk on the theme of "Health for All" yesterday to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Led by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President HFP, the walk commenced from Hamdard Corporate Head Office Tariq Road and concluded at Mazar-e-Quaid. Hamdard Pakistan workers, students of Ruffaidah Hamdard College of Nursing, Hamdard Public School, and Hamdard Village School, and people from different walks of life took part.

While talking to the media, Ms. Sadia Rashid stated that the upcoming month of April marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO). As an active partner organization of WHO, Hamdard has been organizing the International Children's Health Conference annually for the past thirty years. To celebrate WHO's 75th



anniversary, Hamdard Pakistan has planned a schedule of various activities in line with WHO's goal "Health for All" to promote health awareness among the general public during the month of March.

She said: "Unfortunately the prevalence of health issues is on the rise in Pakistan. This can be attributed to our unhealthy lifestyle, which has led to a surge in various diseases and illnesses. As a result, a significant portion of the population finds itself in a state of 'infirmity', a physical state in which no appar-

ent disease is present, but the underlying causes of illness and disease are present and active."

Ms. Sadia Rashid emphasized the significance of adopting a simplistic lifestyle akin to that of our ancestors, prioritizing physical activity, such as walking and regular exercise, and maintaining moderation in dietary habits. "Moreover, people must prioritize the health of our youth, who are the assets of our country, to secure a promising and progressive future for our nation," she said.

While commenting on a large number of participants, Ms. Sadia Rashid expressed her delight and remarked that the sizable turnout serves as a testament to the growing momentum of Hamdard Pakistan's message of "Wellness to Wellbeing."

On this occasion, Rooh Afza was sampled for the youthful participants of the walk, thereby providing refreshment to others present at Mazar-e-Quaid.

# Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality on International Women's Day

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 8th March 2022 by highlighting the contributions that the refugee and host community women have made by coming together and learning from one another in field of digital technology learning.

The event kicked off with inspiring welcome note from Mr. Qaiser M. Siddiqui, CEO & Co-founder, Inspire Pakistan who highlighted the role women have played in society and how their work has had a transformative impact in the communities.

Zahra Khalid, Project Manager Inspire Pakistan, emphasized on digital education for every Afghan Refugee girl or woman by stating that no one shall be left behind. She focused on girl/women education, health and well-being of all at the Urban Cohesion Hub. She conducted, organized and moderated the event till its end.

Ms. Syma Nadeem Convener SDG7/ former Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, added in her speech by thanking Inspire Pakistan and



UNHCR Pakistan for putting efforts for a great cause of helping women and children. She said that Pakistan is committed to UN in 2015 tried to achieve one of the goals amongst the SDGs 2030 i.e. women development and gender equality. Specifically, she added about goal number 7 i.e. women role in renewable energy development without which no

other development is possible. When she took up the goal, her focus was on women to empower them in this field. After taking this challenge she wants to empower women in this field as in Pakistan there are many barriers for women but going through all those barriers by giving education and training to women to go hand in hand through which they achieve

many targets by making women the part of renewable energy development.

Mr. Brig (Retd) Munawar Hussain, CEO Inducting & Chief Technical Officer 360 technologies shed light on the importance of digital trainings and skills for women and children in today's world. He stated that nowadays it's easy access this technology through trainings and acquiring skills. He applauded Inspire Pakistan and UNHCR for choosing this particular training for students representing afghan refugees and host communities.

The celebration was attended by members from UNHCR, US embassy and non-profits. Foreign Dignitaries including Deputy Refugee Coordinator US Embassy Ms. Paola Weise and Dr. Arif Oryakhail, Coordinator Health, Humanitarian, migration for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. In the end of the event certificates were distributed amongst the students who completed three months Digital Photography course.

# Women will have to fight for their own protection: Shehla Raza

News Desk

KARACHI: 4th Women's Conference organized by Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi was grandly inaugurated with a drum circle performance. Provincial Minister for Women Development Shehla Raza along with Anees Haroon, Noor ul Huda Shah, Qudsia Akbar, Dr. Jafar Ahmad, Fatima Hassan, Ghazi Salahuddin, Ejaz Farooqui, Kishwar Zahra, were present at the women conference.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Jafar Ahmed spoke on the topic of "Global Feminist Movement: An Overview" while Huma Mir performed the duties of Moderator, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah said that women realize that begging will not get anything, they will have to struggle for it, Fatima Jinnah. Benazir was a role model.

There is a great struggle for working women.

She went to jail, but she always raised her voice for legitimate and equal rights according to the constitution of Pakistan. which includes employment, education and health issues, unfortunately this did not happen, women in Pakistan got the right to vote first, when black women and children were not allowed to sit on buses in the United States, then the women of Pakistan had the right to vote, if we can't get the rights of women, then we don't deserve to be called a civilized nation.

Obstacles are also put in the name of religion, I salute the struggle of women, men should stand by the side of women and play their role.

Provincial Minister for Women Development Syeda Shehla Raza Expressing that women will have to

fight for their own protection, law is the weapon that you can use in times of trouble, society should know when and how to use this weapon.

It seems that women do not know that there is a law to protect them, she said child, man, woman or old, the law protects everyone, these are the wrong people who take your girls away from home.

They are forcing to leave, don't be afraid of these people, bring them forward, women have to stand up for their rights, nothing can happen until women raise their voice, women have to stop this violence themselves. Key Note speaker and well-known writer Noor ul Huda Shah while speaking said that we keep our women oblivious to the world, she does not know what the outside world is. I am happy that today the majority of working women

are present in the Women's Conference. she said that when we speak loudly, half of the women are part of the system. Yes, a feudal lord is not one who has a lot of land and property, it is a mind set, religion is used to strengthen the feudal mind set and system, she said that women are the root of society, our women.

Unaware, On the first day of the Women's Conference, sessions were held on "Natural Disasters, Climate Change and Women", Youth Sessions, Lighting of Lamps If You See, "Celebrating Our Lives", "Violence and Our Justice System".

The participants had a lively discussion, a session was held on "Conversation with Sultana Siddiqui", and at the end a mushaira was presented which was moderated by Ambareen Haseeb Ambar

## Volleyball championship tournament concluded



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Volleyball championship tournament started with the support of security forces has concluded, a total of 10 teams were participating in the tournament.

The final match of the tournament was played between Haroon Club and Azam warsak Club in which Azam warsak Club won the match.

The locals took special interest in watching these matches and also appreciated the efforts of the security forces for providing a peaceful atmosphere during the tournament arrangements.

On this occasion, local tribal elders said that FC South (KP) and Scouts Force have always tried to promote not only sports activities in the area but also have given full attention to development projects in the area.

The local sportsmen and tribal elders declared the volleyball championship tournament as a welcome move and thanked the security forces.

## Five killed, 17 missing in Dera Ghazi after tractor trolley falls into canal



Asim Tanveer

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Five people, including a child, were killed while 17 people were missing when the Tractor trolley of 49 pilgrims who were going From Dera Ghazi to Sakhi Sarwar for pilgrimage fell into the canal on the airport road in the Chotti Zarin area. Rescue and local people have pulled out 24 people alive from the canal. Dr. Ahmed Kamal in-charge rescue operation Dera Ghazi Khan Said. The Rescue operation is ongoing

More than 49 people, including women, from Basti Ahmadani and neighboring Village of Choti Zarin area of Dera Ghazi Khan were going to Darbar Sakhi Sarwar for pilgrimage. Due to the speed breaker near DG Canal and the speedy tractor trolley falling into the canal, 5 people including a child died till the latest reports while the injured have been shifted to the local hospital and 24 people have been rescued alive by rescue Operation according to the Dr Ahmed Kamal incharge Rescue 1122 Dera Ghazi Khan.

More than 17 people, including children, are still missing. The rescue operation is going on, in which the soldiers and machinery of the police and Pakistan Army are also participating. The work of searching for the missing people is going on. Dr. Ahmad Kamal In-charge Rescue 1122 Dera Ghazi Khan.

Rescue 1122 teams have also been called from Multan Layyah and Muzaffargarh.

## Puniversity calls for fair elections for sake of peace and prosperity of Pakistan

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The only solution for emerging tranquility & economic stability of Pakistan is a fair election. The Pakistan Army is the backbone of the security institutions and the judiciary of Pakistan. The Deputy General Secretary Pakistan Ulama Council and Member Provincial Union The Muslim Committee of the Government of Punjab Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan told the visiting delegation of Pakistan Ulama Council while talking to Maulana Ubaidullah Gormani, Maulana Habibur Rahman Abid, Maulana Izharul Haq Khalid, Maulana Aminul Haq Ashrafi, Sahibzada Hamza Tahirul Hasan and other scholars in the delegation. Time is needed for the stability of Pakistan and the people. For the sake of prosperity, democracy should be strengthened in the country. The only solution is peaceful and transparent elections. It is the responsibility of the government and other institutions to give their full support to promote democracy and the Chief Election Commission should fulfill its responsibilities to the people. His choice comprises for ensuring the betterment of an election environment to match with democratic system. It should provide an opportunity to do so that a good message of Pakistan will be sent to the whole world. They want to gain power by making them controversial for personal interest. This is not giving a good impression to the politicians in the whole world. Instead of misleading the people, the politicians should fix their situation and put an end to their personal fights. The poli-



ticians should take measures for the welfare of the people & freeing the people from inflation by ending the political conflict. Let the governments and the opposition come together to strengthen the stability and democratic process of Pakistan by holding an all-party conference and determine the formula for the development of the country for the future so that the problems of the people that can be solved and the country can develop.

He further expressed sorrows on the ongoing anarchy in the country and day by day it is going up.

This dangerous situation will ultimately take us all to the dark corner from which there will be left no way to come back.

He stressed on the need of following the golden rules of Islamisation and this religion is the key of all successes.

Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan focused on the need of generating an educational system which may prepare minds of humanity, and with out good education it will be impossible for us to create sustainability and comprehensive policy for the country on permanent basis.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:03 am
Zohr	12:18 pm
Asr	4:30 pm
Maghrib	6:11 pm
Isha	7:34 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 16
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9270601-20
Motorway Police	9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**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
Rawal Town	5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

# SECP registers 2,414 companies in Feb, 2023

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD : The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,414 new companies in February 2023, bringing the total number of registered companies to 187,569. The total paid-up capital (capitalization) of the companies incorporated in February was Rs 2.5 billion.

Approximately 57% of businesses were registered as private limited companies, 40% as single-member businesses, and 3% as limited liability partnerships, not-for-profit organizations, and unlisted public companies (LLP). Further, almost 99.9% of businesses registered online. The new registration includes four foreign companies and 94 companies, incorporated by foreign users from overseas.

The real estate development & construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 387 companies, followed by infor-

mation technology with 335, trading with 299, and services with 262 companies. Further, 120 companies were incorporated in the food and beverage sector; 118 in the tourism sector; 100 in the education sector; and 61 in the e-commerce and engineering sectors. The other sectors with incorporations include textiles (54 companies), corporate agricultural farming, marketing and advertisement (53 each), healthcare (50), chemicals (39), pharmaceuticals (36), transport (36), auto & allied (31), power generation (30), mining & quarrying (28), lodging (27), fuel & energy (25), communications (24), cables and electrical goods (16), broadcasting & telecasting (14), paper & board (13), and 11 companies registered in the arts and culture area (105 companies).

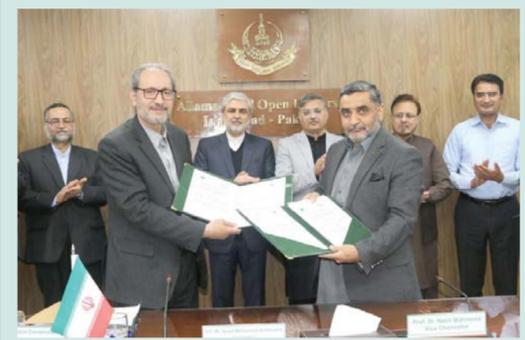
As a result of the integration of SECP's E-services with FBR and various provincial departments, 2,327 companies were registered with FBR for the generation

of NTN, 89 companies with EOBI, 45 companies with PESSI/SESSI, and 48 companies with the excise and taxation department.

Foreign investment has been reported in 56 new companies, with foreign investors from Afghanistan, Australia, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey, the UAE, the UK, the USA, and Yemen. A major chunk of investment was received from China with 27 companies, South Korea with 05 companies, the UK and USA with 04 each, Afghanistan and Germany with 3 each, Japan and Singapore with 2 each, and 8 companies from other countries.

The SECP also has a dedicated WhatsApp facility for instant resolution of queries pertaining to name availability and incorporation processes, and during this month, around 1073 queries were responded to with a 96% satisfaction rate.

## AIOU inks MoU with Islamic Azad University, Iran



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Trade, cultural and political relations between Pakistan and Iran are improving and it is heartening that every government in Pakistan, irrespective of its political affiliation and ideology has worked for improvement of relation between the two brother Islamic countries" said the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini at the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Islamic Azad University. The Iranian ambassador further said that both universities have very strong capabilities and infrastructure that can promote educational cooperation in a good way.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood said that Iran and Pakistan have deep ties of religion, civilization, and culture. He said that AIOU will play a role to strengthen the relationship between Pakistan and Iran through education. Dr. Nasir said that not only geographically, but we are also connected through culture, civilization and religion and we do not need any other support. Dr. Nasir said that there are vast learning opportunities for the faculty members of AIOU in Islamic Azad University.

Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and Foreign Students, Islamic Azad University, Dr. Jalal Dorakhshah that there are relations between the people and governments of the two countries and now these relations will continue at the university level as well. Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director, International Collaboration and Exchange Program gave a detailed briefing on the profile of AIOU and said that our relationship with Iran's universities is as strong as PAK-IRAN friendship. He said that we are already collaborating with Iran's Payame Noor University, University of Tehran and University of Religions and Denominations.

According to MoU, art, culture, language, and literature of both countries will be promoted. Joint seminars and conferences, exchange of publications and academic research work, exchange of faculty members, scholars and students, joint courses and workshops is also part of this MoU. Registrar, AIOU, Raja Umar Younis from AIOU and Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs and Foreign Students, Dr. Jalal Dorakhshah from Islamic Azad University signed the MoU.

## Pakistani power sector facing challenges



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The University Advancement Office and the US-Pak Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E) at NUST in collaboration with Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition organised a dialogue titled "Resolving Energy Sector Crisis through Digitalisation & Innovation." The event brought together experts from the energy sector, policymakers and representatives from various industries to discuss the energy challenges of Pakistan and their potential solutions through digitalisation and innovation.

Principal USPCAS-E Dr Adeel Waqas Ahmed highlighted the importance of the dialogue in addressing the current challenges facing the energy sector of Pakistan. Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Principal NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities (S3H), shared his insights on the policy, and Ms Sadia Dada, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer K -Electric, talked about KE's operational turnaround through innovation and digitalisation.

The event also featured a panel discussion with representatives from multiple industries, including Mr Amer Zia, Chief Distribution Officer at KElectric; Mr Noorul Arfeen Zuberi, Senior Advisor at China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited, Mr Naveed Qaiser, Senior Finance Manager at CPPA; and Dr Kashif Imran, Associate Professor at USPCAS-E NUST.

In his closing remarks, Pro-Rector RIC-NUST Dr Rizwan Riaz said, "we are pleased with the outcome of the dialogue, and hope that it will contribute to resolving the energy crisis in Pakistan through digitalisation and innovation."

An overwhelming number of students actively participated in the discussion. The dialogue stressed the need for more such activities in future.

## DC to step up crackdown on profiteering in all markets during Ramazan

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK (MARCH-10): Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza on Friday while taking exception on showing least interest and sluggish performance of each price control magistrates has strictly advised to accelerate crackdowns against illegal profiteering, hoarding besides conducting round the clock raids over prevailing inflation in all markets failing which proceedings will be initiated against them under E&D Rules.

He was presiding over the monthly review meeting which was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance, Planning Mr. Waqar Akbar Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Attock, Ms Shagufta Jabeen, Deputy Director Public Relations, Attock Mr. Shahzad Niaz, DOIPWM Rabia Naseem and price control magistrates.

On this occasion, the deputy commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza also directed putting surveillance over the price hike with the assurance to provide all food items within the purchasing power of the consumers during the holy month of Ramazan.

Earlier, DC Attock also took a round of different sections of E-library Attock where he inspected the available facilities of computer based study rooms, conference hall, book reference, computer labs, laptops, tablets.

He also directed the management of the E-library to make necessary arrangements for the benefits of the students and public at large besides ensuring availability of internet, soft drinking water, newspapers, lights and maintenance of the library building, DC Attock added.

## Group photo with female reporters

Islamabad: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain, with the female beat reporters of education at the Ministry of FE & PT at a reception.



Photo: The Spokesman

## Malik Faizan selected in under 16

Correspondent

ATTOCK : Attock-based young cricketer Malik Faizan Ahmed has been selected by the Pakistan Cricket Board on Friday to play under 16 regional squad. Family sources said that the newly elect cricketer Malik Faizan Ahmed belong to tehsil Pindigheb of district Attock was a leg spinner who was also a brilliant student of Overseas Pakistani Foundation College H-8, Islamabad.

He will also take part in the National Cup Under 16 being organized from March 12, 2023 at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Gujranwala with full swings.

The people from all walks of life include socio-political circles of the district Attock also expressed their jubilation over his selection purely on merit with the hope to prove his potential for the honour and dignity of the country.

# 'AKDN's Docuseries Gains Global Recognition at 2023 World Wildlife Day Film Showcase'

News Desk

KARACHI : "Shadows in the Snow: Snow Leopards", an episode of the environmental documentary series "Voices from the Roof of the World" - has been selected for the 50th anniversary World Wildlife Day Film Showcase by UN CITES and Jackson Wild. It took five years for Pakistani filmmaker Abdullah Khan to record this extremely elusive big cat in its vertiginous home range of the Karakoram Mountains. His film spotlights the threats faced by snow leopards from a warming climate and the destruction of their habitat in Pakistan. With less natural prey to eat, snow leopards have attacked the livestock of local herders, who kill the big cats in retribution. The film focuses on an innovative program to construct predator-proof enclosures and



reduce human-wildlife conflict. But the looming climate crisis calls for all the countries in the roof of the world to accelerate the protection of this vulnerable species and its stunning home range.

Voices from the Roof of the World is a compelling environmental series that aims to raise awareness of the climate crisis in the world's highest mountain region, stretching from the Pamirs to the Himalayas. The series is directed by Andrew

Tkach, who has over 30 years of experience producing documentaries and TV magazine reports, and has won eight Emmys for his work. As Executive Producer of VRW, he has mentored local talent from Kyrgyzstan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Tajikistan to produce compelling and impactful documentaries which meet the highest international production standards, addressing one of the most important issues in the world today.

The World Wildlife Day Film Showcase aims to raise awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and to showcase the work of filmmakers who are contributing to this cause. The 2023 showcase is dedicated to the theme of "Conservation Heroes-Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation" and highlights the critical role of collaboration in achieving effective conservation outcomes. The episode's showcase at the event brings global attention to the need for urgent action to protect Central and South Asia's biodiversity. It inspires audiences around the world to take action and join the global effort to address climate change and protect endangered species. Audiences are encouraged to vote for their favorite film which will have a chance to participate in the Jackson Wild Media Awards, the Oscars of nature

# Reckitt & Mortein Join Hands with Metro and RSPN

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Reckitt signed a partnership agreement with Metro and RSPN on 20th February 2023 marking the inception of their joint efforts to combat dengue and safeguard an entire village. As part of this partnership, Mortein, a Reckitt brand, will be generously donating coils to three districts in Tando Allah Yar protecting over 2,200 citizens by ensuring that the local community has easy access to reliable mosquito repellents, effectively safeguarding them and their families against the perils of dengue.

Pakistan has been grappling with a severe dengue outbreak for years, and it has impacted a multitude of individuals, making it a persistent issue with no readily available vaccine. Consequently, prevention remains the only cure. Reckitt has partnered with Metro and the Rural Support Program Network (RSPN) to prevent the spread of Dengue by protecting a whole village from the virus.



The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from Reckitt, Metro, RSPN, and the Directorate of Malaria Control (DMC). Speaking about the partnership, an RSPN spokesperson said, "We are proud to partner with Reckitt and Metro to protect village from dengue. This partnership reflects our unwavering dedication to spearheading community-driven projects for the betterment of Pakistan."

As responsible corporate citizen, it is our duty to not only improve lives of

our consumer but also play our part in contributing towards society's well-being. Our collaboration with Metro & RSPN is a step towards preventing the spread of dengue and other vector-borne diseases, and we will continue to do our part in keeping the country safe and healthy" Syed Ali-Sales Director, Reckitt Pakistan.

This partnership epitomizes Reckitt's unwavering dedication to spearheading community-driven projects for the betterment of Pakistan. Furthermore, it underscores Reckitt

and Mortein's commitment to fulfilling a purpose beyond just being a brand, by taking action to assist the community in staying safe and healthy.

Mortein's donation of coils to the districts in Tando Allah Yar is a crucial step in combatting the spread of dengue in the region. This contribution will provide vital resources to safeguard people and the partnership between Reckitt, Metro, and RSPN is a significant stride towards the ultimate goal of eradicating vector-borne diseases from the region.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
**Islamabad Office:** Rose Plaza, 1-8 Markaz.  
**Karachi office:** Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
**Lahore Office:** 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
**Email:** spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
**Whatsapp:** 0346-5008408

# PMLN fully prepared for polls: Maryam Nawaz full speech

**P**akistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Friday said the PMLN was fully prepared to go to the polls but level playing field was imperative for all political players to ensure the credibility of elections.

Addressing a workers' convention in al-Fateh Sports Complex here, she said that election was just knocking at the doors but workers should not be afraid of it. They should be ready to face it as a brave political workers.

She further said that the establishment had also realized the impact of this conspiracy and had disassociated itself from the conspirators.

She further said that the facilitators of Imran Khan were now skipping from the country one after another.

She appreciated the political vision of people of Faisalabad and termed it as a "cash cow of the country".

She said that in Nawaz Sharif era the political meetings of Faisalabad were considered as the trend setter and decision maker in the political affairs of the country.

Maryam Nawaz said that this workers' convention would also play a decisive role in the national politics.

She said that in 2013 when Nawaz Sharif came into power, the country was in acute shortage of electricity but he worked hard and the nation witnessed zero load-shedding in this mega industrial city.

It also gave a quick start to the industrial production but this process of growth was

derailed through a conspiracy hatched by Imran Khan, she added.

The PML-N Senior Vice President said that nation also witnessed that development of Pakistan and Nawaz Sharif were interlinked but he was disqualified on a frivolous allegation of not receiving salary from his son.

She said that it was for the first time in the history of Pakistan that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced to provide free wheat flour to the people during the holy month of Ramadan.

She said that such people-friendly decision could be taken by the patriotic politician and not by watch-thief.

She said that Hamza Shehbaz announced to provide free electricity to the people.

It was Imran Khan who went to the court and on his plea this facility was withdrawn, she added.

She asked the people to recognize their enemy who himself was neither working for the welfare, nor allowed others to do so.

She said that Imran was a true "Fitna" and she was rightly dubbing him exploiter for his anti-democracy and anti-people stance.

The Chief Organiser said that developing Pakistan faced a deep decline when Nawaz Sharif was deposed.

She said that development process was totally wrapped up with this decision as it was not anti Nawaz Sharif decision but it was anti poor and anti Pakistan step which deprived the country from speedy progress and prosperity.

She said that Imran Khan was respon-

sible of the current economic scenario as he was the person who inked agreement with the IMF.

She said that the conspirators of this drama had committed a crime and nation would never forgive their generations.

She said that Imran Khan was clamped on the nation whose vision was just only eggs, hens, cars and calves.

She said that a jackal could not be a leader. She termed Imran as coward and said that he had deputed women for his protection.

She said that Nawaz Sharif was a true leader. He proudly faced the prison along with his daughter but he never used his workers as a shield.

She said that Imran used his plastered leg as a tool to avoid from appearing in court but he was never hesitating in attending the public meeting. She termed him as a hypocrite and said that 7:20, he declared that he was not afraid of death but after just one minute he took refuge under a bed to avoid arrest.

She said that it was Nawaz Sharif who faced the international pressure at the time of atomic explosions. If there was a leader like Imran Khan, Pakistan may not be an atomic power, she added.

She expressed condolence over the death of PTI worker and said that it was very strange that Imran Khan invited his father to visit his palace so that he could condole with him.

She said that he was treating the worker as his personal slaves. His sons were enjoying luxurious life in London but he was directing the workers to come on the

roads only to protect him.

She said that PTI workers should rethink their attitude that why they should be used to conceal the theft of Imran Khan.

Maryam Nawaz said that Nawaz Sharif had entrusted his case to the court of Allah Almighty and now one after another conspirators were themselves confessing about their role in the conspiracy.

She said that Imran Khan was the first prime minister who was involved in stealing wrist watch. She asked from the workers that if a person was not ready to spare the wrist watch, how he could behave in other such matters.

She said that he was dubbing others thieves but now his theft had been exposed publically. He was not only himself involved in theft but his wife was also involved in malpractices who was demanding a ring of 5 karat diamond for signing of any file.

She said that Imran Khan had concealed foreign funding and his daughter whereas Nawaz Sharif had experience of 14-month prison on frivolous allegations.

She assured the workers that "In Sha Allah", Nawaz Sharif would come and the days of progress and prosperity would also return back to the country.

Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan, PMLN central leaders Talal Chaudhry, Abid Sher Ali, Uzma Bukhari, Hajji Akram Ansari, MNA Shehbaz Babar, MNA Rajab Ali Baloch and others were also present in convention.

## Hajj applications to be collected

**M**inister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor on Friday informed that the Federal Cabinet had approved the Hajj Policy 2023 the other day, therefore, the ministry had decided to collect the Hajj applications from March 16 to 31 through 14 designated banks.

Addressing a press conference here in the ministry, he said the Hajj balloting would be held on April 5 as per the schedule.

The minister said the ministry was charging the Hajj expenses from the government pilgrims as it would be spent on their facilities throughout the holy journey.

"According to the financial breakup, the estimated cost of Hajj from the Northern Region (Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Faisalabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Sialkot) is Rs 1,175,000, while for the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme (Northern Region) is approximately \$4,325," he said, adding that the estimated cost of Hajj from Southern Region (Karachi, Quetta, Sukkur) was Rs 1,165,000 while for the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme (Southern Region) was approximately \$ 4,285.

The minister assured that in case of savings from the above-mentioned Hajj package, it would be refunded to the Hajj pilgrims through the bank accounts provided by them, adding that the applicants of the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme having no bank accounts, would be provided money in cash.

He said due to the expansion project of the Haram in Madinah, the process of vacating and demolishing many residential units was underway, adding that all these issues had led to an overall increase in the cost of facilities. He said despite all these factors, overseas Pakistanis would find it cheaper to perform Hajj from Pakistan than abroad. This year, the government Hajj scheme expenditure was lower than other countries in the region such as India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, he added.

Shedding light on the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme, the minister said it was introduced for overseas Pakistanis this year and it would help generate 194 million dollars while the ministry needed a total of 284 million dollars. The Ministry of Finance had pledged to provide the remaining approximately 90 million dollars for the smooth functioning of Hajj operation, he added.

He said as per quota, 179,210 people would perform Hajj this year, adding that this quota would be divided between the public and private Hajj schemes with a ratio of 50 per cent each respectively.

He further said 50 per cent quota of public and private Hajj schemes i.e. 44,802 seats in each scheme were reserved for the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme.

He said under Sponsorship Hajj Scheme, a special facility was given to those Hajj pilgrims who were seeking foreign exchange from abroad in the specific dollar account of the ministry. "Overseas Pakistanis will be exempted from the balloting process due to remittance of allocated dollars in this account for themselves or their relatives in Pakistan. Deposit of dollars from Pakistan is not allowed," he added.

Abdul Shakoor said the quota of Sponsorship Hajj Scheme would be provided on "first come, first served" basis which would be determined by the time and date of depositing the Hajj form in the bank. The registration for the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme would be stopped once the specified quota was completed, he added.

He said there was no age limit for Pakistani pilgrims this year as Saudi Arabia had removed the upper age limit of 65 years. The Shariah Mehmood must be accompanied by female Hajj pilgrims however, the women over 45 years of age belonging to 'Fiqa Jafria' could go without Muharram, he maintained.



# Pak-China collaboration in PV sector to jointly combat energy shortage

### Spokesman Report

**A**s Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impact of climate change, China's leading solar solutions provider LONGi has long been committed to developing the PV field with local partners to optimizing energy structure in Pakistan.

We signed an MoU with the Government of Pakistan in July 2019 to invest in the construction of a 50 MW solar power plant in the Bahawalpur, Punjab, as our first step, Ali Majid, General Manager, Pakistan, LONGi Solar, said in an exclusive interview.

"As for the current overall production capacity of LONGi's green energy projects invested in Pakistan, total shipments to Pakistan market would reach about 1GW this year. The experience of developing the market in the past few years tells me that in order to boost PV and new energy field, investment and awareness, none can be dispensed with," Majid added.

Pakistan should encourage more investments in renewable energy infrastructure to the greatest extent, including government and private investment in large-scale solar farms, as well as smaller rooftop solar installations, CEN reported on Friday.

"As for awareness, strengthen education around

the benefits of green energy, such as public education campaigns and outreach to businesses, communities, and schools," Majid noted.

"Beyond that, we can increase investment in research and development of new PV technologies, such as improving the efficiency and performance of solar panels, as well as developing new materials and manufacturing processes."

"Nowadays, contradictions between global

Asia branch LONGi.

It is learned that high cost has brought great challenges to global joint response to the energy crisis.

For example, in the vast desertification areas in the Middle East, the main issue is the lack of fresh water. The increase in costs brought about by desalination of seawater is the main obstacle. If the fresh water is sufficient, large-scale greening will not be difficult," Alex Li believes that this is why PV has epoch-making significance.

"Photovoltaics can indeed change the ecology of our earth because solar energy does not depend on any resources, and the sun shines on everyone fairly," Alex Li looked forward to the future.

"How to turn fair sunlight into energy that benefits everyone is the goal we have always strive for."

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Majid stated that the CPEC Phase II is expected to focus on the development of new technologies, such as energy storage and smart grid systems, to improve the efficiency and reliability of the energy sector.

New energy enterprises, including LONGi, are likely to play a key role in promoting the adoption of renewable energy in Pakistan, even the whole South Asia region.



## Prisoners of Heaven

**B**etween Karakoram Range and the PirPanjallies a masterpiece of nature, Kashmir!—dazzling with silver lakes, icy mountains covered with lush green Chinar trees that turns the entire valley as a delicate work of art. Kashmir has endowed with incredible beauty that peoplenamed it "Heaven on Earth".

However, how beautifully painted a mirror can be, it surely possesses a dark side. Same is the case with Kashmir, today to be a Kashmiri is the most unfortunate, though Kashmiri is said to be a Heaven however it is injustice to say, the Kashmiris are the prisoners of Heaven.

Whereas nature has been immensely kind over the landscape, meanwhile fortune reminded ruthless with the inhabitants, or maybe it was always because of the religious differences. First it was Dogra Rule that inflicts brutalities, then after partition on October 27, 1947, Black Day as marked in history, when Maharaja Hari Singh, then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), signed a dubious instrument of accession with the Indian government that resulted in 76 years of suffering.

However, later on August 5, 2019 Kashmir witness a paradigm shift in the status when Indian government violated Article 370 and 35(A) that changed everything and created a new series of suffering of the Muslim majority population of the area. According to the Article 370 and 35(A) J&K was granted autonomous status, moreover J&K was the only Muslim majority state within the Indian territory, which makes it rightful part of Pakistan recalling the

partition episode. Furthermore, by revoking the status India has not only attacked the Muslim identity of J&K, but the basis of Indian secularism.

However, this secularism was just a word of display since the abduction of rights has been reflected from ages in barbarian acts like curfews, illegal detention, mass rapes, sieges, target killing, disappearances, torture, burning and false encounters. From last three decades more than 100,000 Kashmiris have been killed, 122,771 arrested, 10,086 women have been gang-raped, and 105,996 houses destroyed, is this a secular state?

In Srinagar it is a common prospect that a person can get arrested without any reason just a hint of silly doubt, the fear curfew, burning of houses, or detention. A mother is not sure if her husband or children will come back to home safe and sound or if she would be collecting their body parts. Many young girls passed their youth waiting for the disappeared husbands, don't even knowing if they are still married or widowed. Any moment can bring false acquisitions leading to inhuman torture and a life in prison, however I would say whole of the J&K is a deadly prison.

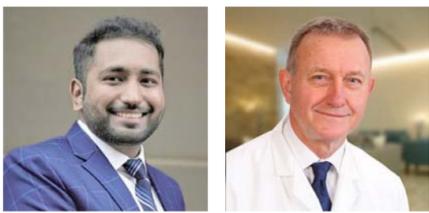
Kashmir continue to be abducted by the Indian government and forces while the world remain blindfolded, there have been peaceful protests in front of United Nation offices all around the world however not a word in their favor. The words remain unheard, and stories untold, if someone voice a bullet is fired to make it silent. Such is the life of the Millions of Kashmiris living in that valley world know as Heaven; The Prisoners of Heaven.



Munaza Kazmi

## Medical Research

# Evidence Based Treatment of Chondral Lesions in Athletes

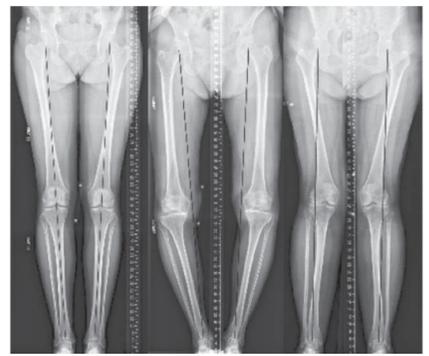


**Dr. Syed Rehan Iftikhar Bukhari** and **Prof. Dr. István Berkes**

Injuries to the hyaline cartilage (vitreous cartilage) covering the bony surface of joints are becoming more common in athletes. Their treatment is a major challenge, mainly because of the low regenerative potential inherent in the specific characteristics of cartilage tissue. According to literature, vitreous cartilage injuries are twice as common in athletes as in the non-athlete population. They typically occur more frequently in competition than in training and in people with a body mass index above 30. Professional footballers are at 12 times the risk of severe cartilage damage.

The vitreous cartilage covering the surface of joints is characterised by its elastic resistance to pressure, elastic strength and low bending capacity. The vitreous cartilage is composed of cartilage cells and an intercellular matrix of collagen fibres and proteoglycans (glucosamine, chondroitin sulphate) produced by the cartilage cells. The hyaline cartilage contains neither blood vessels nor nerves. It is nourished by diffusion.

Cartilage lesions may be caused by metabolic stimulation, genetic or vascular events, and more commonly by chronic overload and less commonly by traumatic injury. Anatomical abnormalities (e.g. O-leg, X-leg) and joint instability are the common risk factors. The main problem in terms of treatment is that the damaged vitreous cartilage is unable to regenerate spontaneously due to a lack of blood supply. The pain that occurs when cartilage is damaged and lacks nerve supply can be explained by the fact that the tissues near the cartilage, such as the synovium and the underlying bone, have an abundant nerve supply and that the inflammatory substances released after cartilage damage and the direct high loads on the bone stimulate the nerves. As synovial fluid is vital for cartilage cells, any prolonged disturbance of the joint cavity (haematoma, acid, or pus) can cause cartilage cell death. Due to the low nutrient and oxygen requirements of cartilage cells, no cell death occurs in cartilage fragments removed during surgery even after 24-48 hours of transport, so it is possible to culture large quantities of living chondrocytes from cartilage fragments sent to the laboratory for chondrocyte implantation.



**Figure 1. Radiographs of lower extremities showing neutral, varus, and valgus limb alignment**

**Diagnostics**  
The typical symptoms of a chondral lesion are pain on exertion, cracking, clicking, jamming, joint locking and joint swelling during movement, which together may cause inability to exercise. Up to 14% of athletes may be asymptomatic, even with full thickness defects. An accurate diagnosis of cartilage injuries requires careful history taking, thorough physical and X-ray examination. More detailed detection of lesions is possible with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Contrast-enhanced and new functional MRI techniques also provide insight into the biochemical and biomechanical status of cartilage and sub-cartilage bone. The most accurate pathology can be obtained by arthroscopy. Cartilage injuries can be classified into 4 stages depending upon their location, size and thickness according to the international ICRS classification. Stages 1-2 (softening, cracking) can usually be treated conservatively, while the stages 3-4 (fragmentation, ulceration) surgically. It is important to note that, with modern non-invasive examination facilities, the use of arthroscopy for diagnostic purposes only is not acceptable, but should be used to assess lesions that have already been diagnosed more accurately and to perform the appropriate surgical intervention. "Peeking" and/or flushing the joint without an accurate diagnosis is also contraindicated, as it can cause serious complications.



**Figure 2. Radiographs showing osteochondral lesion of the medial femoral condyle**

**Conservative treatment**  
Initially, the treatment of cartilage injuries is conservative, which means adjusting the body weight as necessary, modifying sports activities, cooling, strengthening muscles, special gymnastics, and taking painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs. However, efforts should be made to ensure that the injured person is as physically active as possible and to promote this, for example through cross-training. The use of various oral cartilage regeneration drugs and cartilage support supplements is also recommended as part of the therapy. The active substances in these preparations are glucosamine, chondroitin sulphate and hyaluronic acid, which are important building blocks of cartilage tissue. All three improve the water retention capacity of cartilage, thus helping the articular surfaces covered by cartilage to glide, and inhibit the enzymes that break down cartilage, as well as having analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects. Their effectiveness is not sufficiently proven. They may slow down the process of cartilage degradation and reduce the symptoms of the disease, but they cannot regenerate cartilage tissue and form new cartilage. Since their use has no known adverse effects and they produce positive subjective results, they can be recommended as a course of treatment according to the following schedule: after 2 months of use, a break of 1 month, followed by another 2 months of use, which can be repeated 2 times a year. A doctor's recommendation is essential.

When oral medication is no longer sufficient to reduce the

symptoms, intra-articular injections can be used. The most commonly used globally are the steroid injections, which effectively reduce pain by stopping inflammation. However, their use requires great caution, even with slow-absorbing drugs, because of the well-known side effects (lowering of immunity, increase in blood sugar and blood pressure for 2-4 weeks after injection, long-term cartilage damage). They are recommended to be administered 1 time per week, repeated up to three times.

Injections with hyaluronic acid, the so-called "glide-enhancing" active substance, have far fewer side effects. They do not usually have an immediate effect, but rather a slower but more prolonged effect. Their real effectiveness is questionable, but they also reduce inflammation to some extent, in addition to facilitating gliding. They are usually recommended to be repeated 3-5 times, usually weekly. They can be an alternative to surgery or at least delay it in time.

Biological preparations derived from naturally occurring substances in the body, such as platelet-rich injections (PRP therapy), bone marrow concentrates and stem cell injections from various tissues, are increasingly used to treat cartilage damage. The use of PRP therapy and bone marrow concentrate is safe and the results are encouraging. They reduce symptoms, but their tissue regenerative effects are not proven. When combined with surgical intervention, they offer significant benefits. Stem cell therapy by injection into the joints is still in the experimental stage.

**Surgical treatment**  
Surgical intervention is justified in case of deterioration of the joint condition, appearance of mechanical symptoms or failure of conservative treatment. Since the most important aspect for athletes is a safe and early return to sports, the joint decision-making and treatment algorithm related to surgery must be subordinated to this. Special athlete needs and multifactorial parameters require an individualized approach.

The heterogeneity of patients and cartilage injuries significantly influences the treatment decision-making process. A 2 cm<sup>2</sup> cartilage damage in a 1.65 m tall football player may require a different approach than a 2 m tall basketball player with the same size damage, even in the same anatomical location. The 2 cm<sup>2</sup> lesion of the medial trochlea of the femur has different symptoms than the 2 cm<sup>2</sup> defect of the lateral trochlea. Cartilage damage to the lateral femoral condyle of the knee requires different treatment depending on the extent of the subchondral lesion. Previous surgeries (e.g. meniscus removal) also affect the treatment.

For athletes, the timing of treatment is also a key factor. In the case of an athlete who has been complaining for more than 1 year, returning to sports is an unrealistic expectation. Athletes with mild symptoms may be able to defer treatment in certain circumstances, such as due to a contractual obligation or seasonal challenge, due to their role in a team. The shared decision-making process should focus primarily on the athlete, but others, such as family members, coaches, team leaders, and managers, should also be involved, and individual expectations should always be taken into account.

Younger age (<25 years for competitive athletes, <30 years for recreational athletes), traumatic injury, diagnosis and treatment within 1 year of symptom onset, minor cartilage damage (<2 cm<sup>2</sup>), no previous surgery or injury and adherence to rehabilitation protocol are all factors that are favourable for successful outcome and return to sport. Untreated cartilage damage or cartilage damage older than 1 year or initially treated with bone marrow stimulation techniques has the worst outcomes.

Surgical intervention with a preventive indication may also be recommended in cases where the particular cartilage lesion or its underlying biomechanical cause, such as axial deviation of the lower limb, leads to rapid progression of cartilage loss. In cases requiring surgical intervention, 3 types of solutions (symptomatic, regenerative, reconstructive) are possible, which can be performed arthroscopically or open. However, the aim should always be to minimise invasiveness.

**Symptomatic surgery**  
Debridement, chondroplasty: Its essence lies in the elimination of harmful enzymes, the removal of inflammatory tissues and the smoothing of surface irregularities, the removal of unstable pieces of cartilage, and the smooth and stable formation of the edges of the defect. It is recommended for athletes with partial thickness, smaller lesions (2-3 cm<sup>2</sup>), exposed to less stress, as a temporary solution during the competition season or at the end of their sports career. It is considered as a symptomatic treatment, and safe intervention, with relatively quick rehabilitation and return to sports, at low cost. However, its disadvantage is that it does not restore the normal structure and function of the cartilage, and provides only a short, temporary effect on its own. Arthroscopic debridement is still a widely popular procedure today. It is performed during almost all arthroscopic surgeries in preparation for further interventions.

**Regenerative surgery**  
Bone marrow stimulation with microfracture: Its essence is to provide access to the hard-to-heal cartilage defects for the stem cells in the bone marrow. To do this, the layer of bone under the cartilage must be punctured with a pointed saw in several places, perpendicular to the surface, and a well-bleeding, large surface must be formed. Through the holes created 3-4 mm apart, the place of cartilage defect is first filled by a blood clot, then by an organic scar and finally by fibrous cartilage. The method requires 6 weeks of off-loading, then 4 weeks of partial loading with crutches, followed by a gradual transition to full loading. A surgical procedure often used to treat small, i.e. less than 2 cm<sup>2</sup>, full-thickness bony-cartilaginous defects in mostly less physically demanding patients. The final result depends on the size of the defect. It produces acceptable results in the short term, but based on long-term tests, the quality of the newly formed fibrocartilage is weaker and more fragile than the original vitreous cartilage from a biomechanical point of view, and it can wear out again in a few years. Due to its technical simplicity and the ability to perform it arthroscopically, this is the most commonly used cartilage resurfacing procedure today. Its effectiveness can be increased by adding concentrated bone marrow aspirate or peripheral stem cells, the use of which provides the opportunity to treat larger defects and improves the quality of the formed cartilage.

**Reconstructive surgery**  
Bone-cartilage autograft transplantation (mosaicplasty): The procedure, commonly known only as mosaicplasty—the development of which is attributed to László Hangody—is based on the transplantation of small bone-cartilage cylinders extracted from the non-load-bearing surface of the joint to the place of cartilage deficiency. The implanted bony-cartilaginous cylinders are integrated into the receiving bone, and after half a year, the cartilage covering of the joint appears to be completely intact. It is used to replace circumscribed, small and medium (1-2.5 cm<sup>2</sup>) bony-cartilaginous defects. Compared to the bone marrow stimulation method, the basic advantage of mosaicplasty is that the cartilage formed here fully meets the requirements of vitreous cartilage histologically. The disadvantage of the method is that since the cylinders are removed from the joint itself, complaints may develop at the place of removal, and the number of available cylinders is limited, so it cannot be used to replace larger areas. Donor site complaints can be prevented with plugs made of materials similar to the osteochondral allograft placed in the extraction holes. During the post-treatment, movement favourable to the nutrition of the cartilage surface is allowed

immediately, but 3-4 weeks of full or partial weight bearing is required. In 6-8 weeks, the patient can return to his normal everyday activities, and depending on the size and location of the defect, sports activities can also be performed after 4-6 months.



**Figure 3. Pictorial representation of osteochondral graft transfer by mosaicplasty**

Osteochondral allograft implantation: Its essence is to replace the osteochondral deficiency with joint material sterilely removed from a cadaver, i.e. a human donor, properly stored, inserted to the required size and properly fixed. Recommended procedure for the replacement of large (> 2 cm<sup>2</sup>) cartilage defects in typically young, active patients exposed to heavy loads. The risk of developing an immune reaction against foreign tissue (e.g. rejection) does not occur in the case of cartilage, and is rare in the case of cleaned bone. Transmission of infection (hepatitis, HIV virus) is often thought to be a greater danger for patients, which can only occur in exceptional cases with the currently used detection methods. The chance of transmitting the virus is 1:1,000,000 or maybe even less. The results are not perfect every time, as the implanted tissue may die and require another operation. The integration of the implanted graft and the growth of the cartilage can be improved by using a concentrated bone marrow aspirate. And here we can also mention the possibility of using minced juvenile allograft cartilage.

**Own cartilage cell implantation (autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI)):** A two-stage procedure used to replace medium and large (2-10 cm<sup>2</sup>) full-thickness cartilage defects without the need to remove a larger sample from the joint. The point is that during an arthroscopic intervention, a piece of vitreous cartilage the size of a grain of rice is removed from the non-load-bearing area of the joint, which is sent to the laboratory for culture. This is followed by 4-8 weeks of cultivation in the laboratory, and when the appropriate number of cells has been formed, during a second operation, the solution containing the cells is injected with the help of a small injection needle under the flap (periosteum or artificially produced collagen membrane) sutured onto the cartilage, where cartilage cells adhere, and new cartilage is created in place of the lack of cartilage. Hypertrophy of the periosteal patch or cell leakage can occasionally be a problem.

**Matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation (MACI):** An improved version of the circumscribed cartilage defect replacement. It involves harvesting three grains of articular cartilage, about the size of a grain of rice, during an arthroscopy and sending them to a laboratory for culture. The cartilage cells, cultured in the laboratory for 4-8 weeks, are plated onto a polymer (matrix, scaffold) that forms a three-dimensional mesh, and then cultured for a further 1-2 weeks. The cartilage cells adhere to the matrix, and the cartilage matrix starts to produce cartilage in the laboratory. In a second operation, after cleaning and preparing the cartilage defect area, a polymer mesh containing the cells is placed on the surface of the cartilage fossa. The polymer that provides the mesh is absorbed into the joint and replaced by the intercellular cartilage. In the operating theatre, the surgeon can further shape and cut the sample to size. The specimen is fixed in place by adhesive (tissue adhesive), suture or other bone fixation methods, while maintaining constant moisture.

After the above two operations, weight-bearing with immobilization for 6 weeks and then rehabilitation according to a strict protocol is required. Recovery of original function is expected after 6 months. The disadvantage of this type of surgery is that two surgical procedures are required and the resulting vitreous cartilage is not fully fibrous and does not correspond to the original vitreous cartilage. However, the biggest obstacle to its wider uptake is that the laboratory labour costs for cell culture are extremely expensive, ranging from €3-4,000 in the first case to €6-8,000 in the second.

**Biodegradable technologies**  
They are designed to enhance the biological response to microfracture and improve cartilage formation. During the procedure, a scaffold, usually an allograft scaffold, prepared in the laboratory, forming a three-dimensional mesh, containing frozen cartilage cells, chondrogenic growth factors and intercellular matrix proteins, hydrated with platelet-rich plasma, is cut to the size of the cartilage defect and placed in the microfracture-prepared area, then fixed with sutures or anchors, possibly with fibrin glue. Post-tests show that the cartilage formed results in a better collagen profile compared to microfracture. The main advantage of these procedures is that they are effectively a one-step surgical option.

**Additional surgeries**  
The treatment of pathological conditions associated with cartilage injury, such as anterior cruciate ligament deficiency, patellar instability, meniscal tears or limb axis misalignment, is as important as the treatment of cartilage. And if, despite all efforts, extensive degeneration of the joint and ultimately arthrosis develops, an endoprosthetic solution, i.e. implantation of a prosthesis, may be recommended. However, after prosthesis surgery, only sports activities that do not cause pain or swelling or impose a high repetitive strain on the joint, such as walking, swimming and cycling, are recommended. Higher loads carry the risk of premature wear of the prosthesis.

**Rehabilitation**  
Aims to relieve clinical symptoms, restore pain-free, full range of motion and muscle strength without increasing cartilage degeneration. A successful outcome requires open communication between the rehabilitation team and the surgeon. Lack of individualised and criteria-based treatment and premature return to sport can lead to persistent pain and further deterioration. Rehabilitation includes physiotherapy exercises, electrotherapy, strength, balance, and endurance trainings. It is well-focused towards pain management, improved mobility and range of motion (ROM) in the initial phases; and the improvements in the strength, power, endurance, stability, and extensibility of the associated joint structures in the later phase. However, the type, intensity and frequency of these trainings are tailored according to the individual physical and psychological needs. During the acute recovery phase, rehabilitation focuses on careful ROM exercises to accomplish complete joint ranges and a normal gait pattern. The next step is to restore muscle strength. After achieving sufficient strength, the rehabilitation focuses on proprioception and agility training, the aim of which is to improve functional performance.

Afterwards, the focus is to gain sports specific skills with a goal to prepare the athletes for the sports participation. Patients are permitted to gradually participate in their respective competitive sports activities only with certain criteria i.e.: the achievement of at least 90% of quadriceps and hamstring strengths as well as the squat ability, complete joint range of motion, above 90 percent on patient reported outcome scores, joint laxity <3mm, and less than 5% difference in load symmetry and stability index, as compared to the unaffected

side. Those who meet the criteria are allowed to return to competitive sports only through sports specific rehabilitation resulting in return to team training, where the patients are trained to achieve maximum confidence and motivation in their sports activities, along with a continued injury prevention program while staying active in team sports.

**Results**  
Small cartilage injuries respond well to microfracture or mosaicplasty. Results can be improved with the use of bone marrow concentrate or mesenchymal stem cells. For medium to large lesions, the results of mosaicplasty or MACI techniques or osteochondral allograft implantation are better than microfracture. In cases of subchondral bone involvement, mosaicplasty, osteochondral allograft implantation and MACI technique provide good results.

A follow-up of the various cartilage resurfacing surgeries found that overall 76% of athletes were able to resume some level of sporting activity, on average 9 months after surgery. After mosaicplasty 93%, osteochondral allograft transplantation 88%, autologous cartilage cell transplantation 82% and microfracture 58% of athletes returned to sport. Mosaicplasty resulted in the fastest return to sport at 5 months, while microfracture required 9 months, bone-patellar allograft transplantation also required 9 months and autologous cartilage cell transplantation required 11 months.

The analysis showed that mosaicplasty was more durable (8 years) than microfracture (4 years). Mosaicplasty also had a lower reoperation rate than microfracture 5 and 10 years after surgery. The failure rate of osteochondral allograft implantation ranged from 8 to 50%. The overall failure rate of the MACI technique was 9.7%.

**Prevention**  
The emphasis on prevention also applies for cartilage injuries in athletes. The most important tasks are maintaining ideal body weight, correcting anatomical and biomechanical abnormalities, proper training load, learning correct sports exercise, achieving the desired strength status and developing good muscle strength, professional treatment of minor injuries, and correct sports nutrition. In the case of more serious cartilage lesions, a change of sport or even the cessation of competitive sport may be justified. For athletes who put extreme strain on their joints (e.g. hammer throwers), the use of cartilage support supplements and injections/ hyaluronic acid may be recommended as a preventive measure.

**The future**  
One possibility for articular cartilage resurfacing is the replacement of vitreous cartilage using pluripotent human stem cells. From these highly proliferative cells found in tissues of the body, almost all types of supporting and moving tissue can be formed under appropriate hormonal, cytokine and external environmental influences. Their extraction is easier than that of cartilage samples. Experiments with stem cells so far are promising, but have not yet succeeded in producing clearly acceptable, high-quality vitreous cartilage.

Cartilage resurfacing by genetic engineering could be the real breakthrough. The idea is to use viruses to introduce the genes responsible for cartilage regeneration into the patient's joint, where they enter the cartilage cells and induce increased cartilage formation activity, resulting in the formation of new cartilage in place of the damaged cartilage. Research of this kind is still at an experimental stage. A big question is also what the application of artificial intelligence will bring to the solution of cartilage surface injuries.

**Take-home message**  
According to current medical knowledge, cartilage degeneration can be slowed down, but once damaged, cartilage cannot be rebuilt, i.e. cartilage damage cannot be reversed. Optimal treatment of cartilage injuries to the vitreous cartilage that covers the articular surface of the bones that make up the joints of athletes remains a major challenge today, despite the availability of a number of new conservative and surgical treatment options. Consensus on the most effective therapeutic strategy is still lacking. Personalised, sport-specific care tailored to the individual needs of athletes is only possible by following an evidence-based treatment algorithm.

**References:**  
Frank RM, Lee S, Levy D, Poland S, Smith M, Scalise N, et al. Osteochondral allograft transplantation of the knee: Analysis of failures at 5 years. *Am J Sports Med* 2017; 45:864-74.  
Gracitelli GC, Meric G, Pulido PA, McCauley JC, Bugbee WD. Osteochondral allograft transplantation for knee lesions after failure of cartilage repair surgery. *Cartilage* 2015; 6:98-105.

Briggs DT, Sadr KN, Pulido PA, Bugbee WD. The use of osteochondral allograft transplantation for primary treatment of cartilage lesions in the knee. *Cartilage* 2015; 6:203-7.

Merkeley G, Ackermann J, Farina EM, VanArsdale C, Lattermann C, Gomoll AH. Shorter storage time is strongly associated with improved graft survivorship at 5 years after osteochondral allograft transplantation. *Am J Sports Med* 2020; 48:3170-6.

Gross AE, Kim W, Las Heras F, Backstein D, Safir O, Pritzker KP. Fresh osteochondral allografts for post-traumatic knee defects: Long-term followup. *ClinOrthopRelat Res* 2008; 466:1863-70.

Ghazavi MT, Pritzker KP, Davis AM, Gross AE. Fresh osteochondral allografts for post-traumatic osteochondral defects of the knee. *J Bone Joint Surg [Br]* 1997; 79:1008-13.  
Hangody LR, Gál T, Szűcs A, Vázarhelyi G, Tóth F, Módos L, et al. Osteochondral allograft transplantation from a living donor. *Arthroscopy* 2012; 28:1180-3.

Hangody LR, Gal T, Vazarhelyi G, Hangody G, Bukhari Syed RI, Hangody L. Results of ultra-fresh osteochondral allograft transplantation for large cartilage defects in the knee joint. *Jt Dis RelatSurg* 2022;33(3):521-530.

Görtz S, Bugbee WD. Allografts in articular cartilage repair. *Instr Course Lect* 2007; 56:469-80.

Van Ginckel A, Verdonk P, Victor J, Witvrouw E. Cartilage status in relation to return to sports after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. *Am J Sports Med.* 2013 Mar;41(3):550-9.

Canale, S.T.; Beaty, J.H. *Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics E-Book*; Elsevier: Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2012.

Podlog L, Dimmock J, Miller J. A review of return to sport concerns following injury rehabilitation: practitioner strategies for enhancing recovery outcomes. *PhysTher Sport.* 2011 Feb;12(1):36-42.

Arderm CL, Glasgow P, Schneiders A, Witvrouw E, Clarsen B, Cools A, Gojanovic B, Griffin S, Khan KM, Silksnes H, Mutch SA, Phillips N, Reurink G, Sadler R, Silberman KG, Thorborg K, Wangenstein A, Wilk KE, Bizzini M. 2016 Consensus statement on return to sport from the First World Congress in Sports Physical Therapy, Bern. *Br J Sports Med.* 2016 Jul;50(14):853-64.

Blanch P, Gabbett TJ. Has the athlete trained enough to return to play safely? The acute:chronic workload ratio permits clinicians to quantify a player's risk of subsequent injury. *Br J Sports Med.* 2016 Apr;50(8):471-5.

Sahin AA, Degirmenci E, Özturan KE, Firat T, Kükner A. Effects of adipose tissue-derived stromal vascular fraction on osteochondral defects treated by hyaluronic acid-based scaffold: An experimental study. *Jt Dis RelatSurg* 2021; 32:347-54.

**About Authors:**  
This research article is published by Syed Rehan Iftikhar-Bukhari I, István Berkes I, 2 from Doctoral School of Clinical Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary & Department of Sports Medicine, University of Physical Education, Hungary.

## Hashoo Hotels launches 'Pearl Lady Programme' on International Women's Day,

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Hotels, the leading hospitality group of Pakistan, is pleased to announce the launch of its 'Pearl Lady Programme' at Pearl-Continental Hotels in honour of International Women's Day.

The programme is designed to enhance guest experience at Pearl-Continental Hotels for solo female travellers by providing a class apart value proposition to meet their current and future needs while providing a safe and secure environment. The 'Pearl Lady Privileges' include a range of products and services designed to help women feel special, relaxed and acknowledged.

"Solo travel can be a liberating and empowering experience, particularly for women. However, for some, the thought of travelling alone can be intimidating. We wanted to create something special at our hotels, to show our appreciation for all the amazing women out there," said Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, COO, Hashoo Group. "Although 'Pearl Lady' will be launched on 8th March, it will remain as an ongoing programme of Pearl-Continental Hotels. We hope our 'Pearl Lady Programme' will inspire women to take some time for themselves, to embark on solo travel adventures, or to relax and enjoy some well-deserved care in a safe and secure environment."

Whether it's treating oneself or gifting to a loved one, the 'Pearl Lady Programme' is the perfect way to show appreciation and support for the women in our lives. For more information about programme and its privileges, please visit Pearl-Continental Hotels or call on the UAN number (city code) 111-505-505.

## EtiHAD Town onboards new Strategic Sales Partners for EtiHAD Town project

News Desk

LAHORE: EtiHAD Town recently organized an exciting event at Faletti's Hotel to celebrate the onboarding of its new Strategic Sales Partners (SSP) who will have exclusive sales rights of the inventory in the company's latest property project, EtiHAD Town-Phase II.

The SSPs are expected to engage with Platinum Dealers around the country to sell units in the existing and upcoming new projects of EtiHAD Group. They will additionally join EtiHAD Town on March 18 for the balloting of 3 & 5 marla residential plots and 5 marla commercial plots in EtiHAD Town Phase II — with interested buyers and investors expected to receive possession of their plots within 6 to 8 months.

The onboarding celebration at Faletti's Hotel took place on Wednesday (March 8) and it provided an opportunity for the company's partners, clients, and industry leaders to come together and celebrate this new collaboration in bringing a unique real estate experience to the market.

The event featured the sponsors of EtiHAD Town Phase II, Mr. Raheel Munir, Mr. Faisal Khokhar and Mr. Nabeel Khokhar, along with the company's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Sheikh Shuja Ullah Khan, who introduced the EtiHAD Town project on the occasion. In addition, representatives from the SSPs were also present at the event, including the Lion Group, Taqmeel Pvt Ltd, and EtiHAD Marketing from Lahore, and the Syed Brothers from Multan.

On the occasion, Mr. Faisal Khokhar stated that the EtiHAD Town project promised to be a game-changer in the real estate industry, and that he was delighted to have esteemed partners on board to join his company on this exciting journey. He further said that due to the project's innovative designs, unparalleled amenities, and prime location, he was confident that it will set a new benchmark in the property market.

## 5th Standard Chartered Karachi United League sponsors 1200+ footballers

Commerce Report

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Karachi United Youth Football League 2022-23 held its closing ceremony today, having sponsored over 1,200 footballers. Over the last five years, in partnership with Karachi United Foundation, this exemplary sporting initiative has engaged more than 5000 talented players and tens of community centres.

This year's tournament began on 25 November 2022 and since then has seen more than 180 matches being played. Matches included different age categories such as:

- 44 matches amongst 20 teams in the Under-16

- 33 matches amongst 22 teams in the Under-14 category
- 29 matches amongst 12 teams in the Under-12 category
- 29 matches amongst 12 teams in the Under-10 category
- 34 matches amongst 10 teams comprising young girls
- 34 matches amongst 8 teams representing different schools

On the six-year partnership, Khadija Hashimi, Head, CABM, AME & Country Head, Pakistan, Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan said, "Since inception, the SC KU Youth football league has gained real momentum

and we are delighted to have touched the lives of over 5000 young people thus far. Through this league we have been able to bring together children from across different communities and backgrounds onto one level playing field through friendly competition. Beyond the fact that this improves the skills and game of the children, football stimulates positive mental health and cognitive development.

Commenting on the league, Mr. Imran Ali, Director Youth and Community at Karachi United said: "This year, with the support from Standard Chartered Bank we have been able to cast a wider net, to increase participation in the league and make it

more inclusive — this aligns very well with the Bank's mandate on community impact. We also have seen an increase in the number of female participation along with new teams from across Karachi. The salient feature of our partnership this year was the opportunity to develop our coaches at the Liverpool Football Club. We are truly grateful to Standard Chartered for enabling this and are confident that the performance of our teams will be greatly enhanced as an outcome."

Standard Chartered has been sponsoring this league since 2017, when 600 children, mostly from underserved communities participated in the tournament.

# COAS restores confidence of the business community, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the political crisis in the country is increasing instead of decreasing.

The ranking of the country is continuously falling while the government is trying to deal with the inflation and last year's current account deficit of 20 billion dollars, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that all the conditions of the IMF have been fulfilled and according to the Finance Minister, a staff-level agreement will be concluded with the IMF in a few days.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the meeting between ten leading businessmen with the COAS was a positive development in which



the Army Chief has defended the government's economic strategy and reiterated his commitment not to take sides in political issues.

After the meeting with the COAS, the general confidence of the business community has been restored and the business community stands with the country and the nation, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the loan has also been received from the Commercial Bank of China, which has improved the foreign exchange reserves.

The economy is expected to improve after the agreement with the IMF. With the recent rise in the value of the dollar, Pakistan's exports and remittances are also expected to increase.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that political instability has destroyed our economic potential. On one hand, life is getting tougher for the common citizen, on the other hand, due to political conflict, the country is becoming disturbed.

At this time, the entire nation needs to unite and focus on economic reforms so that the risk of bankruptcy in Pakistan is over.

Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif's announcement of providing free flour to poor people during Ramadan is welcome, but to save people from long queues and panic, the government should consider giving cash subsidies to people instead of subsidizing utility stores.

The business leader said that the smuggling of dollars to Afghanistan from Pakistan is surprising because if dollars are being smuggled to Afghanistan, then what is Pakistan getting in return?

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the current economic crisis has affected the people, from workers, farmers, and traders to big industrialists. There is a shortage of goods due to import restrictions and large quantities of goods are coming to the markets through smuggling, which is increasing inflation, while the government's tax is also affected.

## Pak-Ethiopia Relations

Islamabad: The Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia Mr. Shozoib Abbas, president ICCI Ahsan zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari and others at a dinner hosted by the Pakistani ambassador at his residence for the visiting business delegation of Pakistan.



## Pakistan's biggest solar energy exhibition inaugurated



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan's biggest and only dedicated solar energy exhibition — 12th Edition of SOLAR PAKISTAN along with 5th edition of ELECTRICITY PAKISTAN-International Electricity Pakistan Exhibition organized by FAKT Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. opened its doors on 10th March 2023 at Expo Centre, Lahore.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mirza Muhammad Afridi Deputy Chairman — Senate of Pakistan in the presence of Saleem Khan Tanoli-CEO of FAKT Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., top government officials and renowned industry names.

On this occasion, Mirza Muhammad Afridi stated that "FAKT Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. has taken a wonderful initiative by organizing SOLAR PAKISTAN Exhibition, which will provide an ideal opportunity for the renewable energy industry to showcase their state-of-the-art technology, equipment and services. He further added that exhibitions like SOLAR PAKISTAN have played a pivotal role in strengthening our industries and uplifting the economy of Pakistan. He concluded by saying that this is the right time for our country to go solar and reduce its reliance on expensive source of electricity generation".

Talking to the media

## ZEM Builders Launched Exciting New Campaign to Revolutionize Real Estate Experience

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: ZEM Builders, the leading player in Pakistan's real estate industry for their impressive line-up of contemporary residential and commercial properties, has announced the launch of their new campaign—Where Every Moment Matters. The campaign aims to highlight their innovative practices and commitment to providing the highest quality services to their clients.

The Where Every Moment Matters reflects the state-of-the-art projects of ZEM Builders and focuses on their dedication to innovation in every aspect of their work, from design and construction to sustainability and community engagement.

Mr. Khawaja Kamran, General Manager of Marketing, spoke about the dedication and commitment that ZEM Builders showed these past years in conceding new heights, delivering a new horizon of innovation, quality, delivery, and customer experience, and will continue to do so.



ZEM Builders are committed to providing their clients with the highest quality services and creating sustainable developments. Owing to their novel dynamics to the real estate industry by bringing

cutting-edge designs, and unique construction approaches, ZEM Builders has recently bagged the PAEI Best Builder & Real Estate Company Award for its remarkable endeavors in the real estate industry.

## Withdrawal of power subsidy to hurt exports further: FPCCI

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi has forewarned that the abrupt withdrawal of power sector subsidy to appease IMF is set to decrease exports even further; which have already in decline for the last 6 months consecutively, i.e. August 2022 – February 2023 as per the numbers released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Nadeem Qureshi categorically termed the monetary policy as the worst in country's economic history; and, has predicted that it will bring the economic, trade, investment and commercial activities on a standstill — a doomsday scenario for the business, industry & trade community of Pakistan.

He added that, as per the latest statistics, Pakistani exports have declined by a hefty 18.67 percent in February 2023 on a YoY matrix from \$2.83 billion in February 2022 to \$2.31 billion.

## Traditional Household Items

RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying traditional handmade fans and bread hot pot alongside Murree Road, in the City.



Photo: Online

# Amazons down Super Women to win second Women's League exhibition match

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Danni Wyatt and Bismah Maroof, took Amazons to a 41-run victory over the Super Women in the second Women's League exhibition match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Danni Wyatt and Bismah Maroof provided a 137-run second wicket partnership stand off 79 balls while a four-fer by Anam Amin aided in Amazons' victory over the Super Women.

Wyatt, who was also declared player of the match, scored an eye-catching 97 off 45 balls with 17 fours and three sixes, while Bismah struck 11 fours in a 51-ball 73 not out to help Amazons collect 204 for three after electing to bat first.

Lauren Winfield-Hill fought a lone battle when she struck 11 fours and three sixes in an impressive 42-ball 80 as the Super Women finished at 163 for nine with left-arm spinner Anam registering figures of 4-0-17-4.

Friday's result meant the three-match series was now tied at one-all, with the decider to be played on Saturday, which is also being celebrated to promote women's empowerment through education in collaboration with CIRCLE Women.

In a match that produced 10 sixes and 49 fours, Amazons were quickly in a bother when Eyman Fatima (2) was back in the hut on the fourth ball.



However, Wyatt and Bismah not only repaired the damage but played attractive shots all around the park.

Wyatt dominated the partnership by stroking eloquent boundaries before Bismah took control of the proceedings following the Englishwoman's departure by cresting some quality shots. Bismah put on 65 runs in 37 balls with Tammy Beaumont (13 off 13) Tess Flintoff (14 off 7) following the departure of Wyatt to steer her side to a position of strength.

In turn, Winfield-Hill led Super Women's fightback with a gutsy and aggressive 42-ball 80. She added 54 runs for the second wicket with Chamari Athapaththu (17) and 64 runs for the third wicket with Iram Javed (28) but she

task against an accurate and disciplined Amazons' bowling attack was always a tough task.

Anam Amin's tied Super Women in the knots and finished with four for 17. Her scalps included Muneeba Ali (11), Iram Javed (28), Tuba Hassan (1) and Sadiq Iqbal (0).

Wyatt had reached her 50 from 23 balls with nine fours and two sixes, Bismah achieved her 50 from 43 balls with six fours and Winfield-Hill reached her half century from 23 with eight fours and two sixes.

Speaking at a presser, after end of the game, Super Women batter Lauren Winfield Hill said the game looked very close. "We did lose deliveries and

didn't manage to execute. However they (Amazons) executed the yorkers very well and Danni Wyatt played very well.

To a question she said the wicket was fantastic. "Coming and playing here is special. The quality of cricket was good. There is so much talent over here," she said.

Amazons batter Danni Wyatt whose opening remarks were that she loved the tea over here, said, "I tried to bat and get as many runs but a catch by Lauren tumbled the dreams of a century," she said.

Danni said the deciding game (final) was on Saturday. About the Breat Cancer Awareness Day, she said it was good to show the significance of these days as people watch us on the television.

About Skipper Bismah Maroof, she said Bismah was a very good captain. "Bismah doesn't stress the players and it is good to bat with her as she's quick between the wickets," she said.

Scores in brief: Match 2 - Amazons beat Super Women by 41 runs to level three-match series.

Amazons 204-3, 20 overs (Danni Wyatt 97, Bismah Maroof 73, Tess Flintoff 14 not out, Tammy Beaumont 13; Tuba Hassan 2-34).

Super Women 163-9, 20 overs (Lauren Winfield-Hill 80, Iram Javed 28; Anam Amin 4-17, Fatima Sana 2-38).

## Jashan-e-Baharan Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal

**Sports Reporter**

LAHORE: Adnan Tairanwala Pehlwan defeated Shahid Pochar Pehlwan to win the Jashan-e-Baharan Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal after a tough fight at Punjab Stadium on Friday.

As many as 30 bouts were competed in the presence of thousands of passionate fans in Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal which was held under the arrangements of Sports Board Punjab (SBP).

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman, Commissioner Lahore Ch Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi were the guests of honour on this occasion.

Top national wrestlers demonstrated their desi kushti skills in their respective bouts of Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal. In other major fights, Malu Pehlwan defeated Razaq Pehlwan, M Yar Pehlwan defeated Aftab Pehlwan while the



fighters of Ali and Sultan Pehlwan, Sajawal Goonga and Gullu Pehlwan and Heera and Ahmed Pehlwan finished without and outright winner.

As per other results Maroof defeated Razaq, Junior Malu defeated Qamar Abbas, Ramzan defeated Asghar, Qurban defeated Akaash, Hassan Ali by

Shahbaz, Zeeshan defeated Raheel Ilyas, Wajid Dasti defeated Jalal, Bilal defeated Ghafoor, Raza defeated Current, Umair defeated Chota Khurram, Hasan defeated Shahzad, Mujahid defeated Beera, Haroon defeated Irfan, Waqas defeated Munna, Hafiz defeated Arslan, Mudassar defeated Zaheer, Billu Pehlwan defeated Hafiz Mamay wala, Khurram defeated Ramzan Kaka.

World Beach Wrestling Champion Inam Butt, Olympian Bashir Bhola Bhala, Sher-e-Punjab Shahid Khoey Wala, Pakistan Wrestling Federation Secretary Arshad Sattar, Chairman Pakistan Desi Kushti Federation Shahbir Mughal were also present on this occasion.

Sikh guests Coach Gurcharan Singh, Kalwant Singh and Santok Singh Mandhair and thousands of wrestling fans enjoyed the thrilling fights of Jashan-e-Baharan Rustam-e-Punjab Dangal.

## Golf Federation signs contracts with Smart City Group to promote game of Golf in Pakistan

**News Desk**

LAHORE: Contract Signing Ceremony held at PGF Secretariat in which Key appointments of PGF and Smart City Group participated. Brig Sajid Akram, Retd, Secretary Pakistan Golf Federation welcomed all participants on behalf of the Federation. PGF is the supreme body of Golf in the Country. It is endeavor of PGF to promote game of Golf in the country in best possible way, every day more and more youngsters are joining in to learn and improve their skills. We have 49 registered golf courses in the country out of which only 24 golf courses are 18/27 holes. We are also ensuring the maximum possible international participation of our golfers. As we speak today our team of two ladies and two men is representing Pakistan in Bangladesh, He said.

Coming over to today's event, we are signing today a sponsorship contract of our flagship event of National Amateur Golf Championship with Future Development Holdings Private Limited as



the title Sponsor. The Championship includes following events: -

- Stroke Play Amateur, Senior & Ladies Championship
- Inter Association Men & Senior Championship
- International Team Match Men

- International Team Match Ladies
- J R Jayewardene Trophy

We appreciate the support of FDH for sponsoring this World Class event and we assure them that with their support the event would be conducted in best possible way. FDH is the leading land devel-

opers & Construction company of Pakistan. We appreciate the effort made by Mr. Muhammad Aslam Malik, Group Chief Operating Officer, FDH, Brig Nadeem Aslam, Project Director Smart City Lahore, Mr. Louis Fernandez, Chief Development Officer, Smart City Golf Course, Mr. Simon, Golf Superi Capital Smart City Golf Course In charge and Malik Kamran PGF who, make all this happened today. Finally, we are thankful to our respectable media, who spared their time even in busy Schedule of PSL, he further added.

Participants of Press Conference are: - Brig Sajid Akram, SI (M), Retd Secretary PGF

Mr. Malik M Kamran, Manager PGF Mr. Muhammad Aslam Malik, Group COO, FDH

Mr. Luis Fernandez, Chief Development Officer, Capital Smart City Brig Nadeem Aslam, Project Director, Smart City Lahore.

Mr. Simon, Golf Superintendent, Capital Smart City.

## Pakistan Olympic Association organized Educational Seminar / Workshop



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Olympic Association in collaboration with the Sindh Olympic Association held an Educational Seminar / Workshop here in Karachi, to introduce and deliberate upon the Good Governance Practices in the Sports Organizations. The workshop aimed to disseminate the IOC's Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance that provide the minimum standards of governance to be adopted by the constituents of the Olympic Movement.

Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan, President Pakistan Olympic Association welcomed the participants to the session and emphasized on the importance of implementing the good governance practices at all tiers of the sports organizations. Dr. Junaid Ali Shah, Chairman Sindh Olympic Association commended the initiative of Pakistan Olympic Association to organize seminar/workshop to educate the sports organizers of the latest governance practices. Ms. Ronak Lakhani (Individual Member POA), Syed Wasiimuddin Hashmi (Individual Member POA), Mr. Ahmad Ali Rajput Secretary General Sindh Olympic Association, Ms. Veena Salman Masud, Associate Secretary General POA along with officials of various Provincial Sports Associations were present at the occasion.

Mr. Muhammad Khalid Mahmood, Secretary Pakistan Olympic Association, Mr. Muhammad Atif Shafiq and Dr. Tariq Ali Gujar (PhD) shared the ideas and practical information on Good Governance practices.

Pakistan Olympic Association will organize similar workshops at all the provincial and national capitals to disseminate the information on the essential practices of Good Governance in line with the IOC's Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance.

## National Amateur Golf C'ship in April



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) would be holding the National Amateur Golf Championship in Lahore from April 27-30.

In this regard, a signing ceremony was held at the Rawalpindi Golf Club, wherein the Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) signed a sponsorship contract for the Championship with Future Development Holdings (FDH) Private Limited as the Title Sponsor.

Speaking at a press conference about the championship, PGF Secretary Brig (R) Sajid Akram, said PGF was the supreme body of golf in the country.

"It is an endeavour of PGF to promote the game of Golf in the country in the best possible way," he added.

"Every day, more and more youngsters are joining in to learn and improve their skills," the PGF Secretary said, adding that the Federation had 49 registered golf courses in the country, out of which only 24 golf courses are 18/27 holes.

He said we were also ensuring the maximum possible international participation of Pakistani golfers. "Our team consisting of two females and as many men is currently representing Pakistan in Bangladesh."

The championship includes Stroke Play Amateur, Senior & Ladies Championship; Inter Association Men & Senior Championship; International Team Match Men; International Team Match Ladies and J R Jayewardene Trophy.

"We appreciate the support of FDH for sponsoring this World Class event and we assure them that with their support the event will be conducted in the best possible way," the PGF Secretary said.

He also lauded the effort of Muhammad Aslam Malik, Group Chief Operating Officer, FDH, Brig Nadeem Aslam, Project Director Smart City Lahore, Louis Fernandez, Chief Development Officer, Smart City Golf Course, Simon, Golf Superi Capital Smart City Golf Course In charge and Malik Kamran PGF.

"We are thankful to the media, who spared their time even in the busy Schedule of Pakistan Super League (PSL)," Akram concluded.

## Fazalhaq, Shadab, Shan, Tim David fined for breaching PCB code

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad United's Fazalhaq Farooqi has been fined 10 per cent of his match-fee for breaching the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Players Support Personnel during his side's match against Lahore Qalandars in the 26th fixture of the HBL PSL 8 at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday evening.

Farooqi was found to have violated Article 2.5 of the PCB Code of Conduct, which reads as "Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during a match".

The incident happened in the 19th over of Lahore Qalandars' batting, when Farooqi used abusive language after dismissing the batter.

Farooqi pleaded guilty to the charge and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Roshan Mahanama.

The charge was levelled by on-field umpires Aleem Dar and Faisal Khan Afridi.

Meanwhile, Islamabad United's captain Shadab Khan and Multan Sultans' Shan Masood and Tim David were fined 10 per cent of their match fees for breaching a Level 1 offence of the HBL PSL Code of Conduct in separate incidents during their side's match in the HBL PSL 8 on Tuesday.

All three players were found to have violated Article 2.8 of the HBL PSL Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during a Match".

In Shadab's case, the incident happened in the fourth ball of 20th over of Multan Sultans' batting, when a wide ball was given by the on-field umpire and upon that Shadab came running from the boundary line and expressed his disappointment at the decision.

As regards to Shan, on the penultimate ball of 14th over of Multan Sultans batting, Shan expressed his disappointment after the umpire didn't signal

it one for the over for a short pitched ball.

Similarly, Tim David on the second ball of the 18th over of Multan Sultans' batting, expressed his displeasure over the leg-umpire's decision not to call a short pitched ball a wide delivery.

Shadab and Shan pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the sanctions proposed to be imposed by Roshan Mahanama and, as such, there was no need for a formal hearing. Meanwhile, David challenged the decision and after the formal hearing, the match referee upheld his decision. The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz.

