سیدناابوموسیٰاشعری رضی اللّٰدعنہ نے لہاکہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے ان کی مثال زندہ اور مردہ کی سی ہے۔(یعنی ذکر کرنے والاز ندہ اور ذکر نہ نے والا مر دول کی طرح ہے)

فرمانرسول والله عليه

Barkat Rice Mills

Nawaz, Shehbaz constitute Punjab, KP Parliamentary Boards

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif and its President Shehbaz Sharif had constituted Parliamentary Boards for the upcoming provincial assemblies elections of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She, in a tweet, said the boards were formed to award party tickets to suitable candidates.

'London Plan' Being implemented against Imran Khan: Farrukh

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Farrukh Habib on Friday claimed that the 'London Plan' is being implemented agains Imran Khan. Farrukh Habib said that PTI rivals are targeting Imran Khan for settling personal scores. He added that the whol state is gathered to take action against the PTI chief Imran Khan's

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Press conference KARACHI: Leader of (MQM) Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui addressing a press conference at Bagh-e-Jinnah, in Provincial Capital. MQM

Federal cabinet approves Lawyers Protection Bill, winding down of SME Bank

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Friday approved the winding down of the SME Bank on the recommendation of the State Bank of Pakistan while instructing to ensure the protection of consumers' deposits.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, instructed that the protection of the customers' deposits should be ensured during the winding down process. It was decided that all of the bank customers would be paid Rs5.557 billion, in the first phase.

The cabinet also approved the Lawyers Protection Bill 2023 for its onward tabling before the

parliament. The prime minister said that the lawyers had played a key role in the constitutional evolution of People in Punjab, KPK to be given free flour in Ramazan: PM

Prime Minister Shehhaz Sharif Friday said needy persons in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be given the gift of free flour in the month of Ramazan ul Mubarak. Speaking at a meeting held

here to review arrangements for the provision of flour to needy persons, he said for the first time in the history of the country, a

He said approval for the support price of Rs8500 per 40 kilograms of cotton has also been granted to make the crop profita-

ble for the growers. On the finance ministry's recommendation, the federal cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to 15 bilateral and two multilateral MoUs of the Securipackage had been prepared for the provision of free flour to poor people in the month of Ramazan.

The needy persons can know about their eligibility for gift of flour by sending their identity card number on SMS 8171 assigned by Benazir Income Support Programme. It was further told that flour would be available at

ties and Exchange Commission of Pakistan with different countries

and international institutions. The cabinet approved the constitution of an inquiry committee under the Additional Deputy Commissioner for the extradition of a citizen Muhammad Waseem, son of Muhammad Aslam to Saudi Arabia under the

less rates in 50 Sasta Bazaars in Balochistan

Advisor to Prime Minister Ahad Cheema, Caretaker Chief Minister Puniab Sved Mohsin Naqvi, chief secretaries of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and Managing Director of Utility Stores Corporation attended the

Muhammad Waseem Aslam is wanted by the Saudi government in a murder case. An agreement for the extradition of criminals between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia already existed.

The body approved the reconstitution of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbadhak Committee, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs price of cotton.

and Interfaith Harmony. The 13-member committee would consist of Sikh community representatives from all the provinces.

The committee would be mandated to take care of the Gurdwaras, facilitate Sikh pilgrims, and run other administrative matters.

The federal cabinet endorsed the decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases made in its meeting held on March 13, 2023, including the approval of the Lawyers Protection Bill 2023 which was drafted on the lawyer community's

request for their protection. The meeting also endorsed the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee made in the meetings on March 14 and 15, 2023 including the setting of Rs8500 per kg as the support

Chinese President to pay state visit Russia



News Desk

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Russia from March 20to 22 at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced in a statement on Friday.

President Xi's visit will be a trip of friendship, cooperation and peace, said Wang Wenbin, another spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a regular press briefing.

In response to a question

in-depth exchange of views with his Russian counterpart on bilateral relations and major international and regional issues of common concern so as to promote strategic collaboration and practical cooperation between the two countries and inject new impetus into the development of bilateral relations.

He noted that the two leaders have maintained close contacts in recent years.

The two presidents have guided the sustained, sound and stable development of the China-Russia comprehensive about the visit's arrangement, strategic partnership of coor-Wang said Xi will have an dination for a new era.

President writes to Indonesian counterpart; seeks support for distressed Pak investor

Spokesman Report The letter said that Paki-

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday wrote a letter to his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo seeking his support to resolve the issues faced by a Pakistani investor Malik Muhammad Asif in his business matters.

The president said that both Pakistan and Indonesia were close friends and also bilateral partners, in the context of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

He said the two countries had strived for promotion of economic and trade ties, besides facilitating the busi-

stani investor Malik Asif had also registered his complaint with Indonesian authorities, through Pakistan's embassy, but the matter was yet unre-

Earlier, the businessman had also requested President Alvi to seek intervention of his Indonesian counterpart for resolution of his problem on fair grounds.

Through the letter, the president had requested his Indonesian counterpart to personally look into the matter for a swift redressal.

President Alvi also conveyed good wishes to President Widodo as well as the Indonesian

IHC issues circular for arrangements during Imran's appearance

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The registrar's office Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday issued a circular regarding the security and other administrative measures for March 21 during the appearance of PTI's chair-

man Imran Khan. The circular said that the entrance of lawyers and journalists in courtroom No.1 would be allowed through the special passes. It said that only 15 lawyers would be permitted to go along with Imran Khan in the courtroom.

The court had instructed the district administration to ensure the security arrangements during the hearing. The list could be provided till March 20, for issuance of special passes, it said.

The court would hear the bail case of Imran Khan at 2: 30pm in courtroom No.1 on March 21.

Islamabad police devise security plan for Imran Khan's appearance

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police devised a security plan ahead of PTI chief Imran Khan's team through Shib-Khan's appearance before li Faraz. The security officer the Islamabad High Court

PTI central leader Shibli Faraz along with RPO Rawalpindi and DIG Security met Inspector General (IG) Islamabad today.

The Islamabad police spokesperson said that they finalised security arrangements for Imran Khan's appearance following the directives of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

During the meeting, Shibli Faraz demanded to shift the hearing of cases scheduled at F-8 courts to the judicial complex. The police spokesperson said that IG Islamabad will requested the concerned institutions to consider the recommen-

It has been decided to

appoint a chief security officer for the security of the PTI chairman. The chief security officer will contact would also visit Lahore to further finalise the security plan.

The spokesperson added that limited persons will be allowed to enter the court premises. Moreover, Islamabad police will also request the court to issue code of conduct.

Earlier in the day, Islamabad High Court (IHC) Pakistan suspended Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's non-bailable arrest warrants in the Toshakhana case till March

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq suspended former premier Imran Khan's arrest warrants and barred police from arresting him till

IHC CJ, while passing case.

Imran Khan secures $protective\ bail$ in multiple cases

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has approved protective bail of former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in nine

The two-member bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) led by Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh granted protective bail to Imran Khan in nine cases for 10

The protective bail was approved for five cases in Islamabad and three cases in Lahore. Imran Khan secured bail in the cases filed in Lahore till March 27, whereas, the protective bail in five cases in Islamabad was approved till March 24.

Moreover, the court also approved Khan's bail in the Sarwar Road police station

Bilawal briefs OIC Contact Group on situation in IIOJK

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday briefed the Contact Group of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The minister was participating in the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the 49th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Chaired by OIC Secretary General Hissein Brahim Taha, the meeting was attended by Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Niger, Azerbaijan and true representative of Kashmiris and OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission

He explained that the situation in IIOJK had deteriorated with India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 and the subsequent attempts at demographic changes in the occupied territory. By issuing millions of fake domiciles to non-Kashmiris and enacting laws that allow non-residents to buy and own land in IIOJK, India was trying to convert Kashmiris into a disempowered minority in their own land. These steps were in flagrant violation of international law especially the Fourth Geneva Convention which interdicted an occupying power from taking such measures.

The Contact Group expressed alarm at the

future bright despite different challenges

Dar sees Pakistan's

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate and Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Friday said Pakistan may be confronted by different challenges at the moment, but nothing could stop the country from progress and development.

Concluding remarks at a special commemorative session summoned to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Senate of Pakistan, he said, "Despite the current challenges, I can see a bright future for Pakistan

This is my belief and faith that Allah Almighty will protect Pakistan as it was created in the name of Kalma (Laa ilaaha illal Lahoo Muhammadur Rasool Ullah

He said the Upper House from the last three days had witnessed great vibrancy celebrating the flourishing democratic system and traditions in Pakistan.

He said, "During the proceeding, we witness peace, soberness, discipline, decency and tolerance."

The finance minister said that during the three proceedings of the special session, the Upper House had also witnessed mutual respect and kindness.

These are the founding pillars of the decent parliamentary democratic system, I wished and sincerely pray that this culture we all witnessed in three days of celebration on the august floor of this house continues to prevail for all the times to come."

Ishaq Dar also appreciated Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani for holding such a mega event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Senate of Pakistan.

He said that under the leadership of Senate Chairman, the Upper House had become more dynamic, vibrant and progressive in line with the international parliamentary standards.

He also paid tribute to former Chairmans and deputy Chairmans of the Senate and said their contribution to strengthening the Upper House and democracy would

The Spokesman

Chinese delegation

ISLAMABAD: Chinese business delegation led by Mr. Zhang Zhijun, President MCC Resources Development Company



Amnesty International expresses concern over HR violations in IIOJK

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Amnesty International Friday expressed concern over the demolition of houses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir(IIOJK) and other human rights violations by Indian forc-

Addressing a news conference in Birmingham, Amnesty International officials Ms Astrid Laich and Fahim Kiyani, who is also President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK, demanded that the demolitions in the occupied territory must halt.

They said the ongoing demolitions appeared to be an extension of the brutal human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. violations historically witnessed



Secretary Bournville Branch

Amnesty International in the underlined the need for rais-United Kingdom Astrid Laic

She said the Indian authorities were denying basic right of property ownership to the people of Kashmir.

She pointed out that Jammu and Kashmir was the only Muslim-majority region of

"These demolitions amount to forced evictions which constitute gross violations of human rights. No one should be made homeless or vulnerable to human rights viola-

She said the Indian authorities must immediately stop the demolition drive, give adequate compensation to all those affected and ensure that victims of forced evictions had access to remedy

Pak-China cultural relations imperative to broaden friendship: Fareena Mazhar

News Desk

BEIJING: Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage & Culture Division, Fareena. Mazhar has said that cultural relations between Pakistan and China are the need of the hour to broaden the basis of the two countries' friendship and enhance the people-to-

people relationship. The Gandhara culture and art exhibition being held at Palace Museum will help promote the shared heritage at the international level and establish contacts at the grass-



roots level, she said in an inter-

The China-Pakistan joint exhibition on Gandhara

China to showcase the cultural heritage of Gandhara, an ancient region.

culture and art kicked off at China's Ministry of Culture pre-eminence. the Palace Museum in Beijing, and Tourism (MCT), inau-

Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road". The exhibition will be open to the public from March 15 to June 15.

Fareena Mazhar said that Pakistan is a unique country whose strategic location has given it importance not only in the past, but also in the present era, and it will continue to enjoy the same status for all the time to come. Its location makes it a veritable gateway between the East and the West Hu Heping, Minister of and enhances its geopolitical

"Over 170 masterpiec-

gurated the exhibition titled es were brought from seven museums of Pakistan," she told China Economic Net.

"I wish this endeavor of the Palace Museum a very fruitful event and it will be beneficial not only to the general visitors but also to Chinese scholars and professionals to understand the cultural heritage of Pakistan.

The exhibition will be a landmark in cooperation between China and Pakistan and will open new vistas of cooperation for further cementing our relations and joint endeavors," she added.

Slovakia sends MIG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine-PM

April: Musadiq 👺 Bureau Report

First cargo of

to arrive in

Pakistan in

Russian crude

LAHORE: State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik has said Pakistan will receive first cargo of crude oil from Russia in April this year.

In a television talk show, the state minister said the government had fulfilled '80 per cent to 85pc' of negotiations with Russia.

He said commercial deal was in the final stages, and by the month of March the entire commercial deal would be negotiated.

"In April, we will give them the first shipping order. The first cargo of crude oil from Russia will arrive in by the end of

April." Malik said the country would receive one-third of its crude oil imports from

Mews Desk

ISLAMABAD: Slovakia on Friday became the second of Ukraine's allies to provide MIG-29 fighter jets which Kyiv believes are crucial to repel Russia's year-long inva-

Slovakia joined Poland, which announced its delivery of the planes on Thursday. Both the NATO members neighbour Ukraine.

Its fleet of 11 MiG-29 planes was retired last summer and most of them are not in operational condition. It will send those that are operational and the rest will go for spare parts.

Slovakia will also supply part of its KUB air-defence system, Prime Minister Eduard Heger said.

"Today, the government decided and unanimously approved an international agreement (on the donation)," Heger said. The process of handing over these fighter jets is closely coordinated with the

with other allies," he said. Slovakia will receive financial compensation the European Union. It has also

Polish side, with Ukraine and, of course,



NATO allies in the former communist east such as Poland and Slovakia have been particularly vocal supporters of Kyiv since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

On Thursday, Poland announced it would send Ukraine four MiG-29 fighter jets in coming days, making it the first of Kyiv's allies to provide such aircraft.

Western countries that have provided Ukraine with arms have so far declined the MiGs.

to send fighter jets.

Slovakia ordered F-16 fighter jets from the United States in 2018 to replace the ageing MiG-29 planes. The first U.S.-made planes are expected to arrive in 2024 after a delay.

Heger's government is ruling in a caretaker capacity until early elections set for September, which made the opposition and even some members of the ruling coalition question whether the cabinet is permitted to decide on such thing as

CTD Punjab arrests 11 alleged terrorists of Banned outfits

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested 11 alleged terrorists of banned outfits during operations. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 55 intelligence õbased operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 56 suspected persons were interrogated and 11 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

He said that among the arrested terrorists are 3 members of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Najibullah, Muhammad Tahir and Abdul Sami, one member of Tehreek Jafaria, Muhammad Aftab, 4 members of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Kaleemullah, Manzoor Khan, Niaz ba Pakistan, Muhammad Hussain. were made.

Muawiya and Muhammad Daniyal and a proclaimed offender Muhammad Zubair are included. The spokesman said that 883 grams of explosives, 7 detonators, 1 hand grenade, 14 feet of safety fuse wire, 2 feet of prima cord, 2 leaflets of banned organizations ý 2 receipt boxes, 122 stickers, 92 pamphlets, 2 flags of banned organization and 35290 rupees in cash have been recovere d from the

He said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations and other religious places. Furthermore, during this week, a total of 79 5 Combing operations were conducted with the help of Local Police and law and enforcement agencies, he said and added that during these Combing Operations, 35939 persons were checked, Muhammad and Muhammad 161 suspects were arrested,102 FIRs Zubair, 2 members of Sepah Saha- were registered and 91 recoveries

Hina Khar calls for new fiscal model for sustainable development

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has called on the Commonwealth to take the lead in developing a new fiscally responsible model for sustainable development that addressed the issues of existing debt burden.

She made the remarks at the 22nd Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) held in London on Wednesday.

The minister led the Pakistani delegation at the meeting and represented Pakistan at the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey and the reception hosted by Secretary General Commonwealth at Buckingham Palace.

At the CFAMM, the Minister of State presented Pakistan's perspective on global and regional developments and their implications for developing

countries including Pakistan. The Minister of State outlined the and predictable financial resources

the initiative by the Board of Governors to modernize the Commonwealth, with the establishment of three working groups on reforms; administration and programme; and finance. Pakistan in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Board of Governors would be leading the Working Group on Administration and Programme.

On the sidelines of Commonwealth events, the Minister of State met with UK Minister of State for Development Andrew Mitchell, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integraimportance of international collab- tion of Ghana Shirley Ayorkor Botchoration on climate change and the wey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of availability of significant, additional Sri Lanka M.U.M. Ali Sabry, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diagnora for climate adaptation and mitiga- Affairs of Kenya Dr. Alfred Mutua, tion. She also called for early opera- Canadian Parliamentary Secretary tionalization of the 'Loss and Damage to the Foreign Minister MP Robert Fund' and associated arrangements. Oliphant, and Secretary General The CFAMM endorsed, inter alia, Commonwealth Patricia Scotland.

Imran Khan A 'Foreign-Funded' Agent of Chaos: Maryam Nawaz

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz on Friday said that the events of Zaman Park and the international support Imran Khan received after resisting arrest through his supporters had her convinced that the PTI chief is a "foreign-funded" agent tasked to spread chaos in Pakistan.

Addressing media in Punjab's capital city, the PML-N leader said that Imran Khan hid behind his supporters while they attacked police personnel who were there to arrest him to just produce him in court in the same fashion as "gangsters".

She also raised doubts over the international condemnation the police action on Zaman Park received and said that if people like Zalmay Khalilzad are condemning action against him (Imran Khan), she is convinced, keeping in view the "foreign funding case", that Imran Khan is a foreign-funded agent of chaos.

"None can fight state and if the state wants to arrest someone, it could be done in minutes, but the government was careful as it didn't want the men. women and children who were there at Zaman Park," said Maryam Nawaz.

She maintained that Imran Khan is a hypocrite who has kept his children abroad but is using Pakistani citizens' children for his protection.

Maryam Nawaz claimed that PTI gave shelter to some terrorists from banned organisations in Zaman Park and one of PTI's "touts" tweeted that they are even ready for a helicopter

"What does that mean, they are openly calling for violence against the state institutions. What is the difference between them and terrorists?" she asked the media.

She was of the view that from now onwards, she expects that PTI shouldn't be treated like a political force but a terrorist organization.

Pakistan Seeks Financial Help'From Friendly Countries

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the delay with a loan deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan has become active to seek 'financial help' from friendly countries to stablise the worsening economy, ARY News reported on Friday, quoting wellplaced sources.

ministry said Pakistan is seeking to get \$2 billion each from China and Saudi Arabia, while meetings are underway to get \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates. They further said China

Sources within the finance

will deposit \$800 million with the State Bank of Pakistan in the upcoming few

It may be noted that Pakistan has been trying hard to revive the stalled loan programme of the IMF but despite taking tough decisions, the international lender is delaying the staff-level agreement with Islamabad.

Earlier, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar assured that details of the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be made public.

Speaking at the Senate Committee of the Whole, the minister said once the staff agreement is signed, it will be put on the website of the Finance Ministry and nothing will be concealed.

The minister said that the regime of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf had signed an agreement with IMF in 2019.

Charities in the country are becoming the last hope for the deprived people: Governor Sindh

跨 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori, has said that bona fide charities and non-profits have come to the rescue of the destitute people in the country suffering from unprecedented inflation after state and successive governments failed to ensure their welfare.

The Sindh Governor stated this while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Entrepreneurship: much needed for the national economy" organized by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) here at the Governor House.

He appreciated the various initiatives started by the commercial and industrial entities under the concept. of corporate social responsibility for the uplift of the deprived communities in the country.

The Governor assured the audience that he would fully support non-governmental organizations like NFEH to combine the CSR-related activities of the corporate sector for the needy



Sindh Energy Secretary, Abu Bakar

Madani, said the government's success-

ful initiative to extract vast reserves of

coal in Thar and consume it for electric-

ity generation had gone a long way in

the economic uplift of the underprivi-

Welfare International Trust, Muham-

since 2013 to impart Information Tech-

leged communities in Tharparkar.

people and increase tree cover for improvement in the environmental conditions in the country.

Karachi Administrator, Dr Sved Saifur Rehman, said the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) had the complete resolve to make clean and green all open urban spaces in the city to play its due part in countering the adverse phenomenon of climate change.

He said that construction activities in the cities should take place in a responsible and disciplined manner ensuring that nature should least be harmed. ing their economic turnaround.

Syed Azfar Hussain, Project Director of the National Incubation Centre in Hyderabad, said the corporate sector should fully support the emerging technology-led startups in the country for generating jobs and livelihood opportunities for thousands of graduates who passed out from the universities every

NFEH President Naeem Qureshi said that his NGO had been constantly running a campaign of tree plantation in Karachi for the last nine years to make the city clean and green.

He said the NFEH had planned to develop an urban forest in Karachi in collaboration with the KMC and the corporate sector.

GS NFEH Ruqiya Naeem also spoke on the occasion and praised the CSR Chief Operating Officer of Saylani initiatives of leading companies in Pakistan for helping out needy people. Engr. mad Ghazal, told the audience about Nadeem Ashraf Vice President NFEH, Raafia Mamujee, Director NUST Dr. the continuous drive of his non-profit Maria Qadiri. President CSR Club Anis nology-related skills to thousands of younus and others also addressed on students from needy families for ensurthis occasion

Naveed Qamar asks Faisalabad Chamber to give workable program to increase exports

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister of Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar said that he had set regionally competitive electricity rates in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance to increase national exports, but due to the IMF, they were returned, but had to take comprehensive and condusive steps. He asked Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq to give an agreed and workable program to increase exports in the current situation so that it can be implemented. He was discussing with Dr Khurram Tariq about the problems facing the export sector and the adverse effects of the recent subsidy removal.

He said adding that the interests of different sectors are in conflict with each other, so the private sector should prepare a program that not only agrees with all sectors but also increases exports. Earlier, Dr. Khurram Tariq mentioned the problems faced by the export and especially the textile sector and said that the recovery of FESCO is 99.2% but the losses of other ineligible companies are being covered by us. Dr. Khurram Tariq further said that State Bank should be instructed to import petrol and edible oil included in its priority list on volumetric basis.

Only with this decision will the exports be able to increase significantly. He said about captive power plants that the cost of one unit is 7 rupees and the other is 15 rupees per unit. Whereas after Energy Mix it is being sold at Rs.44. He said that the government has to remove these disadvantages and differences so that the unnecessary pressure on the export sector can be removed.

A 11-year student met to Corps Commander Peshawar



跨 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: A 11-year student Zia-ur-Rehman, a resident of North Waziristan Spinwam, met Corps Commander Peshawar. He was accompanied by the Prize of Performance Mr. Irfan Ullah Jan, who is also the President of FATA Disabled Welfare Organiza-

11-year-student Zia-Ur-Rahman lost both his arms in an explosion in 2021, but both arms were recently restored with advanced technology bionic arms, Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hasan Azhar Hayat talked to the student about health and education.

11-year student Zia-ur-Rehman thanked the Corps Commander Peshawar and expressed his determination to serve the nation and the country after getting education.

Kashmir Airlines team visits Muzaffarabad Airport

Maieed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A team of Kashmir Airlines under the auspices of MTBC visited Muzaffarabad Airport on Friday. The team of experts, under the direction of prime minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan, conducted a detailed inspection of the airport to make it functional. Work on reactivation and restoration of flights at Muzaffarabad airport would start soon after the team submits its report to the Prime Minister. In this regard, the PM would also visit the Airport soon.

Pertinently, the Kashmir Airline is an important project that would go a long way to promoting tourism in the region. Regarding the reactivation of Muzaffarabad Airport, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Sardar Adnan Khurshid. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mumtaz, Director MTBC Sardar Zartif Badshah and others. Earlier, Director MTBC Sardar Zartif Badshah, DSP Mujtabi Agha, Electricity Department chief Raja Rais and others also inspected the airport site.

Hearing

LAHORE: Workers of PTI gathered around Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan's vehicle at Lahore High



Ombudsman Punjab chairs review meeting at Multan office

News Desk

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan emphasized the importance of resolving public complaints, providing relief to citizens, and ensuring speedy justice for those in need.

addressing a review meeting of consultants and an advisor from this regard, he suggested using the southern Punjab districts at the regional office in Multan on district consultants and the advisor presented their office perfor-

mance reports from January 1 to March 15 of this year.

The provincial ombudsman stressed the need to accelerate relief efforts and ensure that the rights of the people are protected. He also emphasized the importance of raising awareness among the public about He made these remarks while the availability of the ombudsman office at the grassroots. In seminars, public awareness campaigns, and the media to solutions available for addressing their grievances.



Friday. During the meeting, sensitize people about the free man, the office's efforts to protect ance. The resolution of people's the rights of the common man problems at their doorstep have contributed to achiev-

According to the ombuds- ing the goals of good governhas strengthened their trust

in government institutions, he mentioned.

Advisor (Hqrs) Shafiq Hussain Bokhari, consultant Multan and Bahawalpur Zahid Qazi Ashfaq Ahmad, consultant Lodhran Rana Masood Akhtar, consultant Dera Ghazi Khan and Khanewal Hamidullah Khan, consultant Muzaffargarh and Layyah Muhammad Saleem, advisor Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur Maqbool Ahmad Majooka, and liaison coordinator Makhdoom Mubarak Ahmad attended the

NIM-Peshawar delegates visit UAJK for insight into educational services

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) hosted a delegation of more than twenty trainee officers from the National Institute of Management (NIM) Peshawar on Friday as part of the 36th Mid-Career Management Course. The visit was aimed at gaining insight into UAJK's educational programs, teaching, and research initiatives in various fields. The delegation was warmly welcomed by UAJK's Director of Planning and Development, Prof. Dr. Ansar Yasin, Director of Youth Engagement, Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone, and Public Relations Officer, Mubashar Naqvi.

During the briefing, the NIM delegation was provided with a detailed overview of the administrative structure, history, and services offered by



the premier institute of higher learning in the state. UAJK's Director of Planning and Development, Prof. Dr. Ansar Yasin, informed the delegation that UAJK was the first public sector educational institution to have its various campuses attain the status of autonomous universities. He also highlighted the fact that UAJK alumni are

currently serving in various fields both locally and internationally.

The delegation showed great interest in the briefing provided by UAJK authorities and asked various questions to gain a better understanding of the institution's services. Moreover, the delegation visited the monument of the martyrs located in City Campus and

offered fatiha for the martyred faculty, students, and staff of the UAJK in earthquake 2005.

Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone, Director of Youth Engagement, informed the delegation about how UAJK is preparing the youth to face future challenges by keeping them engaged in various positive activities. Meanwhile, Public Relations Officer, Mubashar Naqvi, expressed gratitude to the National Institute of Management Peshawar for selecting UAJK for the exposure of the trainee officer's visit.

To conclude the visit, Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone and Mr. Muhammad Tayyab exchanged the memorial shields. Overall, the visit proved to be an excellent opportunity for the trainee officers to learn about the ongoing educational programs and research initiatives of the university in various fields.

RPO Rawalpindi while reviewing the crime rate in Attock

跨 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khuram Ali while reviewing the crime rate in Attock has directed the police to behave more courteous and well-mannered ensuring true sense of security among the people when dealing in the police stations.

Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khuram Ali was presiding over the crime control meeting held here in the district police office Attock which was also attended by District Police Officer Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan, SP investigation Attock Mst. Jawaria Mohammad Jameel, all circle officers, SHOs and all other relevant police officials of the district police Attock. The District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan highlighting the salient features of the crime graph has made a comprehensive brief to the visiting guest officer.

On this occasion, Syed Khuram Ali directed the district police to accelerate their crackdown against the gangsters, proclaimed offenders, rape cases, target killers, decoits, robbers, car lifters, drug pushers, land grabbers including other street crimes.

He also advised the police to find the clue of the criminals by using the crime scene unit and modern scientific techniques. During the meeting he also appreciated the progress of the police officers to bring the car lifters in hours.

the justice with the advice to improve their performance with utmost dedi-

He also stressed upon the police officials to upheld their good repute and confidence among the common people who could knock the door of police station without any fear and hesitation. The Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khuram Ali urged upon the police force that they should always remain alert while performing their official duties to avert any untoward incident.

At the end, he also prayed for the security and protection of the mother land with the commitment that police force will never leg behind to offer any sacrifice for the safety of the country. Earlier, RPO Syed Khuram Ali also planted a sapling in the green belt of DPO Office expressing his views on the significance of the plants causing healthy environment for the people.

The visiting RPO Syed Khuram Ali also inspected the mode of online complaints and disposal of investigation through front desk at model police station Attock City with the instructions to ensure speedy justice and relief to the aggrieved people. RPO Syed Khuram Ali also inaugurated the protection centre in Attock aimed to help the distressed segment of the society include transgenders, addict, women and children who take police assistance in their crucial



Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

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Bomb Dispo	osal	15
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General body meeting of ASA held at **AIOU**

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "Teacher has a key position in the education system and teachers are the most responsible members of society. Professors cannot do teaching and research work unless they are satisfied with the working environment. It is my desire to provide better development opportunities to the employees of the university and to further improve the university system." said Vice Char cellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood at the general body meeting of Academic Staff Association (ASA). Dr. Nasir said that he is doing every possible thing for the welfare of the employees of AIOU. He further said that our goal is same, we will work together for the development of this university.

The main purpose of this general body meeting was to communicate Vice Chancellor about the problems being faced by the teachers. President ASA, Dr. Moinuddin Hashmi asked VC AIOU for the publication of advertisement for promotions of faculty members and asked him to review the faculty development program, faculty workload. research grant, and transport policy. The Vice Chancellor assured to get the approval of the Supreme Body (Executive Council) of the University for the immediate resolution of demands, while he instructed the ASA to review the already ongoing projects and come up with a workable solution.

One hundred and seventy countries do not need IMF: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tarig 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 it is not IMF debt that brings countries out of the crisis, but good leadership.

If leadership is based on principles and the expenditure is not more than the income then there is no question of a financial crisis in the country, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the number of countries that need IMF support can be counted on the fingers, while around one hundred and seventy countries have never tried to seek IMF's

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that irresponsible countries empty the treasury through extravagant spending, losses of government institutions, electricity, gas theft, and elitism and then they themselves ask for loans from institutions like over the economy due to which their econ-



Politicians invite such institutions to interfere in the country's affairs for loans, after which they try to prove themselves innocent in the eyes of the people by complaining about the strict conditions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that wrong economic philosophies first bankrupted Sri Lanka and now it is the turn of other countries where politics is given priority

omies have been destroyed and poverty is increasing.

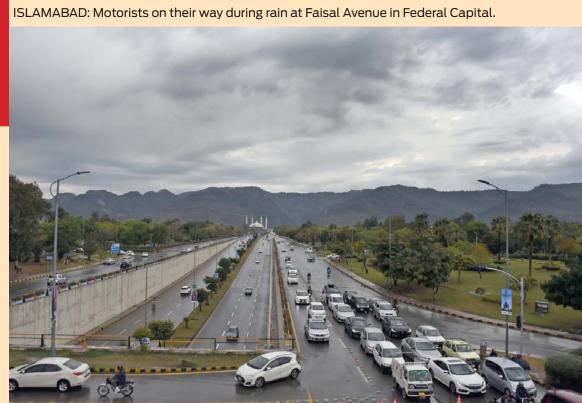
A country having irresponsible leaders face the risk of default and it is left with no option but to bow to every demand of the lenders and the people have to bear the entire burden who has nothing to do with the wastage of funds and other related matters.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the weak countries are given a clear message in the negotiations that either accept all our conditions or declare bankruptcy as there is no third option.

According to the available data, from July 2018 to June 2022, the devaluing of the currency has increased the debt burden by Rs9712 billion while 2835 billion rupees has been added to debt servicing on account of interest payments.

Due to these two policies alone, the country's debt and interest payments increased by 12548 billion rupees. During these four years, according to the average value of the dollar the country's debt has increased by 79 billion dollars without taking a single rupee as a loan.

Rain in Capital



The Government of Japan Awards MEXT Research Scholarships to Pakistani Students

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has awarded MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) Research Scholarships for Masters/Doctorate degrees to eleven (11) Pakistani students for academic year 2023-25 aiming to provide them with an opportunity to pursue higher studies in their respective fields at the prominent universities in Japan.

The Embassy of Japan organized a pre-departure orientation for the scholarship recipients on Friday. At the orientation, on top of the briefing on the scholarship program, Pakistani alumnus of the Japanese universities shared their



studying and living in Japan Alumni Association of Pakistan with the young scholarship

After orientation session, Mr. ITO Takeshi, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Japan in

knowledge and experience of honor the members of MEXT (MAAP) as well as to extend farewell to the fresh scholarship recipients.

While speaking at the reception, Mr. ITO congratulated the Pakistan, hosted a reception at fresh scholarship recipients the Ambassador's residence to upon their selection for the

prestigious MEXT research scholarship and advised them to pursue their studies with utmost dedication during their stay in Japan. He termed the award of scholarships a good opportunity for the young scholars not only to acquire education but also to learn Japanese culture and tradi-

"I sincerely congratulate the young Pakistani recipients of Japan's MEXT Research scholarship which is funded by the Government of Japan. You will embark on an educational and cultural journey to Japan. Be focused, return with strong knowledge and rich experiences, and become bridges of friendship between Japan and Pakistan" said the Chargé d'Af-

Presidents asks Wafaqi Mohtasib to strengthen capacity, intensify awareness campaign

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has asked the Wafaqi Mohtasib to intensify its awareness campaign to inform the people about its role in the provision of speedy and cost-effective justice against the maladministration of federal government organizations. He emphasized the need for strengthening the capacity of the Federal Ombudsman and enhancing its reach to the far-flung areas of the country to address the grievances of the people at their doorsteps. He added that people suffering from the excesses and injus-



tices at the hands of government's functionaries needed to be provided immediate relief.

The President made these

Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) of Pakistan, Mr Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, who called on him and presented the Annual remarks while talking to the Report-2022 of the institu-

Mr Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi apprised the President about the role and achievements of the Federal Ombudsman in providing justice to the people against the maladministration of government organizations during the year 2022. He informed the President that his institution received an unprecedented 164,174 complaints in 2022 as compared to 110,398 in 2021. He added that Wafaqi Mohtasib disposed of 157,770 complaints in 2022 as compared to 106,732 complaints in 2021 which was an increase of 50%. He further

stated that the phenomenal growth in the number of complaints and swift disposal of cases showed that the people trusted the institution of Mohtasib that was providing them speedy and cost-effective justice.

The Mohtasib highlighted that one-window facilitation desks had been established at all international airports in Pakistan to address the grievances of Overseas Pakistanis. He said that 137,647 overseas Pakistanis had been facilitated by the concerned agencies of the government, including NADRA, Passport Office, OPF etc during 2022.

5th Vice Chancellors' Forum of Islamic countries to begin in Islamabad on Sunday

ISLAMABAD: Over 250 academic leaders are converging in Islamabad for a two-day 5th Vice-Chancellors' Forum (VC Forum) on Universities in the Islamic World: Towards Disruptive Technology in a Globalised $\,$ World, set to begin on Sunday, 19th March 2023, at a five-star hotel.

The 5th VC Forum is jointly being organized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC), in partnership with COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), the British Council Pakistan and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICES-CO), and the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training. The Forum aims at building on the previous forums, held in Pakistan and Türkiye, from 2012 till 2017.

Over 40 heads of universities from 20 OIC counties and 200 Vice Chancellors from local universities would be among the 250 Vice Chancellors, Rectors, and Presidents of Universities / Higher Educational Institutions of the Islamic World that will be participating in the VC Forum this year. These countries include Azerbaijan, Benin, Chad, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Türkiye, UAE, Uganda, and Yemen.

Among the keynote speakers at the VC Forum are DrSalim M. AL Malik, Director General, ICESCO, and Ambassador Mustafa Turker Ari, Advisor to the President Council of Higher Education (CoHE), Turkey. The Forum will provide a platform for sharing experiences, networking, pooling resources, fostering collaborations, strengthening networks of excellence, and encouraging dialogue on the future of Higher Education in the Islamic World.

Panel discussions and invited talks are an integral part of the proceedings of the VC Forum. This year the four major themes around which panel discussions and invited talks would revolve are: 1) Transforming Traditional Faculties; 2) Improving Online Education; 3) Tools for Innovation and 4) Technology Commercialization and Forming Higher Education Re-Opening for International Students.

Quick adoption of technology in education, commerce, agriculture, and healthcare has radically transformed the mandate of universities, $% \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) =\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) =\frac{1}{$ from merely being centres of traditional education to becoming hubs of cutting-edge disruptive technologies, capable of swiftly developing superior solutions to meet the ever-changing international demands. This poses an immense challenge for academia to rethink its role, beyond just conferring degrees upon students, to developing critical thinkers who can adapt and respond to fast-changing global trends with agility and creating lifelong learners, with the relevant skillsets is essential for the survival of universities in the future.

Awn Chaudhry expressed desire for promote proactive partnerships among SCO member



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Awn Chaudhry, Advisor to Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports/Chairman of PTDC along with Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director PTDC virtually participated in the meeting of Heads of Tourist Administrations of the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) hosted by India today in hybrid mode.

APM in his opening comments, highlighted Pakistan's tourism potential and expressed desire for promote proactive partnerships among SCO member states to promote tourism among the member

While giving his remarks in SCO meeting, he stated that Pakistan attaches great importance to its membership of this esteemed organization and as part of the greater SCO mosaic, Pakistan too is very proud of its rich cultural heritage and tourism potential. In line with the SCO Joint Tourism Action Plan, Pakistan is in the process of implementing a comprehensive Tourism Promotion National Action Plan, he added.

He emphasized that there is a greater need to adopt tourist friendly visa policies and increase the aerial connectivity among the main cities of the SCO countries to facilitate business and recreational travel.

In the closing remarks, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director, PTDC said that "we are confident that by working together in a cooperative and collaborative manner, we can utilize rich potential of tourism of SCO member states for the socio economic development of the people of this region as well as we may promote peace and security in the region by promoting people to people contact through the

promotion of tourism. He added that government of Pakistan is trying to facilities movement of tourists at national, regional and international level by adopting a more tourist friendly visa policies and by improving facilities for visitors. He hoped that the joint protocol and SCO action plan for tourism will pave the way to jointly work for the progressive growth of tourism in the SCO member states for the long term benefit and economic prosperity of the region.

NIM-Peshawar delegates visit UAJK for insight into educational services

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) hosted a delegation of more than twenty trainee officers from the National Institute of Management (NIM) Peshawar on Friday as part of the 36th Mid-Career Management Course. The visit was aimed at gaining insight into UAJK's educational programs, teaching, and research initiatives in various fields. The delegation was warmly welcomed by UAJK's Director of Planning and Development, Prof. Dr. Ansar Yasin, Director of Youth Engagement, Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone, and Public Relations Officer, Mubashar Naqvi.

During the briefing, the NIM delegation was provided with a detailed overview of the administrative structure, history, and services offered by the premier institute of higher learning in the state. UAJK's Director of Planning and Development, Prof. Dr. Ansar Yasin, informed the delegation that UAJK was the first public sector educational institution to have its various campuses attain the status of autonomous universities. He also highlighted the fact that UAJK alumni are currently serving in various fields both locally and internationally.

The delegation showed great interest in the briefing provided by UAJK authorities and asked various questions to gain a better understanding of the institution's services. Moreover, the delegation visited the monument of the martyrs located in City Campus and offered fatiha for the martyred faculty, students, and staff of the UAJK in earthquake 2005.

Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone, Director of Youth Engagement, informed the delegation about how UAJK is preparing the youth to face future challenges by keeping them engaged in various positive activities. Meanwhile, Public Relations Officer, Mubashar Naqvi, expressed gratitude to the National Institute of Management Peshawar for selecting UAJK for the exposure of the trainee officer's visit.

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Pakistan calls for focused efforts for climate change

senior Pakistani official has urged "focused" efforts on part of the world community, governments and individuals in dealing with emergencies ranging from conflicts to climate change which, she said, "disproportionately affect the lives of women and girls".

"Prioritizing gender-responsive interventions, increasing women's participation in decision-making, addressing violence against women, investing in women's economic empowerment, and collecting sex-disaggregated data are key strategies to get back on track towards gender equality," Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women, told a panel discussion at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Participating in an interactive dialogue, 'Getting back on track: Achieving gender equality in a context of overlapping emergencies', Ms Bakhtiar said although climate change affected everyone, but women and girls bore the brunt, citing Pakistan where "between 50 to 80 percent of women are food producers and 70 percent of them manage livestock".

The recent floods, she said, had affected more than 33 million people in Pakistan, half of them were women and girls, millions still remained in need of immediate humanitarian assistance and more than 1.6 million were women of reproductive age, with thousands of pregnant women in need of urgent health services.

"We express concern that the Pakistan Floods Response Plan is only 36% funded more than halfway through its 9-month duration."

The National Commission on the Status of Women, she said, remained committed to promote and protect rights of women and girls amidst the looming threats posed by climate change.

The action plan coming out of Pakistan's climate change national report 2022 was implemented during the flood disaster, Ms Bakhtiar told delegates. "Now we are ready with our report on digitalization based on four areas - communication, financial inclusion, online learning tools and gender-based violence."

"We strongly believe that the fight against climate change emergency shall not be won without truly achieving women empowerment and without mobilizing the political will and necessary resources to take critical decisions," Ms Bakhtiar said in conclusion.

2022 is a year of Climate Catastrophe, and 2023 must be the year of Change

Dr. Abid Rashid Gill

ccording to the annual review of Christian Aid, the year 2022 witnessed continuous climate catastrophes that caused enormous human and financial losses. These climate events include Hurricane Ian, which ran into the US and Cuba in September, causing a total cost of \$100 billion and dislocating 4000 people. The drought and heat waves in Europe cost \$20 billion. While flooding in Pakistan killed more than 1700 people, displaced another 7 million people, and caused \$30 billion in financial damages, according to World Bank estimates.

Extreme weather events also resulted in severe human suffering due to the lack of food, drought, and massive displacements. A severe drought caused nearly 36 million people in East Africa, pushing many into the danger zone of starvation. While in West Africa, 1.3 million people were forced out by floods that caused the deaths of more than 600 persons in Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, and Niger. Some climate disasters in 2022 were swiftly triggered, such as the February Storm in the UK, which set a new record for a

Hurricane that directly smashed the Caribbean and Canada in September. It caused damages of more than \$3 billion within two days. Some climate events unfolded in months, like the droughts that hit Brazil and China and lasted for the whole year and caused \$4 billion and \$8.4 billion in damages, respectively. Dr. Dasgupta, a Researcher at European Institute for Economics and Environment, stated: "In 2022 flooding across Pakistan and China, scorching temperatures in India and Pakistan, dry spells across China and Europe, and a variety of tropical cyclones across Asia and America have caused massive economic damages ".

It seems climate meltdown did not spare any part of the globe in six continents in 2022. There are millions of stories of the human suffering behind the dollar figures. The human price of climate change can be evident in the homes destroyed by floods and livelihoods devastated due to dryness.

Climate Crises also worsened global food security. According to worldbank. org, climate changes in South Asia, South East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa have put 80% of the population at risk of

hunger due to food crop failures. The financial estimations of climate

wind speed of 122mph. Then there was catastrophes are based solely on insured losses, which means that the actual financial cost can be much higher, and human costs are usually not counted. The financial burdens are generally higher in wealthy countries due to their greater property values and ability to afford insurance. Some of the most catastrophic extreme weather events of 2022 impacted the poorer nations that do not have ensured human and physical assets and therefore do not have accurate estimations of climate losses. Also, these nations do not have buffers to withstand the climate impacts.

> These extreme climate events emphasize the urgent need for climate action by all nations living on this planet. The number of extreme weather conditions we witnessed across the globe in 2022 should serve as an alarm call to the world community. It doesn't matter if it is floods and cyclones or heatwaves and droughts; it is evident that the situation is only worsening. The urgency in tackling climate issues is crucial for 2023. We must be able to see the gradual removal of fossil fuels, acceleration of renewable energy, massive cut in material and energy per head use, environmentally sustainable cities and institutions, environmentally sustainable lifestyle, and more assistance

to the vulnerable. 2023 should be the year that we get up and begin to get the world back on the right path.

The people in the Global South, affected by these catastrophes, do not afford climate adaptive and mitigation technologies. They did little to trigger this climate crisis; it is unfair that they are left without any support. The damage and loss fund recently agreed upon at COP27 will offer financial assistance to developing nations suffering enormous losses from climate crises. This is a significant achievement for those at the forefront of the crisis. The flood victims in Pakistan urgently need this assistance to restore their lives.

The climate crisis is the liability of the communities enjoying resource-intensive and pollution-intensive lifestyles. Therefore, every individual on the earth should strive to have an environmentally sustainable lifestyle (recycle, reuse, plastic, and paper-free, optimized traveling, optimized water, and energy use) that eventually leads to sustainable towns, cities, states, and the world. The change must be seen by 2023.

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The food system revolution is coming

Robin Willoughby And Nico Muzi

isruption is coming to the agriculture sector. Around the world, livestock farmers are leaving the land, policymakers are targeting the harmful environmental and social effects of industrial meat production, and consumers are shifting away from meat to embrace healthier, more sustainable alternatives. With the sector approaching a crossroads, decision-makers in government, industry and civil society will need to heed the lessons from major transitions in other industries and start preparing.

The preparation will require a careful inventory of farmers, workers and consumers' needs. While farmers are growing older and leaving the land for other pursuits or retirement, the agriculture sector is struggling to attract new entrants and not just in richer industrialized countries. For every farm manager under 40, there are three over the age of 65 in Europe; and from sub-Saharan Africa to Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the number of older people living in rural areas is increasing, while the number of young people declines.

At the same time, farms are becoming larger and small farm operations are being squeezed. Owing to the challenging economics of farming and the power of a small number of giant industry incumbents, farms are being consolidated in the name of efficiency and economies of scale. As a result, the EU lost more than a third of its farms, and 40 percent of its livestock farms, from 2005 to 2020. Policymakers are thus left to consider whether and how to protect family farms and how

to avoid the risks of animal welfare violations, poor working conditions and diseases that are inherent in industrial livestock farming.

Policymakers are also waking up to the compelling body of evidence about industrial meat production's environmental harms. While agriculture accounts for nearly a third of all greenhouse gas emissions, livestock alone (particularly cattle) contribute nearly 15 percent. Moreover, animal agriculture is the main cause of deforestation and biodiversity loss. Forests are razed to free up land not just for animal grazing but also for the additional crops needed to feed those animals. Beef production alone takes up some 60 percent of land used for agriculture, even though it contributes less than 2 percent of total calories consumed globally.

In Spain, factory farm pollution has become so pervasive that pig manure has contaminated nearly a quarter of all ground and surface water in the country. No wonder regulators are urgently seeking ways to target livestock pollution and produce more on less land. Given the increasing risk that infectious diseases will spread from animals to humans (zoonoses) through industrial livestock farming, the impetus for tighter regulation will only grow.

While livestock and agriculture have traditionally been excluded from most emissions reduction schemes, policymakers in Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand are already working to close this gap, and many other countries will soon follow suit. The question now is not whether there will be increased regulation of the livestock industry, but what shape and form it will take. Farmers and companies alike should be prepared to adapt to changes that are now inevitable.

Finally, consumers, too, are shifting away from meat and dairy. Over the past decade, the aver-

age person's meat consumption has decreased by almost 17 percent in the UK and by 11 percent in Germany. Notwithstanding a recent slowdown, there is still growth in the uptake of alternative proteins — a food source that produces only a tiny fraction of the negative environmental and animal welfare effects of traditional meat products. Plant-based meat and milk sales are already trending up across the board in the EU, but also in countries like Thailand and South Africa. When these products reach taste and price parity with meat, their uptake by consumers could acceler-

ate very quickly indeed. Public policy also has a role to play. Livestock farming tends to be heavily subsidized in many countries, owing to the sector's low margins and high levels of debt. As sales fall, declining revenue is likely to have significant welfare implications for farmers and other workers tied to the industrial meat production systems.

Given the complexities of these interacting trends, policymakers and corporate leaders need to start getting in front of this issue now. The experience of other sectors that have begun decarbonizing — not least energy — shows that a planned and guided transition is always better than an ad hoc, unmanaged process.

One need look no further than last year's farmer protests in the Netherlands or New Zealand to see how abruptly climate policies can be disrupted when workers and communities feel left out. Unfortunately, we still have only a limited understanding of how best to integrate policy and corporate action to reduce food system emissions, while also protecting livelihoods. Since resisting change is not an option, policymakers and corporate leaders would do well to start thinking about how they will manage it in the coming years.

Stop chasing happiness

Arisha Irshad Ali

ou need to realize that happiness is not something you seek — it's something you become. The happiness of pleasure, the happiness of excellence, and the happiness of grace are the three different kinds of happiness. We must comprehend the type of pleasure we aspire to. When you take delight in instant gratification, you experience the happiness of pleasure. Like when you have your favorite dish and are famished. This is pleasure's delight. When you beat your fear and scale your biggest mountain, you'll find true happiness. Your ability to endure discomfort and the strength of your resolve will

determine how much pleasure you experience. Being thankful, or at the very least amazed and intrigued by the synchronicity of our lives, if not the intrinsic mystery of it all, is the happiness of grace. Your happiness will fill you with a positive spirit that will enable you to succeed in life. All you need to consider is the type of pleasure you want to experience. Because" Lots of red won't make blue. Pleasure won't make you whole". The cheat sheet is we must underline which kind of happiness we want. The more discomfort you choose, the happier and fortunate you will be. The happiness equation is (happiness=reality-expectation). As a human, we tend to have expectations that in long run ruin us. Instead of anticipating, we must have faith in the deed. We tried to escape suffering because we were aware that if we remained still, failure would be our lot in life. Even so, we favor ease over achievement. The desire to advance eventually reflects our desire for happiness. Simply making deliberate progress toward your objective is the essence

of happiness.

Your struggles will be what make you what you are discomfort is the pressure usually require to make us act in a way that we wouldn't otherwise. This, on the surface, feel scary, because it is unknown. But the most difficult moments of your life will be the catalyst of your becoming. The challenges will grow you into something you never imagine you could be. The "bad" things in your life will be the necessary leeway into things better than you can imagine. You will be grateful things didn't turn out the way you wanted. It is why heartbreak is crucial to human growth. The obstacle that becomes the way. Any idiot can enjoy the positive things in their lives, but it is only a few that can take the negative and find something more profound. Happiness is a byproduct of doing things that are challenging, meaningful, beautiful, and worthwhile. The is worthful to do something profound and life-altering stuff rather than just hoping for the best and hitting the sack.

A relationship makes you whole. Because we are social creatures who yearn for connection, relationships play a role in helping us communicate with our inner selves. You must decide to adore. Although it may sound annoying counsel, you must continue to pursue the people who make you feel alive, the activities you enjoy (even if they don't produce the desired results), and the goals you have for yourself. Even if it makes you nervous, you must choose love. (In fact, your fear about doing something is proportionate to vour love for it)

At the end of the day, to avoid pain is to avoid happiness(they are opposite forces but in the same function) To numb ourselves to one side of our feeling capacity is to shut down everything. It leaves us chasing the kind of empty happiness that never really fills us and leaves us shells of the people we are destined to be.

The Spokesman 5

Solution China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)

'ISSI hosts Roundtable with Heads of Missions of Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan'

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable with the Heads baijan, H.E. Mr. Atadian Mamlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, led the Mr. Aybek Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan; H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin. Ambassador of Kazakhstan; Mr. Tamerlan Khalilov, Charge d'Affaires of Azerbaijan; Mr. Saidjon Shafiev, Charge d' Affaires of Tajikisan; and Mr. Melis Moldaliev, Counselor Kyrgyz Republic.

Director General ISSI Ambassa-

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, and members of the CPSC represented the ISSI side.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, in his introductory remarks, briefed the delegation on the mission and working of Mission of Central Asia and Azer- of ISSI. He also highlighted Pakistan's cultural and trade ties with Central Asian states and Azerbaijan.

Warmly welcoming the delegation, CAR-Azerbaijan delegation. Other DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood delegation members included: H.E. underscored Pakistan's deep historical and cultural links with Central Asia and Azerbaijan and the efforts underway to further fortify these ties. He highlighted Pakistan's 'Vision Central Asia' policy and its 5-pronged focus on deepening political and diplomatic; trade and investment; energy and connectivity; security and defence; and cultural and dor Sohail Mahmood, Chairman BoG people-to-people relations. He added



that, besides history and culture, the key driver of this policy was Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored the pivotal importance of regional connectivity and stressed that Pakistan provided the shortest access to the sea to Central Asian states. Adding that both sides

were working on enhancing 'hard' and 'soft' connectivity, he inter alia suggested that Pakistan and Central Asian states and Azerbaijan should establish a network of think-tanks, for which the Institute of Strategic Studies offered its platform. This will help to reinforce and advance the shared goals in vari-

Ambassadors/Heads of The Mission, in their respective interventions, welcomed the initiative to hold the Roundtable and agreed with the overall objective of upgrading bilateral ties in diverse fields and enhancing mutual engagement at the regional level. During the detailed exchanges in interactive session, valuable suggestions were made by the Heads of Mission to further increase high-level exchanges, strengthen business-to-business links, promote energy and communication projects, build academic and think-tank networks, and hold cultural exchanges on a regular basis.

It was also agreed to hold events to develop policy recommendations and suggest ways to enhance mutual awareness of the vast opportunities for increased collaboration between the two sides, on the bilateral plane and regionally.

Subsequently, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood delivered his concluding remarks, which were followed by presentation of ISSI publications to the delegation.

Pakistan's TPL Corp CEO meets with Finland Ambassador

Example 2 Commerce Report

LAHORE: TPL Corp CEO Mr Ali Jameel met with Finland's Ambassador to Pakistan to strengthen business relations between the two countries. The meeting, which took place at Avari Towers Karachi, is a significant step towards driving industries in Pakistan. With a dedicated contact person of Finland Pakistan Business Council (FPBC) at the Karachi headquarters, TPL Corp, a leading conglomerate in Pakistan with diverse interests in technology, insurance, fund management and real estate, is committed and Mr Jameel and the Finland well-positioned to support Finnish companies looking Ripatti, along with FPBC to establish their presence



FPBC was established in 1985, backed by major locally operating banks and industries, and has played a critical role in strengthening relations between the two countries.

The meeting between Ambassador, Mr Hannu FPBC's dedicated contact Chairman Mr Willie Eerola, symbolizes the next phase step up on the ladder of Jameel said.

of the industrial revolution developing our two coundriven by FPBC, Finland and Pakistan The two countries have enjoyed strong diplomatic and economic ties for over seven decades, and there is tremendous potential to strengthen these relations further.

"Finland had a non-res-

ident Ambassador to Pakistan until last year. The re-opening of the resident Embassy of Finland in Islamabad last September is a clear sign of the rising interest and importance of Pakistan in Finland. The possibility for Finnish companies to make contacts and get information from the

person in the economic hub

of Karachi is again a new

tries' economic relations. It is also a clear boost for our companies looking for new partners and markets in our two countries," H.E. Mr Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan, said.

In July 2022, Finnfund, a leading development financier and impact investor in Finland, acquired a 17.59% shareholding in TPL Insurance Limited, enabling the company to introduce innovative and tech-driven insurance products in Pakistan.

"International collaborations like these can play an instrumental role in bringing in foreign exchange to the country, which is a critical need for the Pakistani economy currently", Mr Ali

Spotify for Artists Hosts first Masterclass in Lahore



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Given the importance of music culture emerging from the country, Spotify hosted its first Masterclass for the entire artist community in Lahore to create awareness of music streaming trends, listener growth & new features.

Among other leading voices from the music industry, who attended the event, there was also a renowned music producer, curator and artist, Zulfiqar Jabbar Khan, also known as Xulfi, sharing his perspective on the Pakitani music industry

Artists, artist managers and labels had the opportunity to learn about how they can maximise their growth on Spotify through the session on the Spotify For Artists and panel discussion with Xulfi on the trends in Pakistani music industry, making music, pitching for playlists and the relevance of audio streaming.

The series of Masterclasses being conducted by Khan FM, Artist & Label Partnerships Manager for Pakistan, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka at Spotify in Pakistan are designed to provide aspiring musicians from the local landscape to comprehensively embrace and utilize the tools that are available to them through the streaming service, helping creators build and grow audiences with new and

enhanced tools. With the first event conducted in November last year in Karachi, the Masterclass format has evolved, adding a distinctive touch to it for the latest edition.

The event enabled artists to learn more about how Spotify can advance their careers substantially through its massive local and global outreach along with the breadth of offerings that it provides access

'Sindh & Georgia as twin states' Georgia Assembly passes the resolution



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mr. Farooq Mughal, the first Pakistani Muslim American elected to the Georgia House of Representatives and President of the Georgia Chapter of the America Pakistan Business Development Forum, was instrumental in getting the US government and Georgia House of Representatives members to support

This resolution's concept was first proposed by Syed Nasser Wajahat, Co Founder and Secretary General of America Pakistan Business Development Forum with the full backing of the organization's Chairman, Zeeshan Altaf Lohya and President, Sheikh Imtiaz Hussain.

This is a significant accomplishment for the people of both nations and will contribute significantly to the improvement of US-Pakistanintrade ties and business relations as well as bilateral relationship as a whole.

French delegation visited NIMA head office



ISLAMABAD: Meeting: A 4 memberFrench delegation led by Col Philippe Deponcelle, visited NIMA Head Office Islamabad on 17 March, 2023. The delegation comprised of Col Nicolas Dean of COSA, DA France in Islamabad, Col Jérôme Mancel (incoming DA France) and Mr. Guillaume Gandelin, desk officer French MoD.

The delegation called on Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI (M) DG NIMA in his office. Issues of bilateral cooperation between NIMA, French embassy and French think tanks came

During their visit, Cdre (Retd) Bilal Abdul Nasir SI(M), Director NIMA(I) gave detailed presentation on NIMA's structure and working. French delegation inquired about issues of US-Indo Pacific strategy, CEPC, maritime education and training as well as role of JMICC. At the end, souvenirs were exchanged.

US Embassy-funded PMIS training concluded for prison staff in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Embassy-funded 'Prison Management Information System (PMIS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' has successfully concluded two rounds of Training of the Trainers. The two 5-day PMIS training sessions were conducted on 06 to 17 March 2023 for 84 prison staff members, including seven women participants at the Prison Training Academy in Haripur.

The U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office (INL), with UNODC's technical support, aims to equip 40 prison facilities with computer networking in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Merged districts. The project also includes provision of IT equipment, development of PMIS, and trainings on the operation and management of PMIS for prison staff members.

Through the PMIS training, participants were introduced to the PMIS manual and technical modules that included barrack allocations, reallocations, barrack history, manage-



Hospital and medical management modules addressed prescriptions in OPD, hospital admissions, and adding, transferring, and dispensing medicine. The training concluded with the HR module covering staff profile manage-

On day 5 of each training round, the trainers gave an overview of their respective modules and opened the floor for suggestions and inputs to be incorporated into the system. Mr. Saadat Hassan, Inspector General Prisons, awarded the participation certifment of the visitors, and check-in and icates and congratulated the prison check-out of inmates. Participants staff on their successful completion were trained in the court production of the PMIS course. He thanked INL module, providing an overview of how for funding the initiative and praised

emy for facilitating the training. He also thanked the participants for their input and suggestions, which will help improve the system.

The training staff included Mr. Saadat Hassan, Inspector General Prisons, and Mr. Hashmat Ullah, Additional Inspector General Prisons, Mr. Najam Abbasi, Superintendent Jail, constables, and the security, ministerial and technical staff from the prison health department.

The trainees expressed their appreciation for the PMIS course training, highlighted the need for future trainings that provide opportunities to advance PMIS skills, and build further knowledge of prison operations and manage-

ACCA welcomes newly qualified members in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) gave an extravagant welcome to the newly qualified ACCA professionals in the country at the New Member Ceremonies held in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

 $The med\, {}^c\! Shaping\, the\, future$ in uncertain times', the events were a living proof of how ACCA is enabling its members to think ahead and turn challenges into opportunities for the benefit of the society. The events celebrated over 700 newly inducted ACCA members and fellow members who come from diverse backgrounds but follow the same journey as their peers globally. The events also recognised ACCA's prizewinning students, newly award-

tical Experience Supervisors and winners of ACCA advocacy awards.

Assad Hameed Khan, initiated the ceremonies by welcoming the new members including fellows and high achievers, emphasising on the vital role played by professional accountants in nation building as well inclusive, resilient and sustainable national economic growth.

Speaking to the new members, ACCA President, Joseph Owoloabi, said:

'Accountancy is an increasingly meritocratic profession, where the content of your character and the quality of your mind and your work mean much more than nationality or background. Your glob-

ed approved employers, Prac- al credentials mean that the welcome mat will be rolled out for you by top employers all over the world, in all of the 178 ACCA's head of Pakistan, countries where our members are active.

In a video message, President Dr Arif Alvi, said, ACCAs certainly have the potential to change and rebuild the economy of Pakistan. The accountancy profession plays a central role as contribution towards an in the economic development of any country. Accountants are uniquely placed to help drive transparency and be at the forefront of the global fight against corruption.

Chief Guest at the ceremony in Lahore, Governor Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, said,

Pakistan looks forward to ACCA's strategic business leadership for a better tomorrow.'



at the new member ceremo-

Notable leaders who spoke finance Bank, Faisal Mush- Co-founder and Managing taq, CEO, TMUC, Muhamnies included Kabeer Naqvi, mad Azfar Ahsan, Founder, Sajid Hussain, CEO, SKANS President & CEO, U Micro- Nutshell Group, Faisal Qamar, School of Accountancy.

Partner, Decibel HRMS and

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary meets with Chairman CIDCA



Mentoring Desk

BEIJING: Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan held a meeting with Chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Luo Zhaohui here on Friday.

During the meeting, the two sides had a

fruitful interaction. "We value enduring partnership with CIDCA for Pakistan's socio-economic development including under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Global Development Initiative (GDI) and more recently for flood rehabilitation support,"as per a tweet from Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.



Index	Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
41,329.95	41,694.09			
Day's High	Day's Low:			
41,808.88	41,270.81			
Index Value	Change			
7,075,541,822	-364.14			
Percentage	Time			
-0.87%	17 Mar, 2023 5: 00 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
	-74.63			
7,335.40	-74.63			
7,335.40 Percentage	-74.63 Time			
,				
Percentage -1.01%	Time 17 Mar, 4: 35 pm			
Percentage -1.01%	Time 17 Mar, 4: 35 pm GMT			
Percentage -1.01% USA: Dow Jones	Time 17 Mar, 4: 35 pm GMT ndustrial Average			
Percentage -1.01% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	Time 17 Mar, 4: 35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change			
Percentage -1.01% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 31,904.68	Time 17 Mar, 4: 35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change -341.87			
Percentage -1.01% USA: Dow Jones I Index Value 31,904.68 Percentage	Time 17 Mar, 4: 35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change -341.87 Time 17 Mar, 1: 47 pm GMT-4			

Open Market Forex Rates

Change

+323.18**Time**

17 Mar, 3: 15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

27,333.79

Percentage

+1.20%

Open Market	I CICAL	14105
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	188.4
Bahrain Dinar	753.69	761.69
Canadian Dollar	204	206.2
China Yuan	41.09	41.49
Danish Krone	40.41	40.81
Euro	299.5	302.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.1	36.45
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	922.9	931.9
Malaysian Ringgit	62.99	63.59
NewZealand \$	174.91	176.91
Norwegians Krone	26.69	26.99
Omani Riyal	735.95	743.95
Qatari Riyal	77.37	78.07
Saudi Riyal	75.2	76
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	26.97	27.27
Swiss Franc	304.79	307.29
Thai Bhat	8.24	8.39
U.A.E Dirham	77.25	78
UK Pound Sterling	341.5	345
US Dollar	282.7	285.5

Lucky Cement continues its commitment to education by building a new primary and secondary school

News Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited, in collaboration with The Citizen Foundation, has successfully completed the stateof-the-art school in the vicinity of our Pezu plant premises. The "Abdul Razzak Tabba Block Lucky Cement Limited Pezu Campus-I" for primary classes, while the "Muhammad Yunus Tabba Block Pezu Campus-II" will be for secondary classes. The admissions for the first batch of 2023 are underway. This school is in line with the UNSDG "Quality Education" and emphasizes the importance of quality education for all.

In addition to these educational initiatives, Lucky Cement Limited has successfully inducted the 3rd batch of students for a vocational training program in collaboration with NLC (ATINs) for permanent residents of District Lakki Marwat. This initiative aims to provide skill-based training to the youth of the region, enabling them to secure employment opportunities in the future. The previous two batches, trained with collaboration of Hunar Foundation, have already completed their trainings and have been employed in our factory in their respective fields, which is a source of pride not only for candidates and their families but also for Lucky Cement

Lucky Cement Limited is also providing intermediate scholarships to students from District Lakki Marwat to support their academic pursuits. Furthermore, under its commitment to support education in District Lakki Marwat continuing over a decade, Lucky Cement is extending its support by offering higher education scholarships to university students from District Lakki Marwat, in top business

and engineering universities of Pakistan. "We are confident that all these activities in the area of education and skill development will have a positive impact on the lives of the residents of District Lakki Marwat," added the spokesperson.

CPEC and currency swap arrangement were ideas of President Asif Ali Zardari

KARACHI: Federal Minister Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar attended Meet and Greet session with media at TDAP HQ in Karachi todav i.e Fridav 17 March 2023.

Federal Minister during discussion told media that China's eastern province, Shandong is set to relocate its labour-intensive industries to Pakistan to reduce production cost which is part of CPEC. Not only the idea of multi-billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor was initiated by President Asif Ali Zardari but President Asif Ali Zardari also played key role in implementation of Currency Swap Arrangement (CSA) which gave positive signal to the market on the availability of liquidity of the other country's currency on the onshore market.

Federal Minister said, China to build an industrial park in Pakistan which will serve as a focal point for all the industrial requirements of Pakistan from China and vice versa. The Federal Minister said projects like solar panels assembly plant, metal refining plants, future investment. fertilizer production plant, food processing plants (dry milk production, seafood process-



Federal Minister while speaking to media appreciated the barter trade model and said al cabinet. ing, meat processing) are being considered for that the same could be used to enhance

Speaking to the media, the Federal Minister plus status with the EU.

exports. He said that framework on barter said we are not only emphasizing on enhanctrade model has been approved by the feder- ing exports to the US, EU and rest of the world, but also working constantly on GSP

Agricultural sector indispensable for economic growth: Tasneem Qureshi

跨 Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State/SAPM for Industries and Production, Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi has said all possible steps are being taken to enable rural development-driven economic growth by enhancing financial inclusion in the agriculture sector to boost productivity and exports.

He expressed these views while addressing a closing ceremony of a five-day international training course on productivity gainsharing in agribusiness enterprises here on Friday.

National Productivity Organization (NPO) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo, Japan.

The minister said the government is committed to support the agriculture sector and believed that initiatives and platforms which connect such international practices can drive further development of the sector.

He was of the view that agricultural



The event was jointly organised by sector is indispensable for the country's economic growth, food security, employment generation and poverty alleviation particularly at the rural level.

Chief Executive Officer NPO, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry and Head of APO, Tadahisa Manabe also addressed the event, which was attended by delegates from APO member countries, academics, experts

from health and agriculture sectors. The APO, established on May 11, 1961,

is a union of 21 asian countries with headquarter in Tokyo working for promotion of socio-economic development in the region and among member countries.

The members of APO include Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and

Exporters Demand a World-Class IP House in the Country

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has demanded that the government must establish a world-class & central intellectual property house for the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan to better protect the intellectual property rights (IPRs) of its R&D fraternity, manufacturers and exporters. He also highlighted the importance of Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to penetrate deeper into EU, UK, Australian, Japanese, South Korean and North American export markets.

It is pertinent to note that Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) has conducted a consultative session with FPCCI at its head nism to protect their IPRs. The session was attended by the representatives of various sectors & industries; and, individual cases of various producers were also discussed.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that due to lack of an efficient, central database and registration mechanism, there are thousands of IP cases pending at any point in time in the country. There continue to suffer the way it al brands.

has in the case of basmati rice due to lack of IPRs protection in international markets; and, as a matter of fact, Pakistani basmati rice products have been selling in other countries through third parties & rebranding in an unfair manner to our own farmers,

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, informed that FPCCI will be celebrating Intellectual Property Day at its head office in Karachi on 26th April 2023 to create awareness in the business community and to put forward the collective demands and complaints of the business community vis-à-vis IPRs from platform

of the apex body. Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI, maintained that what we miss out on with our lack of respect for intellectual office in Karachi to apprise property is that globally, it is the business community of synonymous with preference, their services & the mecha-quality, credibility and originality of products: therefore fetching higher prices and higher volumes.

Mr. Shaukat Omerson, VP FPCCI, proposed that Pakistani business community should be given a fair chance at learning about the world intellectual property organization (WIPO); so that, their trademarks & patents are protected in international markets - and, it will result in creating, developing is no way that Pakistan can and sustaining internation-

Ufone 4G, Connect Hear join hands to enable easy accessibility for the deaf community in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cellular company, Ufone 4G and Connect Hear, a social enterprise aiming to enable and empower persons with disabilities, have collaborated to improve accessibility for the deaf community to enhance their socioeconomic integration. Amir Pasha, Group Director PR, Media, CSR and Corporate Communication, PTCL& Ufone 4G, and Arhum Ishtiaq, Co-founder/CTO Connect Hear signed the agreement here in Islamabad.

Ufone 4G, being a responsible corporate citizen, has been leveraging its technological expertise to promote equal access to social and economic opportunities, while Connect Hear, established in 2017, provides means of independent communication and information in sign language. Through its partnership with ConnectHear, Ufone 4G will



Connect Hear's digital app that provides instant and remote access to sign language internity communicate. Equipped with Ufone 4G's reliable and ment will be able to commu-

Commenting on the development, Amir Pasha Group Direc-shared growth because, we at tor PR, Media, CSR and Corpo- Ufone 4G strongly believe, it is

provide free data access to rate Communication, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "More than 6 percent of the Pakistani population is differently-abled that preters to help the deaf communeeds to be integrated into the country's socioeconomic ecosystem. We are proud to collabspeedy data connection, the orate with Connect Hear to people with hearing impair- enable the deaf community to communicate and socialize. The nicate with ease and access no initiative perfectly resonates matter wherever they are in the with Ufone 4G's brand philosophy of inclusivity, under which we strive to foster equality and

all about U!"

In addition to free data access, Ufone 4G will also introduce special data packages, offering more MBs and text messages instead of calls as the deaf community generally uses video calls as a primary source of communication. Furthermore, ConnectHear will sensitize and teach basic sign language to Ufone 4G staff at respective franchises and service centers to help them effectively communicate

with the deaf community. Ufone 4G and Connect Hear will also educate the Deaf community about UPaisa and its services through special awareness sessions and videos in sign language, in a bid to empower the community with financial independence. It is noteworthy that Ufone 4G is the first and only organization to collaborate with Connect Hear for social empowerment of the deaf community, setting a right precedent in society.



foodpanda is committed to promoting road safety, as demonstrated by its recent initiative to provide training to its riders in collaboration with the Karachi Traffic Police. The purpose of this session was to emphasize the importance of following traffic rules and promoting responsible driving habits that will contribute to a safer future for everyone.

Law Minister urges all political leaders to sit together for improving economy

Spokesman Report

all political parties should sit togethsteer the economy out of crisis situations. This was said by Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in honor of Office Bearers of Pakistan Bar Council, Islamabad Bar Council, Islamabad High tion councils should be promoted to Court Bar Association and Islama-

bad District Bar Association

political polarization is not good for the country and stressed that all ISLAMABAD: The economy of concerned should reconsider their Pakistan is facing serious challenges approach to give a better economic and it is high time that the leaders of future to the posterity. He said that for how long we will run our econoer and discuss ways and means to my on foreign loans and urged that we should work hard to make Pakistan a self-reliant country.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the burden of cases on courts was increasing and stressed that a mechanism of mediasettle out of court trade disputes. He said that the bar council and asso-Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the ciation should set up their desks



in ICCI to facilitate the business community in prompt solution of government should focus on conducive policies to promote business

activities, investment and exports. Haroon Rasheed, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council said that the business community is

the backbone of the economy and close cooperation between business trade disputes. He stressed that the and lawyers' communities would produce beneficial results for the

> Raja Aleem Khan Abbasi, Vice Chairman, Islamabad Bar Council said that the current rent control act should be made more balanced cial disputes.

for landlords and tenants to provide quick justice in rent disputes. He stressed for a charter of economy by all stakeholders to arrest the further downfall of the economy.

Naveed Malik, President, Islamabad High Court Bar Association said that a committee comprising representatives of ICCI and Bar Associations should be constituted to work for solving the issues of business and lawyers' communities.

Qaiser Imam Gondal, President, Islamabad District Bar Association said that time and investment was important for the business community and the legal system should ensure prompt solution of commer-

Movements in World Rankings following resumption of FIH Hockey Pro League

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The return of the FIH Hockey Pro League, after a two-month hiatus, has produced great hockey action and a string of upsets, leading to major shake-ups in the world rankings.

While there is plenty of movement at the top of the table in the men's rankings, including a new world no.1, the changes in women's rankings are minor, said a press release.

In the FIH Men's World Rankings, all teams that featured among the top-6 at the end of the FIH Men's World Cup 2023 have moved to different spots while still retaining their place inside the top-6. Netherlands (2848) climbed up one spot to the top of the world rankings on account of Germany dropping points to Australia and India in the Rourkela mini-tournament. Belgium (2846) are also beneficiary of Germany's loss climbing up one spot into second

Germany (2752) managed to get one win out of four in the Rourkela mini-tournament and slip down to third in the world rankings, just ahead of India (2689) who had a stellar home run of 3 wins and one shoot-out win to



(2576) have made a tough start to their Pro League campaign with 2 wins from their first 8 games which drops them down one spot into fifth.

India's charge up the rankings sees England (2536) lose ground as they slide down to sixth in the world rankings. Argentina (2269) and Spain (2251) played in the mini-tournament in Hobart alongside Australia with both teams maintaining their rankings in seventh and eighth place respectively. Spain's three wins in the first three matches had seen them briefly climb up climb two spots into fourth. Australia to the seventh spot, but a final match are the only team among those involved rankings over China.

loss to Argentina saw the teams switch back. Korea (1942) and New Zealand (1899) round out the top ten, having not played an international match since the end of the World Cup.

In the FIH Women's World Rankings, Argentina, Australia, China, Germany, New Zealand, and USA were in action in the Sydney, Wellington and Hobart mini-tournaments, with Argentina, Germany and New Zealand playing 4

in the mini-tournaments to change positions on the world rankings table.

Netherlands (3199) remain at the top of the table, continuing to maintain their huge lead over Argentina (2640) in second place. Australia (2546) have made a great start to their Pro League campaign with 3 wins, 4 draws (including 2 shoot-out wins), and 1 loss in their opening 8 matches and retain the third spot in the world rankings. Just over 100 points separate teams between the fourth and seventh position, with Germany (2260) climbing up one spot into fourth ahead of England (2217) in fifth, Belgium (2175) in sixth and Spain (2157) in seventh.

India (2086), New Zealand (1879) and China (1777) close out the top-10 positions, with India last featuring in the Nations Cup where they finished as champions, securing a place in the FIH Hockey Pro League for the 2023/24 season. New Zealand have had a slow start to their pro league campaign winning 1 match at their home mini-tournament, with 2 shootout losses and 1 outright loss. While the matches, whereas Australia, China and results allowed China to close in and USA played their first 8 matches of the reduce the points deficit, New Zealand 2022/23 Pro League season. Germany maintained their ninth spot in the world

All-round Qalandars down Zalmi to set up PSL 8 final clash with Sultans

By A Sports

LAHORE: Young opening batter Tahir Baig's sensible 54-run knock powered Lahore Qalandars into the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight final with a narrow four-wicket victory over Peshawar Zalmi in the Eliminator 2 on Friday.

The Qalandars will now defend their title against Multan Sultans in the final, who thumped them by a massive margin of 86 runs in the qualifier on Wednesday.

Set to chase 172, the Qalandars accumulated 176/6 with seven balls to spare at the back of an anchoring half-century by

The Qalandars had an unwanted start to the pursuit as the home side lost two quick wickets for a mere 38 runs in the fifth over with their hard-hitting opener Fakhar Zaman (6) and debutant Ahsan Bhatti (15) perishing cheaply.

Abdullah Shafique then joined hands with Tahir and put on a brief 31-run partnership before a mix-up between the wickets saw the end of the former's innings, who perished for a run-a-ball 10.

Despite his side losing wickets at regular intervals, Tahir held his ground firm and kept the scoreboard ticking sensibly before putting a crucial partnership with Sam Billings with the pair adding 50 runs in 28 deliveries.

Zalmi's last-match hero Aamer Jamal then finally remained the notable run-gethanded his side a much-needed breakthrough when he hit 21-ball 28, featuring three back at Tahir soon after the latter boundaries, followed by Sikanamassed his maiden half-cen-



Tahir remained the top-scorer for the Qalandars with an anchoring 42-ball 54, laced up with seven boundaries and two

Billings and Sikandar Raza made sure to maintain Qalandars' march towards victory with vital cameos before David Wiese (9*) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (12*) steered their side over the line.

Wicketkeeper batter Billings ter for the Qalandars with his dar, who scored 23 off 14 with the help of as many boundaries. Zalmi's skipper Babar Azam

Azmatullah Omarzai led the bowling attack for the Zalmi with 2/31 while Salman Irshad, Aamer and Wahab Riaz struck out a batter each.

Opting to bat first, Zalmi managed to raise a commendable total of 171/5 on the board at the back of a brilliant knock by their wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Haris.

Earlier, the visitors were off to an unwanted start as Zalmi lost their young batting sensation Saim Ayub (9) cheaply in the second over at a combined total of just 15.

Following an early setback,

and Haris settled things down for their side as the pair added 89 runs amid the second-wicket

partnership. The duo had put Zalmi in command at 102/1 in 11 overs before Rashid Khan handed Qalandars a much-needed breakthrough as he trapped Babar leg before wicket.

Babar scored 42 off 36 deliveries, smashing seven bound-

The Zalmi then dealt with another blow in the same bowler as Rashid Khan got rid of Tom Kohler-Cadmore for a duck.

Haris, however, continued his domination over the Qaland-

ars' bowlers and put on a vital 49-run partnership with Bhanuka Rajapaksa before Shaheen finally dismissed him on the last delivery of his spell.

He top-scored for Zalmi with a 54-ball 85, hitting 11 boundaries and two sixes.

Following Haris's departure, Rajapaksa's cameo made sure Zalmi finished with a par score in the second eliminator. He remained unbeaten with 25 in 18 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Rashid and Zaman Khan led the Qalandars' bowling attack; taking two wickets each while Shaheen made one scalp.

Shami, Rahul fire India to victory in ODI opener against Australia

Sports Desk

MUMBAI: Mohammed Shami's bowling figures of 3-17 and an unbeaten 75 by KL Rahul helped India beat Australia by five wickets in the first one-day international on Friday.

Australia were bowled out for 188 in 35.4 overs after a dramatic collapse following opener Mitchell Marsh's 65-ball 81 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

In a tricky chase, India were in trouble at 39-4 before Rahul stayed calm and put on key partnerships including an unbeaten 108-run stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who made 45, to achieve victory in 39.5

The hosts lead the three-match series 1-0 with the two teams warming up for the 50-over World Cup later this year in India.

Bowlers ruled in the ODI opener with Shami and Mohammed Siraj taking three wickets each to make Australia slide from a strong 129-2 after being invited to bat

The Australian innings turned on its head after Marsh, who is playing as a



specialist batsman after recovering from an ankle injury, departed in the 20th over.

He put on 72 runs for the second wicket with skipper Steve Smith and smashed 10 fours and five sixes to take the wind out of the Indian bowlers who hit back with wickets.

Marsh reached his fifty with a boundary and another four got Australia past 100 before he fell to Jadeja in his attempt to go after the left-arm spinner and got caught.

Australia suddenly lost their way as Shami with help from Jadeja and Siraj ripped through the rest of the Australian

Josh Inglis, who donned the wicketkeeping gloves after Alex Carey was ruled out sick, looked good in his knock of 26 before being bowled by Shami.

Shami then sent back Cameron Green (12) and Marcus Stoinis (5) to break the back of the opposition batting.

Australia's pace spearhead hurt India early in the chase with three his wickets after fellow quick Stoinis took down left-handed opener Ishan Kishan lbw for

Starc, a left-arm quick, then struck on successive deliveries to send back Virat Kohli (4) and Suryakumar Yadav (0) both lbw.

Rahul, who recently lost his place to Shubman Gill in the final two Tests against Australia after an extended batting slump, played out the hat-trick ball but Starc got Gill out for 20.

Rahul and skipper Hardik Pandya, who made his debut as ODI captain in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, put on 44 runs.

Pandya fell to Stoinis on 25 but Rahul stood firm with the left-handed Jadeja, who hit the winning runs.

Rahul reached his 13th ODI fifty and then changed gears as he hit Adam Zampa for a four and six as India won with more than 10 overs to spare.

The second ODI is on Sunday in Visakhapatnam.

Pakistan's Muhammad Ammad wins Qatar Junior Open Squash title



Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's prominent and current ranking No. 2 Muhammad Ammad clinched the most coveted Qatar Junior Open title Navida Laqman of Sri Lanka in the straight sets final played here on Friday.

Muhammad Ammad, whose current world ranking is 350 till last December, took no time in defeating his rival in the final, the score was 11-3, 11-2 and 11-3.

Muhammad Hammad fully dominated the Qatar Junior Open and right from the first round after defeating Omar Afifi of Egypt in straight sets with 11-2, 11-1 and 11-2. He marched to the final before defeating Muhammad Al Emadi of Qatar in the quarter-final 3-0, with score 11-4, 11-1 and 11-1 and another rival Adair Chandramouli of Singapore in the semi-final. The score of the semi-final was 11-3, 11-4 and 11-3.

Trained and coached by Tahir Iqbal, Munawar Zaman and Karam Khan (PAF), the jubilant Muhammad Ammad thanked Director General Sports Khalid Khan for extending financial help to him to play the Qatar Junior Open.

Before recording victory in the Qatar Junior Open Squash, Muhammad Ammad played the quarter-final of the US Junior. Muhammad Ammad is expected to represent Pakistan in the World Junior in Australia in July 2023 and also participate in the forthcoming Asian Junior Squash Championship in August in Hong Kong.

"I am working hard to win more titles for Pakistan," Muhammad Ammad said. "I am also thankful to the support of PAF and President Pakistan Squash Federation," he added.

Team Allana to face Team Ghazi in finals of Pakistan National Bridge Trials

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: In order to select national bridge team for participation in the 22nd Bridge Federation of Middle East Competition due to be held in May 2023, the Pakistan Bridge Federation has conducted trials over the past four days at the Karachi Gymkhana Bridge Tables. These open bridge trials concluded after Round Robin Matches where every aspiring team played every other team twice. A total of 16 board matches were contested each time and noticeable was an enervating and fatiguing battle for ultimate success.

And the teams emerging as the finalist two teams are Team Allana and Team Ghazi. As for Team Allana comprising of A.R. Allana, Javed Miran, Jahangir Ahmed, Sarfraz Ahmed Khan, Tahir Masood and Anwar Kazilbash, the going has been glossy and they stood out as the formidable front runners with a points

Regarding the team coming second there was an unyielding fight for survival between Team Ghazi, Puris and Kamran Team.In the end Team Ghazi consisting of Tehseen Gheewala, Imran Abedi, Hassan Askari, Mohsin Chandna, Rashid ul Ghazi

and Farrukh Liaqat emerged as the second intimidating team. Now over the next two days, Team Allana and Team Ghazi will play a final of 6X16 boards. Dates are 18th and 19th March 2023. The winning team will be declared National Champion and will represent Pakistan at the 22nd Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East, a championship that will be held in

Final tally of scores are; Allana 179.58; Ghazi 162.25 uris 158.20; Kamran 150.95; KAGAZI 143.09; Islamabad Aces 120;

Ghana gives state funeral to soccer star Atsu killed in Turkey quake



Ghanaians gathered outside the country's parliament building in Accra on Friday for the state funeral of national soccer team winger Christian Atsu, who died during the earthquake in south-

Atsu had gone missing after the February 6 earthquake following the collapse of an apartment building in Hatay. His body was later found under the rubble and flown back to Ghana.

Mourners silently filed past Atsu's coffin, which arrived draped in Ghana's national flag. Family, fans and beneficiaries of his charitable donations remembered him as a philanthropist.

"He's even more than a football player," said Fedna Asare, a family friend. "His name will forever be in our hearts because he has helped a lot of people."

Atsu had been scheduled to fly out of southern Turkey hours before the quake but the Ghanaian had opted to stay with the club after scoring the winning goal in a February 5 Super Lig match.

The disaster killed more than 54,000 people in Turkey and Marcus Rashford scores as

United ease into Europa League quarters

Manchester United cruised into the Europa League quarter-finals as Marcus Rashford's second-half goal secured a 1-0 win at Real Betis in the last-16 second leg on Thursday to wrap up a 5-1 aggregate victory.

The English side meticulously protected the comfortable advantage they established at Old Trafford as the Spanish team huffed and puffed to little effect and exited with a whimper.