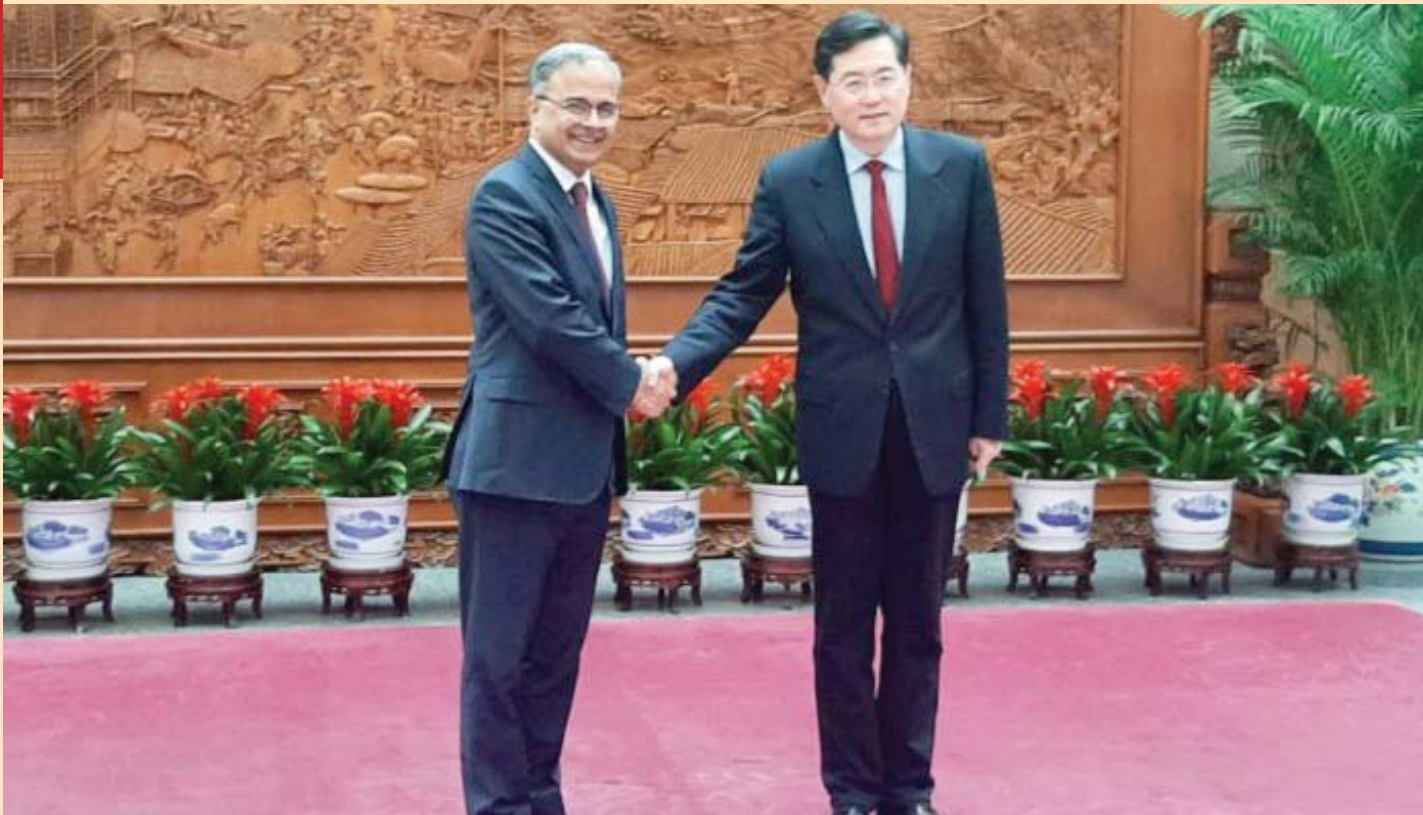






## Pak-China relations

BEIJING: Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan meeting with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Saturday.



## Pak-China ready to advance bilateral cooperation

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: China is ready to work with Pakistan to advance friendly cooperation and promote the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and all-round cooperation between the two countries for greater progress, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said during his meeting with Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan in Beijing.

Noting that the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan has withstood the test of time and the changing international landscape, Qin said China appreciates Pakistan for its strong support on issues concerning China's core interests.

Asad Majeed Khan said Pakistan regards its relations with China as the most important bilateral relationship and firmly pursues the one-China policy.

Pakistan is willing to further deepen cooperation with China in various fields, strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs and constantly consolidate the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, he added.

They discussed Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed the significance of China-Pakistan strategic ties in the evolving regional & international milieu, Spokesperson, Pakistan's MFA tweeted after the meeting.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan held an interactive session with representatives of leading Chinese think tanks.

The participants offered valuable insights on the enhanced significance of China-Pakistan friendship in the evolving regional and international scenario.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque was present on the occasion.

## Begum Samina for women-friendly, harassment free work environment

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi urged the need for women-friendly and harassment free work environment so that women could work without fear and contribute to the development and prosperity of their families, organizations, and their country.

She added that it was the responsibility of the business community to make their workplaces women-friendly and provide them with support and necessary facilities to enhance their inclusion in the mainstream of economic sectors.

The First Lady expressed these views while addressing a ceremony to celebrate Interna-



tional Women's Day at a private sector organization here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, the First Lady said that without making women a part of businesses and productive workforce, Pakistan could not progress. She stated that

those countries progressed that invested in the health and education of women and their empowerment. She regretted that in Pakistan women's representation in the labour force and mainstream socio-economic activities was much lower as compared to

men. She stressed the need to provide women with education, skills and employment opportunities to ameliorate this situation.

The First Lady also called for imparting marketable skills to women to make them financially independent. She said that

federal and provincial governments needed to make special efforts for women's skill development, besides enacting better policies, ensuring their implementation, creating awareness about their rights, and ending gender-based discrimination from our society.

## Australia tells Modi it cannot stop Khalistan Referendum voting

**News Desk**

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA: Tensions have risen between India and Australia after the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that his govt cannot stop legal right to expression of pro-Khalistan Sikhs in Australia after Modi govt demanded a ban on Khalistan Referendum taking place on March 19, at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Tensions have risen here ahead of Khalistan Referendum voting on March 19 as



dozens of pro-Khalistan Sikhs rounded up and forced closure of India's honorary consulate in Brisbane and the Australian government issued an updated travel advisory advising its citi-

zens against travelling to India due to a "high risk of violence" in certain states, including Punjab.

Few days before the March 19 voting organized

by pro-Khalistan secessionist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), the Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagechi has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese the recent alleged incidents of attacks on temples in Australia as well as pro-Khalistani activities in that country.

It's understood that the Indian PM Modi raised the issue with the Australian govt after over 50,000 Sikhs turned up to vote for Khalistan Referendum in Melbourne for the first phase

of Referendum at the end of January this year. Clashes broke out on streets between Sikhs and Hindu groups outside the voting centre and several arrests were made.

The Australian PM has responded there is nothing he can do to stop a legal activity in Australia as all local laws are being followed.

Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) has said that Sikhs have come under attack from hardline Hindutva supporters in Australia and they were captured on videos defacing Khalistan Banners hanged at the Sikh temples.

*India is developing in the economic field, Pakistan can too: Indian envoy*

**Eisha Pirzada**

LAHORE: Acting Indian High Commissioner/ Charge d'Affairs Dr. Suresh Kumar said that if India is developing in the economic field, Pakistan can too. India is going to become the world's largest economy very soon, we want Pakistan to be with us on this occasion. Trade between Pakistan and India is still taking place, but it is not on a large scale to benefit the common people. We are ready to improve relations with Pakistan.

He expressed these views during the breakfast given in honor of senior journalists in Lahore yesterday. On this occasion, during a conversation with Nawa-i-waqt, he said that India does not want a war with Pakistan. Pakistan and India do not get benefit from fighting each

## Pakistani student meets multi-colored rapeseed flowers in full bloom in China's Jiangxi

**Xinhua**

NANCHANG: Many travel guides describe China's spring as a picturesque and pleasant season when much of the countryside is carpeted in yellow rape flowers. However, scientists are repainting the scenery by adding more colors. The yellow blossoms are dark purple, peach red and cherry white.

Tahir Abbas Khan, a student from Pakistan, studying for his doctorate in major of agri-ecology at Jiangxi Agricultural University. ABBAS came to China in December last year and he was surprised to see so many different colors of rape flowers for the first time. "The rape flowers are also grown in my hometown, but are all yellow," ABBAS was very interested in China's new agricultural technology and came to visit after hearing that researchers at



Jiangxi Agricultural University were cultivating colorful rape flowers.

These multi-colored flowers are the result of years of research by Fu Donghui, a professor at Jiangxi Agricultural University, whose team has cultivated dozens of species in 63 colors. Fu said that traditionally oilseed rape has served mostly agricultural needs, providing oil, food and ingredients for products like cosmetics, "with improvements in living standards, people have new demands on the plant. The popularity of yellow rape

flowers made me realize they could attract visitors and raise the incomes of locals."

The sea of flowers is a signature tourism resource, but it is restricted by the single yellow color, which will cause aesthetic fatigue and gradually affect the sustainable development of the tourism industry. Since 2017, Fu's team has genetically engineered color genes to create new colors of rapeseed. According to Fu, the multi-colored rape flowers help promote sustainable development of China's rape flower economy.

## Ji chief slams discriminatory justice system

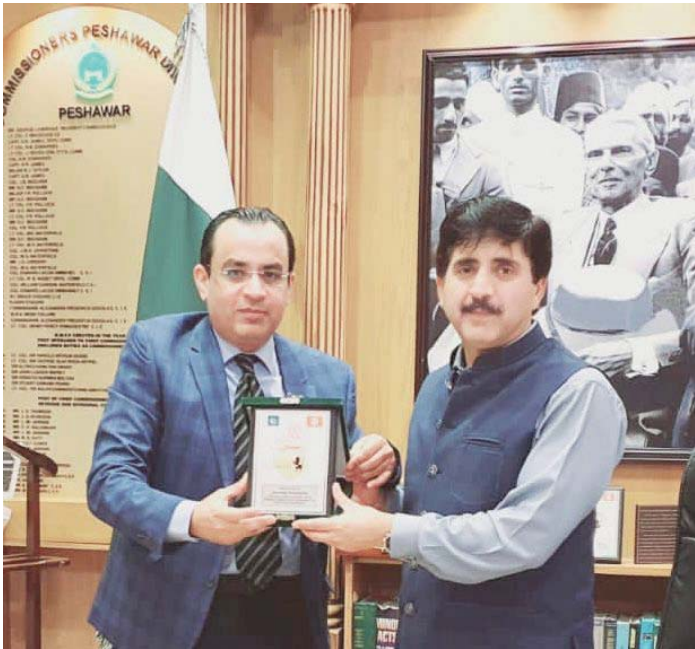


**News Desk**

SAWABI: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Pakistan Chief Siraj-ul-Haq addressed a gathering in Swabi on Saturday, spoke against the discriminatory justice system in the country. According to JI chief, inflation made life unbearable for the people, and there was no justice leading to unrest throughout Pakistan.

He argued that Pakistan was meant to be a beautiful country for everyone, but that it was being taken over by bandits, thieves, and usurers. He called for an Islamic system that would make governors and rulers the servants of the people, rather than the other way around.

Mr Haq went on to say that the English imperial system was implemented in Pakistan, leading to inequality and injustice. He urged the public to work together to create a system that would promote equality.



PESHAWAR: Ammad Rasheed- Honorary Consul General of Tunisia, Peshawar presenting official Consulate memento to Mr. Muhammad Zubair - Commissioner Peshawar division at the Commissioner's office Peshawar.

## Court cancels Imran's arrest warrants, postpones indictment till March 30

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A lower court of Islamabad on Saturday cancelled the non-bailable arrest warrants against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan and also postponed his indictment till March 30 in Toshakhana criminal case.

Moreover, the court of Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal instructed the lawyers to give arguments on the maintainability of the case in next hearing. The judge made it clear that Imran Khan had to appear on the next hearing as well.

To this, the defence lawyer Khwaja Haris said that they would file an exemption plea from the appearance on the next hearing. The judge said that the court would view the situation

on the said date regarding the exemption request.

Moreover, the PTI chairman left for Lahore without going inside the courtroom and marking his attendance.

As the hearing began, Imran Khan's lawyer Dr. Baber Awan submitted an exemption plea from the appearance of the PTI chairman.

He said that Imran Khan had reached the premises of the judicial complex. The judge observed that he hoped that the next hearing would be held in F-8 Kachehri Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the PTI chairman had submitted the surety bonds to the court. In addition, Imran's lawyer submitted an application to the court and prayed to the judge to mark his attendance as he had reached outside the judicial complex.



# PM AJK calls on PTI chairman Imran at his Zaman Park residence

Abdul Majeed Tahir

LAHORE: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan called on Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan here at his Zaman Park residence Friday.

During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern, particularly the prevailing political situation in the country.

Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan on the occasion voiced his serious concern over the fake and baseless cases being registered against the PTI leadership.

He said that leveling fake and frivolous charges against political workers and dragging them to courts were the main cause and consequence of political instability in the country.

Expressing solidarity with the PTI chairman, the AJK premier assured him that at this crucial point of time, the party as well as the people of Azad



Kashmir would stand on his side.

Referring to the PTI's stance on holding elections in the country, the PM said that holding elections on time was the only way forward to steer the country out of the severe economic crisis.

The AJK premier was of the view that the PTI leadership should be ready to talk to everyone for the sake of the country.

"If there is any political process, PTI should be a part of it", the PM said, adding that given the country's severe economic crisis, there was a dire need

that all the political stakeholders should bury their hatchet and sit down on the negotiating table and find a solution to all the problems.

"The economy is in crisis, dollar is at an all-time high and the rupee has lost its value", the PM said there was an urgent need to manage the economy.

While briefing the PTI chairman about his government's performance, the PM said that, as per his vision, the AJK government has taken plenty of initiatives to improve the living standard of people. He said that providing basic amenities of life, including educa-

tion, health care facilities, employment and empowerment of women in AJK were his government's top priorities.

On this occasion, the PTI chief Imran Khan expressed his full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan and satisfaction over his government's performance.

Khan said that as Prime Minister, he raised the voice of Kashmiris at every forum. The Chairman PTI also congratulated Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan on his landmark victory in recently held local body elections in Azad Kashmir.

During the meeting, Fateh was offered for the departed soul of PTI worker Zil e Shah.

Government ministers, including Maqbool Gujjar, Hafiz Hamid Raza, Ch. Akmal Ali Shan Soni, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary Javed Butt, Special Assistant Raja Sabil, Toseef Abbasi and Umar Shehzad were also present on the occasion.

# Aga Khan University Celebrates Founder's Day and 40th Anniversary

News Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University on Saturday celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2022, its first-ever Founder's Day and the University's 40th anniversary. Simultaneous ceremonies were held in Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and broadcast online to an international audience of AKU's friends and supporters.

A total of 777 students graduated from AKU's global campuses with diplomas and degrees in 19 fields, bringing the total number of diplomas and degrees awarded by the University to more than 19,000, including more than 4,500 in East Africa. In Pakistan, the School of Nursing and Midwifery graduated its 5,000th student. Students graduated in nursing, medicine, education and media and communications.

"Graduands, my wish today is that you will know the joy of planting hope in people's lives, of building bridges of understanding, of venturing into the uncharted waters where new knowledge is discovered," His Highness the Aga Khan said. "May your futures be rich in challenges embraced and overcome. May you be bold amid uncertainty, and see your boldness rewarded."



Princess Zahra Aga Khan expressed her gratitude to the global University community for the "magnificent gift" of its support for AKU over the past four decades. "As we mark its inaugural Founder's Day, its 40th anniversary and the graduation of the Class of 2022, AKU has never had more to celebrate," she said.

President Sulaiman Shahabuddin paid tribute to His Highness and "his vision of a university that reconciles loyalty to international standards with

service to those in need, that prepares its students to use knowledge to identify and solve problems, that demonstrates that science is the property of no single culture, but of all humanity."

"It is thanks to his singular devotion to making that vision a reality, no matter the obstacles, that we are here today," President Shahabuddin said.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, the Chief Guest of the ceremony, said, "I am glad to be able to take this opportunity to thank the members of the AKU community who came to the aid of their fellow citizens in their hour of need, whether as volunteers or as donors. The fact that so many AKU students participated in the University's flood response speaks highly of them and of the education that they have received here."

AKU's 40th year will see the launch of several new academic programmes. In Pakistan, classes will begin at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In East Africa, the University will begin offering a six-year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In Kampala, Uganda, the University is building a new campus that will include a University Hospital and academic centre.

In his message, His Highness the

Aga Khan traced AKU's 40-year journey from 1983 to the present, calling AKU a source of hope and expressing pride in its achievements and confidence in its future.

"Today, as in 1983, the future of the University lies in the hands of its leaders, faculty, staff, and supporters," His Highness said. "Together, all of us are the custodians of the founding vision. Our history gives us every reason to believe that so long as we remain true to that vision, AKU's light – the light depicted in the University's seal – will grow ever brighter, helping to illuminate the path to a better future for the people it serves."

In his valedictory speech, Mian Arsam Haroon urged his classmates to "transform into action the knowledge you have received in the halls of this university and honor the commitment of the village that raised you."

The Chief Guest in Tanzania was Ambassador Manfredo Fanti, Head of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and to the East African Community. In Uganda, the Chief Guest was Ms Cornelia Penzel, KfW Country Director for Uganda. In Kenya, the Chief Guest was Dr Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research.

## Sanjrani condoles with Shaukat Tarin over his mother's death

ISLAMABAD, MAR 18 (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday visited the Lahore residence of former Finance Minister Shaukat Fayyaz Ahmed Tarin to express his sympathies on the death of his mother.

Accompanied by Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir and Prince Ahmed Umrazai, the Chairman Senate offered Fatiha for the deceased and prayed to Allah Almighty to rest her soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family.

The Chairman Senate also met with former Prime Minister Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain to inquire about his health and express his well-wishes. He also discussed current political situation of the country with Chaudhary Pervez Elahi, who congratulated Sanjrani on the Senate's golden jubilee celebrations.

# JUI Wana demanded that the elections

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema Islam Lower South Waziristan Rafi Uddin, President Maulana Mir Zajjan, Maulana Mahmood Alam, Maulana Moin Uddin, Maulana Abdur Rehman, Maulana Sabir Ullah and Tehsil Chairman Maulana Muhammad Saleh said in a press conference.

That the Election Commission should not rush to hold the provincial elections in the tribal districts.

JUI Secretary General Maulana Rafi Uddin said, let the census process be done first, then elections should be held under the new constituencies formed as a result of the census.

Maulana Rafi Uddin said that at the time of the previous census, the tribes had migrated on a



large scale during the war against terrorism, due to which the census data was not compiled correctly.

They Jointly demanded from the Election Commission that now that the census is taking place, when new constituencies are formed as a result of this census, elections should be held in trib-

al districts and Waziristan. They said that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam will present its stand before the Election Commission of Pakistan on March 20.

Maulana Rafi Uddin strongly condemned the drone attack in Zangara area of Upper South Waziristan. He demanded from the

higher authorities that it should be investigated immediately and such incidents should be prevented in the future.

Maulana further said that forces are conducting raids in various areas of Lower Waziristan, these illegal raids should be stopped immediately.

# Sindh to prepare school building policy to built climate change proof buildings says Sardar Shah

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: Sindh Education and Culture Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah has said that education infrastructure has been destroyed in the province due to climate affects and inappropriate planning as well. The minister emphasised that they have to make construction plans of school buildings according to modern requirements so that children can study in a safe environment in the future. The minister said this while speaking as a chief guest at the workshop "Building Back Better: Rethinking School Construction in context of climate change" at a local hotel in Karachi. The one-day workshop has

been organized with the joint collaboration of Sindh Government, UNES- CO, World Bank, USAID and JICA in which Education Works officers and representatives of other related organizations participated.

Provincial Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah said that due to the rains, 20 percent of the schools in Sindh have been completely destroyed, while 31 percent of the schools have been partially damaged that affected the 50 percent of teaching process in the province. In the rehabilitation phase, minister emphasised that attention needs to be given to the school infrastructure according to the modern requirements and considering the regional weather fore-

cast particularly the Sindh province. He remarked that Coastal, hilly, plain and desert regions of Sindh have completely different climates, it would be inappropriate to construct uniform infrastructures in all regions.

He suggested that they are preparing a school building policy in Sindh which will be approved by the cabinet under which the structure of buildings will be suggested according to the regional climatic environment in Sindh. Education Minister said that along with making school buildings safe, they will also be made environment-friendly. He added that In the past, while building school buildings, we all the stakeholders were included, but children were

neglected. 'Now school buildings will be constructed keeping the climate change and safety of children in mind. Speaking on the occasion, Naseer Memon said that just as different structures are built in revirine, coastal and settled areas, there is a need for such a strategy to be adopted in construction school buildings as well.

He suggested to conduct the engineering audit of all school buildings to identify the faults. Naseer Memon also suggested that the school building should be made as a shelter in case of natural calamities in the future. The engineers of Education Works were imparted the technical aspects of construction in context of climate effects and modern structuring.

## Muslim Conference sacrificed power by guarding its ideology in general elections: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ARJAH/BAGH: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the Muslim Conference has sacrificed power by guarding its ideology in General elections. He said that In the last election, we had eight to ten seats confirmed, but we paid heavy price of resist Gilgit a province. We talked about the unity of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, on which the Muslim Conference was put against the wall.

He expressed these views while addressing the reception given by the former DG Raja Muhammad Irshad in honor of the President of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. while Chairman Parliamentary Board Manzoor Chaghatai, President Bar Association Bagh Abdul Rasheed Chaghatai Advocate President Bar Association Dhirkot Syed Amjad Gardizi Advocate, Raja Muhammad, Ms. Tazeem Aziz Advocate, Arshad Khan, Raja Tabarak Ali Khan, Raja Munir Khan, Raja Mudassar Irshad, Ch. Zaman, Sardar Sajjad Salim, Raja Abdul Sattar and others also addressed the reception

He is an influential person and His family has been convinced of tolerant politics. The Muslim Conference will benefit greatly from his abilities. On this occasion, former DG Raja Muhammad Irshad Khan thanked the president Muslim Conference and said that Mr I feel proud to join the Muslim Conference, it is no less than an honor for me. He said that the Muslim Conference is the only representative party of the state which has always adopted its own stand regarding the Kashmir issue. I will use all my talents to make the Muslim Conference stronger and more active. On this occasion, we reiterate our determination that we will take all the workers under the leadership of President Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, and the Muslim Conference will emerge as a strong force again in future

## Water supply scheme handed over to the community after completion by FC South



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Water supply scheme for supply of clean drinking water in phase 6 project by FC South (KP) at Kari Kot, Tehsil Wana in District Lower South Waziristan has been completed.

The security forces officials officially handed over the water supply scheme to the local community, according to the security officials, the people of the area will benefit from the clean drinking scheme.

According to the need, the water supply scheme will solve the problem of clean drinking water in the area, there is a sufficient population in the area, so this series of development works in the area will continue.

The people of the area appreciated the efforts of the security forces regarding the provision of clean drinking water by approving the scheme.

However, the residents of the area expressed hope that FC South will continue this series of cooperation with the poor people of the area in the reconstruction of the area.

## Gold price jumps Rs4,100 per tola in Pakistan

KARACHI: Gold price in Pakistan jumped 2% on Saturday as the ongoing political unrest clouded the prospects of economic stability bolstering the appeal of the safe-haven asset.

Data released by All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA) showed that the price of gold (24 carats) surged by Rs4,100 per tola and Rs3,516 per 10 grams to settle at Rs208,300 and Rs178,584.

Cumulatively, during the week ended March 18, the precious commodity gained Rs9,600, or 4.8%, per tola as gold barely responded to the appreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar. It managed to gain during all six sessions.

Investors' risk aversion was on display as political tensions sent money into safe-haven assets.

As the other markets slide investors generally find refuge in gold to maintain a low-risk profile.

# Rifah Int'l University Announced Scholarships for Children of the Working Journalists

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The management of Rifah International University College Attock campus on Saturday has announced higher education scholarship for the children of the working journalists. The principal of Rifah International College Rao Talash Badar and senior journalists from Attock have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in an impressive ceremony held here in Attock which was also attended by a delegation of senior journalists Mr. Javed Kashmiri, Dr. Liaquat Munir Qaderi, President Punjab Press Club Attock (Regd) Mr. Tariq Mahmood, General Secretary, Haji Mumtaz Hussain Taj, Joint Secretary Mr. Qamar Abbas Jahfiri, Mr. Ayaz Khan, Mr. Faheem Nehmat Khattak, Mr. Javed Khat-tak, Mr. Javed Akhtar Awan, Baghi Farhan Aslam, Mr. Adan Khan and Vice Chairman Attock Union of Journalist Mr. Rashid Awais. The principal Rao Talash Badar while

highlighting the salient features of the College has told that this college was launched in 2021 with maximum enrolment for boys and girls students in intermediate up to BSC levels. He said that the educational charges in different programs of their college are more less than the other institutions running in Attock.

The principal Rao Talash Badar committed that the children of the journalistic community will be exempted from admission fees and annual charges instead of 30% on the total charges throughout their academic session in pursuance of the MOU. Earlier, the journalistic community was also introduced with the curriculum and extra curriculum facilities of the college. The visiting journalists have also appreciated the good will offer of the college management with an example to be followed by other educational institutions, as well.





Islamabad

15° - 23° Clear

## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 4: 52 am  
Zohr ..... 12: 16 pm  
Asr ..... 4: 32 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6: 17 pm  
Isha ..... 7: 40 pm

## EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

## Women Police Stations

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

## ENQUIRY

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

## HOSPITALS

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

## DEPARTMENTS

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6

*Police attacked the residence of Imran Khan and violated the sanctity: Fayyaz ul Hasan Says*

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's media advisor Fayyaz ul Hasan Chauhan said that the police attacked the residence of Imran Khan and violated the sanctity of his home. For the first time after 1971, the police entered the house of a leader without a search warrant. This tyrant-



ny revealed the true faces of the imported rulers, Video Rani Begum Safdar, Crime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Minister of Lawlessness Rana Sanaullah. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's Media Adviser Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chauhan while expressing his reaction to the latest situation that happened in Zaman Park and Judicial Complex Islamabad, said that the entire Pakistani nation is against for that brutal action. The cruelty and violence they did in Zaman Park, they did in the form of shelling of tear gas and lathi charge on peaceful workers outside the Judicial Complex. All this action was done by Rana Sanaullah to please the absconding Nawaz Sharif and the video Rani Begum Safdar.

# 'Economic and foreign policies need to be prioritized', says former CJP

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) held a book launching ceremony for "Duty to the Pen-Reflections on International and National Issues" by Amb. G. R. Baluch on Saturday. Former Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Gulzar Ahmed was the Chief Guest. Also present was H.E Mr. Cemal Sangu, Counsel General of Turkey in Karachi. Former CJP, Justice Gulzar Ahmed credited Ambassador G. R. Baluch for writing these articles and producing them as a book. Justice Gulzar called for the revival of economic and foreign policies of Pakistan. "We cannot become a reckoning state. We need to attach to our

values that are reflected in our policies," he added. "We need to develop Pakistan so we can be heard in the international arena and to be counted among the community of nations."

During his address, President IoBM, Mr. Talib Karim said that practitioners are the best teachers. He urged the youth to become readers so they may become leaders of tomorrow. He added that this is the third book published by IoBM's faculty member. Speaking on the occasion, Chancellor IoBM, Mr. Bashir Janmohammad said that "Amb. Baluch's book highlights various issues affecting Pakistan." He added that to become a prosperous nation we should promote good governance and



curb corruption. H.E Mr. Cemal Sangu congratulated Amb. Baluch. He viewed the book as an asset that

will present insights among the readers. Earlier, when unveiling the book, Amb. Baluch reflected

on the title. "I believe that the pen is the mightiest tool we use to share the truth." He was hopeful that the articles in the book can be used as a case study. The students studying international relations and those preparing for CSS can benefit from the political and military conflicts shared in the book.

Ambassador Syed Hassan Habib, Senior Fellow, IoBM highlighted that the book reflects Amb. Baluch's hard work and his analysis of the issues explore a plethora of geopolitical issues. "His range of subjects is brilliant," he added. Dr. Muhammad Arif, Director Research IoBM said that the book presents an analytical assessment of various international and national political issues. He added

that he will encourage the scholars to use the book for further research. Dr. Sarwat Nauman, HoD, Education Department appreciated the innovative article about reimagining the HEC. The book comprises Amb. Baluch's extensively researched-based articles. They cover geopolitical regions including Afghanistan, India, China, the USA, Russia, and the Middle East. Global Politics and Pakistan's National Issues are also discussed. The book reflects Amb. Baluch's insight and acumen as a diplomat with over three decades in the Foreign Service of Pakistan. He was Pakistan's Ambassador to Vietnam. He is currently associated with IoBM's Global and Regional Studies Center.

## Aressting

ISLAMABAD: Police personnel arresting one activist of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf during former Prime Minister Imran Khan to appear in a court at Judicial Complex, in Federal capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Federal Ministers Shazia Marri and Ahsan Iqbal inaugurate Benazir Dynamic Registry Centre

## Correspondent/ Faisal Butt

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri, along with Federal Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the Benazir Dynamic Registry Centre at the BISP District Office Narowal. The event was attended by government officials, community leaders, and beneficiaries of the BISP program.

During the inauguration, Ms. Shazia Marri introduced Benazir Dynamic Registry to the audience, which evaluates socio-economic conditions on a fluid basis and updates data periodically. The registry is operational at 600 centers across Pakistan, and it benefits over 9 million people, Ms. Shazia marri added. The Federal Minister also noted that after a recent increase of 25% in BISP fund, the stipend has increased from 7000 to 8500. She emphasized that floods and global inflation have changed the economic conditions of people in Pakistan and that the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) survey is mandatory for inclusion in the BISP beneficiary list. She urged women to get registered with the NSER



survey and thanked Mr. Ahsan Iqbal for his support.

In his remarks, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal welcomed Ms. Shazia Marri to the land filled with cultural ethos. He commended the work Ms. Shazia Marri has done in expanding the horizon of the Benazir Income Support Program. He added that BISP is a program that goes beyond politics. He was informed by the DG NSER, Mr. Naveed Akbar that the Benazir Income Support Program has data of around 34 million households in Pakistan. He also apprised the honorable minister about

the National Socio-economic Registry. Mr. Iqbal stated that the Prime Minister has a keen interest in the Benazir Income Support Program. DURING HIS TALK With media, he outlined the reasons for the current inflation, including the IMF deal signed by the previous government, the Ukrainian war, and the devaluation of money by the previous government.

MNA Khurshheed Junejo, Parliamentary Secretary, MNA Ibrar Shah, MNA Tariq Shah, Advocate Rashid Khan and Faisal Mir welcomed madam Minister at the BISP District Office in Narowal.

## Dr. Mary Stiasny, Pro VC University of London meets Prime Minister of Pakistan

## City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Mary Stiasny, Pro Vice Chancellor for University of London met the honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif to brief him about University of London Degrees being taught in Pakistan for the last 40 years. The Law Programme of University of London is the oldest Transnational Education TNE law degree in Pakistan and considered to be the most prestigious law degree being offered in Pakistan.

She also briefed the honourable Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif about how the Law and Business Degree Alumni of University of London have contributed positively and significantly in Pakistan. Saad Wasim, Regional Advisor South Asia for University of London told the honourable PM on how University of London has revamped the Transnational Education TNE landscape in Pakistan and how students have benefited from the UK Education System in Pakistan. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman Higher Education Commission HEC, Pakistan also attended this important meeting.

## Annual sports day of the Asas International School hold



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Annual sports day of the Asas International School was held on Saturday 18th March 2023 at the Sports Complex in Islamabad. All the branches participated enthusiastically in the event. The chief guest, Mr. Almas Ayub Sabir, MD, AIMS Education System, appreciated the efforts of students, teaching faculty, and the management of the esteemed institution. He emphasized that such activities boost the students' confidence and are important for their growth and development.

The headmistress, Ms. Maleeha Qayyum emphasized the importance of extracurricular activities. The philosophy and vision of Asas were elaborated by the director, Dr. M. Arshad Zia. Dr. Arshad mentioned that, apart from academics, students are encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities, and these activities help the students gain various skills, experience, and confidence that are helpful in developing their leadership skills and personalities and making them independent and responsible citizens. Students showed marvelous performances in martial arts and other sports festivities.

## Ombudsman Punjab Directs Multan Admin to Expedite Action on Cases

## News Desk

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan has directed the Multan administration to take swift action in resolving public complaints related to provincial government departments, especially police and revenue departments, to protect public rights.

He stated this in a meeting with district administration officers in the office of Commissioner Multan Amir Khattak.

During the meeting, which was attended by Adviser (Hqrs) Shafiq Hussain Bukhari, Regional Police Officer Capt (r) Muhammad Sohail Ahmad Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, City Police Officer Mansoor-ul-Haq Rana and others, provincial ombudsman emphasized the importance of addressing public grievances promptly and efficiently, as it encourages more efficient public administration and provides a cost-effective dispute resolution mechanism to the people. He also highlighted the importance of the platform of district ombudsman offices and encouraged the administration to work closely with them to ensure that citizens' complaints are resolved in a timely and effective manner.

"Many of the complaints we receive relate to police and revenue departments, and it is essential that we work together to address these issues and ensure that citizens' rights are protected," said Mr. Khan. "I urge the Multan administration to take timely actions to address these complaints and work closely with the regional ombudsman office to resolve the public grievances."

## Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed starrer to have its World premiere at Series Mania

## News Desk

KARACHI: Prior to its world premiere at the Series Mania Festival, the creators of Zindagi original show Barzakh, starring actors Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed unveiled the show poster in the French city of Lille.

Barzakh is helmed by critically acclaimed director Asim Abbasi who also directed Zindagi's first original Churails and the feature film Cake. Gracing the event were writer-director Asim Abbasi, actor Sanam Saeed, and Producer Shalija Kejriwal.

Barzakh has the distinct honour of being the only series selected from South Asia. The series will debut in the show-



case's International Panorama, a 12-title competitive section where it will be eligible for the best series, director, actress, actor, student jury, and audience awards.

A family drama centered around an elderly man's quest for love, Barzakh explores inter-generational trauma between fathers and sons. The narrative is framed within a fantastical

world of supernatural beings and otherworldly events that reveal the chasms between life, death, and rebirth.

Fawad Khan portrays the role of a single parent, who is charming but at the same time filled with a lot of guilt for something that he has lost. Elated at Barzakh making the Series Mania cut, Fawad said, "Coinciding with our Series Mania premiere, our poster that we now reveal to the world offers an early glimpse into what can be expected from the series—abstract beauty and ambiguity that reflects the complexities in navigating human relationships in a post-modern world."

Held annually at Lille, the

Series Mania festival, since its inception in 2010, has been instrumental in recognizing and curating the best series from across the world. The festival brings together the best screenwriters, directors, and artists together under one roof.

Sanam Saeed who plays the central female character said, "It is simply surreal to be attending the Series Mania Festival. Barzakh is a story that I connected with from the minute I heard it and in Asim Abbasi's hands, it's been crafted into a moving, beautiful series that will renew our faith in love and life. It's what led me to not only take on the challenging role but also made me look at life in a different light.



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

## Sanjrani urges renewed commitment towards strengthening democracy

The Golden Jubilee session of the Senate concluded today with Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani reaffirming his commitment towards upholding democracy, rule of law, good governance, and the supremacy of parliament in order to make Pakistan stable, stronger, and unified. At the outset, Fateha was offered for senators who are no longer in this world. “It comes as a great pride that this august forum that was created half a century ago, today stands tall and distinguished as a symbol of democracy, harmony and national unity”, he remarked.

He extended gratitude to the sitting Members, former senators, Speaker National Assembly, Governors of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Minister Sindh, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Speaker Gilgit Baltistan Assembly, resident ambassadors and high commissioners, representatives of international organizations such as World Bank, presidents of chambers of commerce and industries, office bearers of bar councils and owners of media houses who attended the session and spoke their heart out for this House and for the nation.

Leader of the House and Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar served as a cohost and remained present to welcome our guests and initiated proceedings on two days.

His role was also instrumental in minting of the special commemorative coin on Senate’s Golden Jubilee. The Chairman Senate also acknowledged Pakistan Mint for the commemorative coin, Pakistan Post for issuing commemorative stamp, Mr. Sha-keel Asghar, Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for writing, composing and singing the Senate Golden Jubilee Theme Song and Art Exhibitor Nasir Javed for creating world’s longest live water-color painting on this special occasion. He also announced that from here on the Committee of the Whole would be a permanent feature, held preferably every quarter to discuss challenges facing the country, hold a healthy discourse among all stakeholders on possible solutions, promote positive and critical thinking, and give voice to the aspirations of the federating units as well as people of Pakistan.

Chairman Sanjrani emphasized the importance of taking a moment to reflect on the many achievements, progress, and successes made by the Senate over the past 50 years. He stressed the need for a course correction, stating that while challenges exist, the past is behind us and it is time to learn from our mistakes and move forward. He went on to renew the country’s commitment to strengthening the federation and ensuring that people of diverse ethnicities and regions feel a sense of belonging, parity, and equality.

He emphasized the need to proactively continue efforts to bring people of smaller provinces into the national mainstream, meet their basic needs, and address discontent, marginalization, and deprivation. “All hands must be on deck in this national endeavour,” said Chairman Sanjrani. “We need all federating units fully participating in the cause of national development and progress in a spirit of harmony, adding that the executive, the legislature, the Judiciary, Media, Civil Society, and every individual must join hands towards national development and progress. Chairman Sanjrani concluded his remarks by highlighting Pakistan’s forward-looking and progressive nature, stating that while difficult decisions must be made, it is often the most difficult paths that lead to the most beautiful destinations.

## Traffic jams playing havoc with Pindites

Dr. Murtaza Mughal

Rawalpindi is one of the biggest and busiest cities of the country that has been experiencing an unprecedented rise in the number of vehicles on its roads in recent years and traffic snarls have become a common sight in the city.

The factors contributing to the rising vehicles’ number in Rawalpindi and the impact it is having on traffic flow in the city is becoming a serious headache for the residents and the civic agencies.

One of the primary factors contributing to the rising vehicle population is the increasing urbanization as the city continues to expand – more and more people are moving in, leading to an increase in the number of vehicles on the roads. This trend is not unique to Rawalpindi, as many cities across the world experience a similar phenomenon as they grow and develop.

According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Tamoor Khan, there was no doubt that population of vehicles was creating traffic snarls on the roads but the City Traffic Police were making all out efforts to maintain the flow of traffic. He pointed out that Marrir Chowk and Liaquat Bagh were the busiest spots on Murree Road that had been made signal free with the aim to provide relief to the motorists.

He said that now the main traffic blockade was at Qasr-e-Shireen point near Committee Chowk underpass that was a troubling point. Chandani Chowk was another point with traffic blockage, he

added. There was no blockage on Airport Road whereas traffic congestion on Swan Road due to construction work was impeding smooth flow of traffic, he said.

The CTO informed that over 1,100 traffic wardens were performing their duties to maintain flow of traffic in the garrison city. He also pointed out that there were so many factors causing traffic blockage, and encroachments are the major cause of road mess at Raja Bazaar, Kohati Bazaar, Naz Cinema, College Road, Bara Market, Bohar Bazaar, Fowara Chowk, Ganjmandi and other areas of the city. He said Rickshaw, Quinqui, and motorcycles in large number easily available on installments were proliferating in the traffic fleet which is another factor of traffic blockage.

“Rawalpindi Ring Road project which is need of the hour, would prove a game changer for Rawalpindi city, definitely and it would help curtail the traffic load on the city roads,” Muhammad Suleman, a road user said. He said that there was a dire need to revamp master plan of Rawalpindi according to modern needs and growing population of the city.

Prof. Dr Suleman Shah said the inadequate public transportation system in Rawalpindi has also played a role in the rising vehicle population. The public transportation system in Rawalpindi is not very efficient, with limited options available to commuters. As a result, many people choose to purchase their own vehicles as a more convenient means of transportation.

Dr Shah was of the view that another factor contributing to the rise in vehicle population is the lack of proper urban

planning and road infrastructure in Rawalpindi. The city’s road infrastructure has not kept up with the increasing vehicle population, leading to congestion and traffic snarls during peak hours.

“The traffic congestion has led to increased travel times, reduced productivity, and an increase in air pollution levels in the city. The traffic snarls have also contributed to an increase in road accidents, which is a significant concern for the safety of commuters on the city’s roads,” he said.

In addition to the impact on traffic flow, the rise in the number of vehicles on Rawalpindi’s roads has also had a significant impact on the environment. The increase in air pollution levels due to vehicular emissions has led to deterioration in air quality, posing a significant health risk to the residents of the city.

Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Spokesperson, Hafiz Muhammad Irfan said that RDA has constructed a parking plaza to lessen burden of traffic in Raja Bazaar. He said that Sixth Road, Chandni Chowk, Amar Chowk projects were completed to ease the traffic flow while underpasses and flyovers would also be constructed at Kutchery Chowk and Defence Chowk that would help in mitigating the sufferings of the motorists.

According to a district administration Spokesman, the administration was striving to start the construction work on Lai Expressway, Kutchery Chowk and Defence Chowk projects. Lai Expressway project would help in addressing the traffic congestion problems on the city roads, he added.

# Outlaw implementation of law

Mian Rashid Asghar

Iqbal in his poetic lines says; Everyone is intoxicated with ease, You are Muslim ! This is the style of Islam!

Haidari is the wealth of the Ottoman Empire.

What is your spiritual relationship with the ancestors?

They were the Muslim in his time and you are humbled by being the forsakes of the Qur’an.

Law and undue implementation of law like Section-144 in Lahore and now in Islamabad has started destruction in the country because when one uses the law for illicit purposes considering the people are blind and dumb.

Intact ongoing anarchy has disclosed about numerous plannings that were adopted in different forms which proved against the state.

It is a surprising matter that those who say that there would be no compromise on state writ & what is being done with the state by themselves?

It means that our institutions are not independent or they have many shortcomings in understanding their duties.

Any law when it starts ruining the state means that the utilizers have not good conscience.

Law and law enforcement agencies save the people to stay in the state but here people of the state are being brutally operated!

Is this the way to save the state? Alas! Whether we have been using law enforcement agencies to save the objectives of certain types of people!

High ranked officials must be aware of the situation before taking any action but they say that there was an order to arrest and arrest someone.

Alas! With the passage of time the graph of the untoward situation is going from worse to the worst, perhaps we are waiting

to collapse this dear homeland.

It cannot be denied that now Mr. Imran khan is not a matter only but for the public, it has become open to the people that this set-up this time and such a phenomenon remained existing in the country and this simple nation was made a fool.

The poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal said:

Everyone gets drunk It’s fun when the bartender holds the bars.

Those who are old, they rise up From somewhere, take the water for survival!

Undoubtedly, in these unfavorable conditions, this section-144 in Lahore as well as Islamabad made the condition of the innocent people more miserable, but it has also failed to control the ongoing situations.

In the country and society where the axis of politics is built on the foundations of humanity and ethics, it does not happen as it is being done now here in our homeland & this fire is about to touch every nook and corner.

The people say that they have not heard any harsh language from the language of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan, but by challenging the political coalition forces in an arbitrary manner, hatred has been created in the hearts and minds of the people, but these politicians still do not understand what to do for smoothening the law & order situations ? It seems like someone who has no concern with the people and their needs and necessities as per their desires.

R-A Rishi-poet says; The mirror has fallen, but the picture of the situation is something else.

There are such interferences that the uncontrollable chain is something else.

A bag of matches has been lit to burn it. In the mirror, if the rival is in control, there is a line and a takbeer.

Therefore, the purpose of the institutions here is to serve these people under the law not to oppress the desires of the

people, not configured that these institutions may create for the interests of the people and not become a cause of suffering for the people by breaking their limits and restrictions.

The main reason for the destruction of Pakistan is that some elements working in the institutions of Pakistan are deviating from the laws of Pakistan and considering themselves above the law and even the house of Mr. Khan in Lahore was badly broken in a rash.

Such anger in the police institution is never demanded and unable to control the situation.

In the meantime, under what circumstances can the implementation of Section-144 in Lahore & Islamabad be considered viable?

This section 144 has been framed to scale down Mr. Khan. If a political party starts taking out a peaceful procession, then its enforcement will be applied to it even when a person is going to appear before the court, will he be dealt with threats?

Is the caretaker government working as a task force or will it play any positive role in conducting fair elections?

The seriousness of the situation indicates that by keeping the need of holding elections to one side, such situations can be created from which the election is not a distant thing, but instead of giving security to the country and the nation, it will be permanently trapped in the vortex.

If the current political system and the government seem to be successful in controlling any other work, then the Section-144 imposed by them can prove to be helpful in ensuring our security in the deteriorating affairs and facing problems.

Has the caretaker government been exposed to more threats for taking out the rally or appearing of Mr. Khan before the courts? In view of the circumstances, the implementation of Article 144 at this time can cause a lot of damage and if the government allows PTI to take out a peaceful rally and easy access of PTI Chairman,

any damage will not be done. There will be no fear of hiding under the guise of the law if any harm is done, So the responsibility may then fall on the government and undue action takers.

In the last 10 months, the existing government system does not seem to be able to solve the uncertainty but much increased the law and order situation.

The need is to remove the obstacles in public peace, respecting the law and holding one’s position cannot be transgressed. Such encroachment is a dream of success against unnecessary encroachments!

According to poet of the East’ In slavery, neither swords nor tactics work

Whatever desires arise, the chains are broken

One can estimate his strong arm! Destinies are changed by the eyes of a believing man

The difference between servant and master is corruption of humanity Beware of the cutting gloves! Nature’s punishments are harsh

Faith is firm, action is firm, love conquers the world

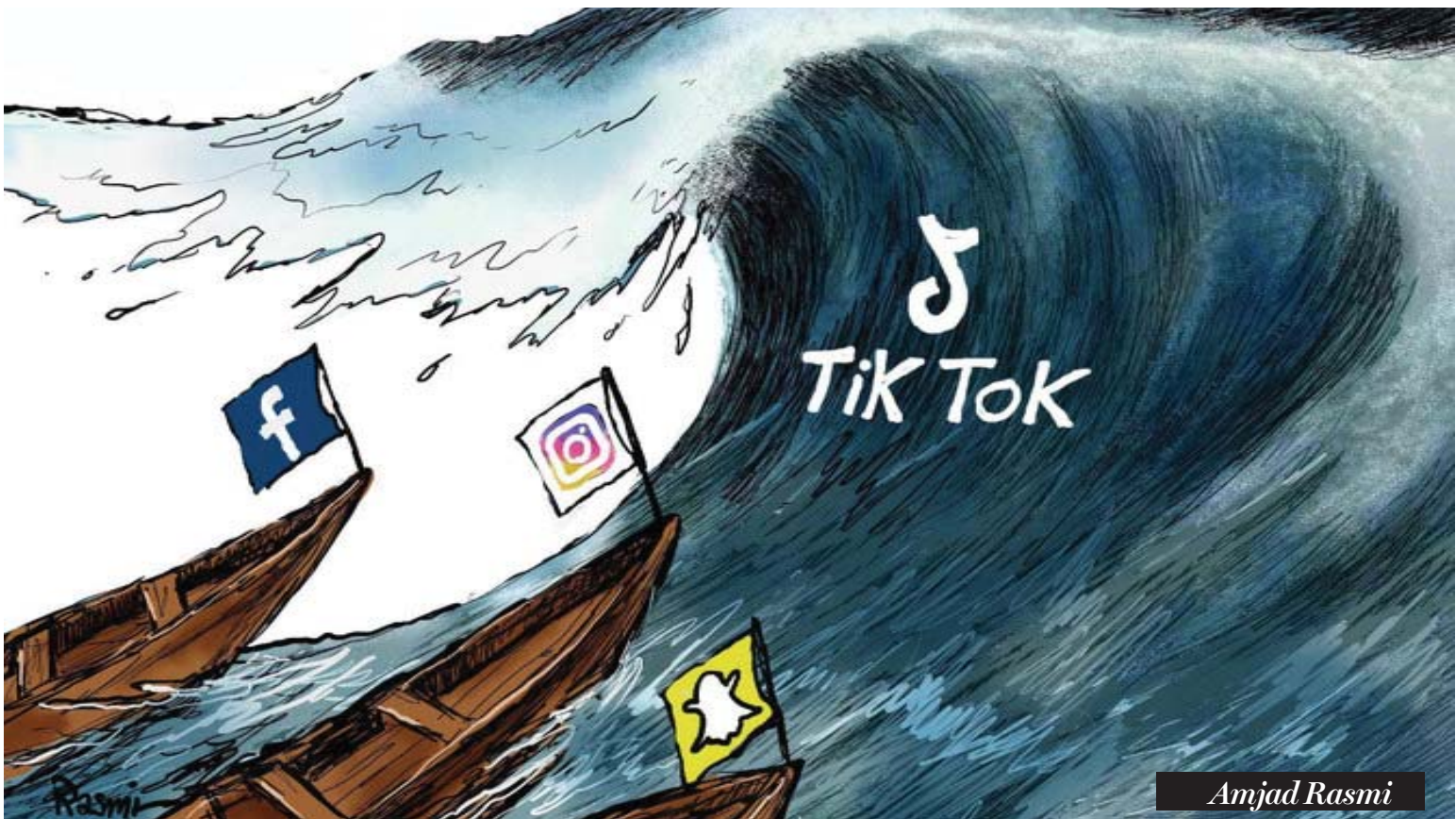
These are the swords of men in the jihad of life

In this regard, it is very important that the law enforcement agencies should act according to the peaceful action plan while evaluating the situation with a natural eye and an eagle spirit, and not to provide protection to the vested interests of some people. Broadcast such a fate that the destruction of the country will begin, which cannot be handled later be possible-

Mr. Safdar Sahib should explain to his Ms. Marham that if you can play any role in controlling the chaotic environment then you must do it otherwise people will listen to them again.

Therefore, every statement contrary to law and morality should be banned and it is the responsibility of all to respect the judiciary and make it.

This is the time where free & fair elections must be operated



Amjad Rasmi

## Taping natural resources vital for economic growth-I

Hussna Khattak

Noor Muhammad (45), a progressive marble miner of Warsak Road, Peshawar was busy like a honeybee in cutting raw marble slabs of different varieties before loading them in a truck parked in his factory for the customers of the Nowshera district.

Enjoying the national song of ‘Dil Dil Pakistan’ through the radio at his workplace on Warsak Road, a hub of marble factories in Peshawar, the motivated miner, who slept at his factory, awake early in the morning to support his two assistants in starting of machines for cutting of raw-marble slabs to fulfil the orders placed by the customers.

Hailing from Ghalani tehsil of the district of Mohmand, Noor Muhammad who was facing great financial hardship before his fortune was turned around after venturing into the marble and granite business, said “I was passing through anxiety and depression after failing to find a job in the public sector.”

However, he said that his family financially supported him by establishing a small-scale business. “No one can understand the pain of a married unemployed person other than me. Had my father not sold a piece of land for setting up my marble business then today I may have become a stigma for my family.”

Terming the marble and granite business highly profitable, Noor Muhammad said that any person having basic know-how and Rs 2 million could earn from Rs 4 to 5 million a year.

“An investor needs at least three machines for cutting the raw marble, its sizing and then polishing, adding it cost him Rs180,000, Rs 140,000 and Rs 160,000 for each machine respectively.”

Due to the arrival of the summer season, he said that most people demand Ziarat super white marble of the Mohmand district owing to its unique shine, durability, and coldness, adding the demands of white, grey and red-white marble of Mohmand, Swat and Buner

districts increased due to boom in the construction industry.

The miner said that demands for Mohmand and Buner marbles have increased manifolds not only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also in other provinces, Afghanistan and the Middle East due to its durability and affordable prices.

Noor mentioned the waste of this resource due to traditional modes of exploration and use of local machinery besides unskilled labourers, adding this precious wealth could be saved if the industry is extended technical and financial support in the adaptation of modern techniques and import of modern machinery.

Tariq Khan, a marble buyer in the Nowshera district, told media at Warsak Road’s factory that prices of white marble were sky-high and beyond the purchasing power of the poor and lower middle class. “It is a worldwide phenomenon that when there is a bulk sale, the price descends. But, we do otherwise and increase prices when there is bulk demand. So, we direly need a pricing mechanism,” he added.

“I have bought pieces of broken marble due to its low prices compared to the feet or above sizes,” he said and demanded regulation of prices in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where over 1,000 marble units were operating mostly on a self-help basis.

According to the KP Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BIT), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has an estimated potential of 14 trillion tons a year of marble, limestone, dolomite, soapstone, silica and other mineral resources, 70 million carats of gemstones, 1.10 billion bbls of oil reserves, 7.5 million tons a year production of maize, wheat, sugarcane and tobacco.

According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan, Pakistan had produced 8,813,025 metric tons (MT) of marble in 2017-18, 7,990,473MT in 2018-19, 7,700,855MT 2019-20 and 478,100 MT in 2021-22 (March-July) while the country marble exports were recorded as \$31,030 in 2016, \$28,166 in 2017, \$26,403 in 2018, \$25,377 in 2019, \$17,204 in 2020 and \$24,679 in 2021.

To be concluded



# On Root of Escalated Tension in Korean Peninsula

KS KCNA

Pyongyang: The following is the full text of a commentator's article "On root of the situation in the Korean Peninsula on the brink of burst" carried in RodongSinnmun on Friday:

The situation in the Korean peninsula is inching closer to an uncontrollable and dangerous state.

The world is closely observing the tense confrontation among the nuclear powers on the brink of an outbreak of war with deep concern.

This grave situation is entirely attributable to the reckless and tyrannical moves of the U.S. and its followers to stifle the DPRK.

As well-known to the world, the DPRK has concentrated all its efforts on easing military tension and maintaining peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region from the outset of this year, out of its single desire to achieve fresh development and progress in its economic construction and improvement of its people's living standards.

But the U.S.-led hostile forces are persistently resorting to dangerous hostile acts of violently encroaching upon the sovereignty and security interests of the DPRK this year, too, in the wake of last year, and their gravity and danger have reached an intolerable phase.

The U.S. secretary of Defense said on his junket to the puppet region in January that the U.S. would deploy more strategic assets such as fifth-generation stealth fighters and aircraft carriers, unhesitatingly revealing its intention to use nuclear weapons against the DPRK. Meanwhile, puppet traitor Yoon Suk Yeol, obsessed with confrontation with fellow countrymen, talked about the "establishment of a posture of readiness" and "punishment" at an underground air-raid shelter.

The warmongers, engrossed in bravado and blind bravery, announced that they would stage more than 20 rounds of joint military exercises in the first half of this year beyond the level of the past "Foal Eagle" joint military drills, and have staged madcap war exercises against the DPRK, including drills aiming at infiltration and joint striking at its strategic facilities and major core targets.

As talked about the permanent presence of extended deterrence, the U.S. introduced core air strategic weapons including B-1B nuclear strategic bombers, F-22, F-35B and other stealth fighters into the area of south Korean puppets in February to stage several combined air drills targeting the DPRK together with them in the sky above the West Sea of Korea.

In particular, the U.S. imperialists conduct-

ed a "drill for operating extended deterrence means", which made it a fait accompli to mount a preemptive nuclear attack on the DPRK, together with the puppets in their mainland in late February, claiming that they would constantly deploy nuclear strategic assets in the Korean peninsula in the future, too.

Such reckless military confrontation and hostile acts drove the situation in the Korean peninsula to the brink of explosion in March.

The U.S. continuously dispatched nuclear submarines, one of the major strategic assets of the U.S. navy, and Aegis destroyers, to the puppet region with the black-hearted intention to escalate military pressure on the DPRK.

On March 1, the U.S. and the puppet warmongers brought the latest missile pursuit craft of the U.S. navy, Howard Lorenzen, to the East Sea of Korea to conduct espionage activities with RC-135S and other reconnaissance assets. On March 3, they conducted a combined air drill in the sky over the West Sea of Korea for the fourth time this year with B-1B strategic bomber and the MQ-9 Reaper, an air combat drone ill-famed as an "assassin in the sky", and other strategic hardware.

Meanwhile, the puppet chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, together with his master, toured the special operation drill ground where the "beheading operation" of striking a surprise attack on the strategic bases of the DPRK was underway and inspected several military units of the puppets in the areas near the front to incite them to extreme confrontation hysteria, saying that "the enemy's provocation has already begun" and they will "mete out a punishment".

Despite the worsened military and political situation of the Korean peninsula and the region, the U.S. staged the fifth round of combined air drill by dispatching nuclear strategic bomber B-52 on March 6 and started the large-scale U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises Freedom Shield on March 13.

The reality clearly shows that the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is shifting from a virtual phase to a practical one.

All the military drills staged by the U.S. in alliance with the puppets are a provocative north-targeted rehearsal and preliminary nuclear war to simulate a sweeping war against the DPRK, and herein lies their gravity.

As for the "Ssangryong" combined landing drill aimed at "occupation of Pyongyang" alone, they rehabilitated it five years after it was halted and openly trumpet that it will reach an all-time high in terms of its scale and scope.

The U.S. imperialists describe their war drills as "defensive" but that is a sophism making profound confusing of right and wrong.



The U.S. itself will not deny the fact that the nuclear strategic bomber B-52H, supersonic strategic bomber B-1B, nuclear carriers, nuclear attack submarines and F-35 stealth fighters, which it brings to the Korean peninsula and its surrounding areas anytime this year as well as last year, are not for defense but the most offensive military hardware specializing in strategic strike missions.

No one will believe that the constant deployment of the U.S. nuclear strategic assets in the Korean peninsula and such things as landing and infiltration drill, surprise landing and assault drill staged by special units under war scenarios aimed at "end of regime", "decapitation" and "occupation of Pyongyang" are for "defense".

Now the hostile forces are viciously scheming to isolate and suffocate the DPRK through unethical and illegal sanctions, while pulling it up over the non-existent "human rights issue" and resorting to their dangerous military adventures.

The U.S. and its vassal forces are faking up and spreading all rumors of "threat" to "demonize" the DPRK in the UN and other international arenas and contemptibly moving to prevent even one of things urgently needed for the daily life of our people from being entered our country by labeling them as "luxurious articles" groundlessly.

Being unable to isolate the DPRK anymore internationally with the nuclear issue, the U.S. is mobilizing vassal forces that are no more than rabble, for the smear campaign against the DPRK in the international arena.

The negative impact caused by the anti-DPRK moves of the U.S. and other hostile forces is not confined to the Korean Peninsula only. Now the U.S. is working hard to turn the

military balance in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia in favor of the U.S.-led alliance system while zealously egging the puppets and Japan on to dangerous arms buildup under the signboard of implementing the "Indo-Pacific strategy" aimed at maintaining the regional military strategic hegemony.

Getting absorbed in establishing a new military bloc such as the "Asian version of NATO" in the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. seeks to build "integrated deterrent force" comprising of military forces of AUKUS and other vassal states and thus realize its hegemonic purpose by forming an encircling net against regional big powers and steadily isolating and weakening them.

The puppets' development and introduction of "high-power ballistic missile", launching of military spy satellites and attempt to possess nuclear submarine and Japan's moves to introduce Tomahawk cruise missile for securing the "capability for attacking the enemy's base" and develop hypersonic missile show that the arms buildup of the U.S. and its vassal forces is going beyond the intolerable red line.

Today the Korean Peninsula is turning into the world's largest magazine and war drill theatre due to the frantic military expansion moves of the U.S. and its vassal forces.

It is a well-known fact that the regional security has been endangered and the foundation of international peace and security shaken due to the scheme for hegemony of the U.S. inciting division and confrontation and hampering stability and development.

All things have a wherefore. As the international community estimates correctly, the situation in the Korean Peninsula has reached the present situation due to the U.S., which has steadily escalated its pressure

and military threat to the DPRK, refusing to respond to the positive steps taken by our state.

This year alone, we made clear several times that the cause of sustained vicious cycle of tension in the Korean Peninsula is the frequent combined drills of the U.S. and the puppets, who have aggravated the regional situation with all sorts of threatening rhetoric expressions after repeatedly setting the unrealistic and very dangerous target such as "end of regime" of a sovereign state. And we strongly demanded a immediate stop to the military hostile acts of hurting the peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and the region.

Nevertheless, the U.S. has driven the situation of the Korean peninsula and the region to an intolerable red line, repeatedly ignoring the just demand of the DPRK and the international community.

In order to cope with the grave developments in which threat to the sovereignty and security of the state has reached an intolerable phase, our Party and government can not but take decisive and resolute steps to thoroughly contain the military threats from the hostile forces and defend peace and security of the Korean Peninsula and the region.

Our nuclear forces are not for advertisement. They can be used anytime, if necessary, to discharge the sacred mission of defending the country, and they should be preemptively used anytime according to the strategic plan, if a conflict with possibility of dangerous escalation occurs.

The recent ICBM Hwasongpho-17 launching drill is clear evidence of it.

We will continue to contain with the overwhelming force the reckless military provocations of the U.S. and its vassal forces.

Clearly stipulated in the law of the DPRK on the policy of nuclear armed forces are the principles and conditions of using nuclear weapons under various circumstances to cope with any military threat and attack from outside to our state.

If anyone tries to encroach upon the sovereignty and security of the DPRK, its nuclear armed forces will discharge its crucial mission.

There is no vouch that if the dangerous military provocations of the U.S. and south Korea are continuously overlooked as now, a fierce physical conflict will not occur in the Korean Peninsula where huge forces of both sides stand in acute confrontation with each other.

In case such conflict occurs in reality, the U.S. security, to say nothing of the regional stability, will face an uncontrollable, catastrophic phase.

The U.S. should stop at once the reckless military provocations and war drills against the DPRK. -0-

## Makkah-bound Indonesian cyclists

# Indonesian envoy greets young cyclists, admires their courage for good cause



KS Naveed Ahmad Khan

Two Indonesian cyclists Asid Kusuma Atmaja and Yunus who started their journey to Makkah to perform Hajj and Umrah from Indonesia last week reached here in Islamabad. The Embassy of Indonesia in Islamabad hosted a ceremony in the honor of both cyclists. The ambassador along with embassy staff, and Pakistani friends including media persons, tour operators, and executives of various dropbox agencies wished the young Indonesian cyclists a safe and secure journey ahead. Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio welcomed the two cyclists and wished them a safe journey as they embarked on their unique adventurous trip to Makkah. He termed their passion to face all the hardships of the roads and ordeal of a long journey to reach Saudi Arabia for Hajj highly valuable.

The Ambassador said, "It gives me immense pleasure to announce that the visa issues of the two Indonesian cyclists have been resolved and they can now resume their road journey from Pakistan to Iran, Oman, UAE, and finally

Saudi Arabia."

The Ambassador struck a positive note by announcing that the entire visa process for Indonesia has been made much simpler and easier for Pakistani tourists and would be available within three days. He also thanked the Pakistani media as well as the tourism industry people for their cooperation to highlight Indonesia's rich tourism potential, its idyllic places, cuisine, and culture and above all immense opportunities for Pakistani students and businessmen, etc.

"People of Pakistan and Indonesia have many commonalities such as lifestyle, cultures, traditions, values and even food and architecture. The way the two Indonesian cyclists were received in Pakistan and given coverage in the media is also proof of our close friendship," he said.

The visiting cyclists are exploring Islamabad on their bicycles while displaying the flags of Indonesia and Pakistan and other visited countries to express the love and brotherhood between all brotherly nations and other visited countries. They were very warmly greeted by the people of Pakistan and



received appreciation for their courage.

Asid Kusuma Atmaja said, "This is my first international tour on a cycle, the

motivation behind starting this journey was pure love and devotion for Allah and the Holy Prophet Muhammad

(PBUH)". Asid and Yunus encountered many challenges during their arduous journey such as visa issues, grueling

weather conditions, language barriers, and security concerns. Sometimes they camped on the roadside, slept inside mosques, and on many occasions, it was too cold to sleep. They said these challenges are only making them stronger and more steadfast in achieving their goals.

Yunus shared that he had been yearning for this expedition since his college days. He finds it hard to comprehend that his biggest dream is actually turning into reality and he is more than half-way through his journey. Cyclists are also very popular and liked by millions from all over the world on TikTok. By sharing their journey through short videos, they hope to motivate youth to achieve great things in life and leave a legacy behind despite any challenges or hardships.

After riding bicycles across five countries: Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, and Bangladesh, they took a flight to Pakistan. In Pakistan, they are staying in the premises of the Indonesian Embassy to obtain a visa for their next destination, which is Oman. They intend to travel to Makkah via Oman and the United Arab Emirates.



## Historic Floods: Concessionary Loans Country's Right

News Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has criticized the government for not being able to capitalize and present the case for Pakistan with the international community for concessional loans; if not grants or straight debt write offs. This is incompetence and absolute lack of responsibility on government's part to say the least, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that the foreign exchange reserves of the country had to suffer a double blow due to the differing approaches of the two finance ministers of the same government vis-à-vis IMF program; and, that too, in less than one year. Which other country in the world manages their external account this way, he asked.

Mr. Sheikh stressed that the government should be aware of the fact that all major exports of Pakistan are in a decline for the past 7 months; and, the mainstay of Pakistani exports, i.e. textiles, has registered a decline of 30 percent in February & 11 percent decline over all in 7 months.

He continued that IT & ITeS exports have also started to show a very concerning trend, as during first two quarters of FY23, they stagnated at \$1.3 billion for six months and this quarter is expected to show the same trend or even a decline. The government keeps promising the moon to the IT & ITeS companies, but its own institutions like SBP & FBR, fail to implement the directives of even the prime minister of the country.

FPCCI Chief has expressed his profound concerns that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan had been left at the mercy of speculative trading in foreign exchange by commercial banks. He also questioned that why no action has been taken as yet against those five commercial banks that have been found guilty of speculative trading in an SBP inquiry.

President FPCCI maintained that prudent restructuring & rescheduling should be embarked upon to reduce the annual debt repayments for at least next 3 – 5 years on all external loans; except on those from international commercial banks and Eurobonds to protect country's sovereign debt ratings at the same time.



Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: Three poles of 132 KV Gird station of HESCO Jamshoro to Qasimabad transmission line fell due to strong wind and rain yesterday.

HESCO chief visits Qasimabad and Rajputana grid station after suspension of supply since last day.

"Tower No. 19, 20 and 21 have collapsed due to heavy rain" HESCO Chief Muzaffar Ali Abbasi told local media".

"He has ordered to PDGSC and SGSO teams to restore the supply of the power and towers" Said HESCO Chief".

"Orders were issued to complete the work as soon as possible and restore power supply" Said HESCO Chief".

"Due to pending the restoration work of electricity, electricity supply has been started from 220 KV Hala Naka grade station to affected grade station to Qasimabad and Rajputana grid alternately" said HESCO Chief Muzaffar Ali Abbasi".

"The work of re-installation of the towers has been started on an emergency basis" said HESCO Chief Muzaffar Ali Abbasi".

On this occasion, HESCO Chief along with SE (GSO) Ramesh Kumar, Executive Engineer GSO Sabih Ulzaman and SE Operation Circle Lad Abdul Ghaffoor Sheikh and others were also present.

# Police and ICCI to together to further improve security in the Capital

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that a secure and peaceful environment is the key requirement to promote business and investment activities and stressed that Islamabad Police should take ICCI on board to further improve the security situation in the Capital in order to boost business activities. He said this while talking to Hassan Jahangir Wattoo, SP Rural Islamabad during his visit to ICCI.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the rural areas in Islamabad need further improvement in the security situation and stressed that the police should work in close liaison with the trade associations of rural areas to provide a more secure environment to the traders community. He said that police should register data of all security guards deployed in the markets of rural areas and verify their credentials to make sure that clean record holders are employed as security guards in rural areas. He said that the police should hold open kucheheries so that the citizens could highlight their issues for redress. He further said that police should devise a strategy to deal with the issues being faced by the citizens due to anti-social elements.

Speaking at the occasion, Hassan Jahangir Wattoo, SP Rural said that the business community is playing a key role in the economic development of the country and providing them a secure environment is the high priority



of police. He assured that he would work with ICCI and concerned market associations to further improve security arrangements in the rural areas. He said that police would collect data of security guards posted in housing societies of rural areas to verify their credentials. He

said that police would also start the process of registering Afghan nationals in Islamabad and monitor their movements in order to ensure that they aren't involved in any criminal activities. He said that open kucheheries would also be started soon as they were suspended due to

the security situation.

Ch. Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Shabbir, Ameer Hamza, Khalid Chaudhry, Sai fur Rehman, Malik Mohsin Khalid and others also highlighted various issues that needed the close attention of SP Rural for redress.

## IBA-CEJ to organize 'Click! The Digital News Ideathon'

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Center for Excellence in Journalism at the Institute of Business Administration (CEJ-IBA), in collaboration with Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW), is organizing 'Click! The Digital News Ideathon'. The event brings together well-known journalists and online content creators to share their thoughts and experiences through talks, panel discussions, break-out sessions, and networking opportunities.

The constant evolution and revenue opportunities of the digital landscape has led people- especially the youth- to look for ways to make a living through the production of relevant content that they can then disseminate through popular social media



platforms. While it may be simple to produce content, it is not always easy to remain relevant in the ever-changing market. Another challenge is sustainability- the ability to earn an income through the content they are producing, and to keep going for the foreseeable future. Trends are always changing, and compet-

itors are constantly developing new ways to expand their reach through social media platforms.

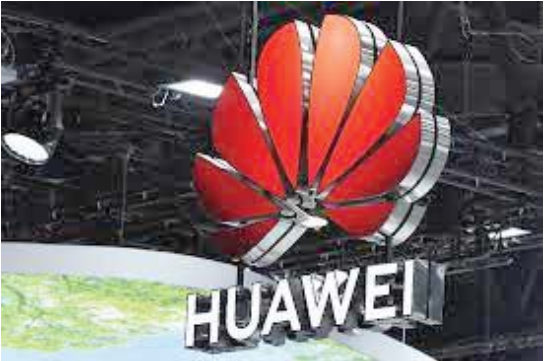
With the volume of competition in the digital world- both from established news outlets and online content creators- start up organizations and aspiring content creators face an uphill task in establish-

ing, monetizing, and sustaining their online presence and relevance. The main objective of this ideathon is to generate ideas and to promote a debate on digital platforms viability.

Target audience: Established, beginner and intermediate-level news start-ups, journalists, and digital content creators.

Panelists and speakers include popular digital content creators like Sahar Habib Ghazi, Shehzad Ghias, Syed Muzammil, Azaz Syed, Imran Azhar, Dr. Syed Irfan Ahmad, Amtul Baweja, Alia Chughtai, Munazza Siddiqui, Ali Warsi, Maria Memon, Zeeshan Ahmed and Risham Waseem. The Master of Ceremony is Sabah Bano Malik, and the German Ambassador, Mr. Alfred Grannas, will be opening the event.

## Huawei replaced thousands US-banned parts with Chinese versions: founder



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Chinese technology giant Huawei has replaced thousands of product components banned by the United States with homegrown versions, its founder has said, according to a transcript of a recent speech released by a Shanghai university.

A leading supplier of telecom gear, smartphones and other advanced equipment, Huawei has been repeatedly targeted by Washington in recent years over cybersecurity and espionage concerns.

The administration of former president Donald Trump effectively barred American companies from doing business with the firm, and his successor Joe Biden has imposed further sanctions including a ban on sales of new Huawei equipment in the United States.

The moves have forced the firm to find new ways to obtain semiconductors and other parts, with founder Ren Zhengfei saying Huawei has replaced more than 13,000 components with domestic versions in the past three years, according to the transcript posted by

Shanghai Jiao Tong University on Friday.

The company has also redeveloped more than 4,000 circuit boards for its products, Ren said during the talk, which took place February 24.

"As of now, our circuit board (production) has stabilised, because we have a supply of domestically produced components," he said.

He did not give details about which specific parts were being sourced from within China or what proportion of Huawei's total supply they represented.

Responding to a question from an audience member, Ren said there were still "difficulties with manufacturing advanced microchips in China, so we have to find other ways of making up ground (with the US) on chips".

He added that Huawei spent \$23.8 billion on research and development last year and would invest more in the coming years as profits rise.

"We're still in a difficult period, but have not stopped on the road towards progress," he said.

## Sale

LAHORE: A shopkeeper is selling Masalsa Jat used in food items at Delhi Darwaza Bazar.



Photo: APP

# PIAF seeks practical steps as textile export drops for fifth straight month

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Raising grave concern over the continued falling trend of Pakistan exports the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) on Saturday said that the country's textile exports dipped for the fifth consecutive month as shipments dropped by almost 30% year-on-year to \$1.20 billion in Feb 2023, indicating that the government has failed to win the confidence of the business community due to continued rupee depreciation and uncertainty.

PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol, quoting the latest figures, stated that the overall exports during July-February 2022-23 totalled \$18.678 billion against \$20.57 billion during the corresponding period of last year,

showing a decrease of 9.21 percent while the exports in Feb 2023 were \$2.19 billion compared to \$2.24 billion of Jan 2023 showing a decrease of 2.36 percent and by 22.69 percent respectively.

Faheem Saigol said that Pakistan has remained a potential market for foreign investors, who still have plans to make fresh investment in the country, but they have continued to wait for the return of economic stability. He highlighted uncertainty in the rupee-dollar parity as one of the major concerns for foreign investors. He said a slowdown in the economy had badly impacted business confidence. It is must for the authorities concerned to first create an enabling environment for the local businessmen desiring to make new investment.

Data shows that textile exports

came in at \$1.2 billion in February, down 11% month-on-month (MoM) however, in rupee terms, exports came in at Rs315 billion, up by 2% MoM.

Value-added textile exports decreased by 13% MoM to \$812 million mainly due to lower shipments of readymade garments and knitwear, which declined by 13% and 18% MoM respectively, he said. Towels and bed wear exports decreased by 8% and 7% MoM respectively, according to Malik. Basic textile exports registered a decline of 8% MoM to \$214 million in February 2023. In terms of volume, knitwear, towels and bed wear shipments decreased by 16%, 10% and 9% MoM respectively, whereas exports of readymade garments increased by 15% MoM. According to data, among basic textiles,



cotton yarn exports were down by 22% MoM whereas cotton cloth shipments were up 11% MoM. Pakistan's value-added segment declined on a YoY basis by 26%, 34% and 28% in the categories of bed wear, knitwear and ready-

made garments respectively.

Textile exports declined mainly due to import restrictions, resulting in unavailability of raw material, coupled with global recession which kept textile demand subdued, he said. Besides domestic

issues, there are global reasons as well for the decline in exports that have also impacted other countries.

In the first eight months of current financial year (8MFY23), Pakistan recorded textile exports

of \$11.22 billion, down by 11% YoY, while in rupee terms, they were up by 19% YoY, while exports of basic and value-added textile declined by 21% and 9% YoY respectively.

Demand from major markets, such as the US and Europe, was the key concern among textile exporters, he said. Furthermore, the recent hike in electricity tariffs will pose a challenge to the sector.

On a year-on-year basis, cotton yarn exports registered 56.65 per cent negative growth, while on a MoM basis, it registered 18.09 per cent growth.

Rice exports declined by 12.09 per cent during the first eight months of 2022-23 and remained \$1.354 billion compared to \$1.540 billion during the same period of the last fiscal year.



# All-round Shaheen-led Qalandars lift second consecutive PSL title

By A Sports -

LAHORE: Young pacer Zaman Khan held his nerves calm to defend 13 runs in the final over to power Lahore Qalandars to the second consecutive PSL title after skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi's all-round brilliance against Multan Sultans.

Set to chase 201, the Sultans fell just one run short of forcing the super over in the final as they could accumulate 199/8 in their quota of 20 overs despite Rossouw's quick half-century.

Sultans' openers Usman Khan and Mohammad Rizwan scripted a flying start to the run chase as the pair charged on the Qalandars' bowlers right from the start and amassed 41 runs inside four overs.

David Wiese then rattled Usman's stumps to hand a much-needed breakthrough to the Qalandars. He scored 18 off 12 deliveries.

Sultans' skipper Rizwan then joined hands with Rossouw and stitched a crucial second-wicket partnership; adding 64 runs at a brisk rate before Rashid Khan forced Qalandars' comeback.

The seasoned leg-spinner removed both set batters Rizwan and Rossouw

in his successive overs and pulled down Sultans to 122/3 in the 19th over.

Rossouw top-scored for the Sultans with 52 in 32 deliveries, laced with seven boundaries and two sixes. Rizwan, however, scored 23-ball 34, hitting five boundaries.

Middle-order batters Kieron Pollard and Tim David kept Sultans in the hunt with a vital 24-run partnership for the fourth wicket but Shaheen wreaked havoc by taking four wickets in his last two overs.

The left-arm pacers dismissed Pollard (19) in his third over before removing David (20), Anwar Ali (1) and Usama Mir (0) in his last over and halted Sultans to 177/6 in 18 overs.

When it all seemed to be going Qalandars' way, Abbas Afridi glimmered a ray of hope for Sultans as he baton charged Haris Rauf in the 19th over, which went for 22 runs.

The game was hanging in balance when Zaman came to defend 13 runs in the final over with Khushdil set on his crease and Abbas striking astonishingly but the young right-arm pacer held his nerves in the clutch situation and yet again succeeded in defending the total for the Qalandars.



Following his exceptional death bowling, the Qalandars managed to seal a narrow one-run victory over the Sultans and became the first side to win two PSL titles in a row.

Shaheen led the bowling attack for the Qalandars with 4/51, followed by Rashid's 2/26. Wiese, on the other hand, made one scalp.

Opting to bat first in the final, the defending champions managed to put

on a massive total at the back of a brilliant fifty by Abdullah Shafique and Shaheen's brisk 44.

The openers Fakhar Zaman and Tahir Baig started cautiously for the Qalandars as the pair could raise 38 before Ihsanullah dismissed the latter on the last delivery of the fifth over to draw the first success for the Sultans.

Baig scored a quick 30 in just 18 deliveries, hitting five boundaries and a six.

Fakhar then joined hands with Abdullah and the duo added 57 runs for the second wicket but remained a touch slow in the process as they conceded 38 deliveries before Fakhar fell victim to Usama Mir. The left-handed opener remained the notable run-getter for the Qalandars with 39 off 34.

Sam Billings (9) then put on a brief partnership with Abdullah and could add just 16 runs before Sultans' spinners

Usama and Khushdil Shah changed the dimension of the game.

Sultans' spin duo struck thrice in four deliveries; removing Billings (9), Ahsan Hafeez (0) and Sikandar Raza (1) and bolstered their side to halt the Qalandars to 115/5 in 15 overs.

Following the slump, Qalandars' skipper Shaheen stood up for his team by once again promoting himself in the batting order and counter-attacked with belligerent hitting.

Shaheen stitched a match-defining 66-run partnership with Abdullah for the sixth wicket before the latter finally perished in the 19th over after playing a sensible knock.

Abdullah top scored for the Qalandars with 65 in 40 deliveries, laced up with 10 boundaries including two sixes.

On the other hand, Shaheen continued his domination over clueless Sultans' bowlers and took his side to amass the 200-run mark by hitting a six on the final delivery of the innings.

He remained unbeaten with his 15-ball 44 which featured two boundaries and five sixes. Usama led the bowling attack for the Sultans with 3/24 while Ihsanullah, Khushdil and Anwar Ali could pick up a wicket apiece.

## PM praises umpire Aleem Dar for his meritorious services

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday appreciated umpire Aleem Dar for his meritorious services to international cricket and said Pakistan was proud of him.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said Pakistan thanked umpire Aleem Dar for his meritorious services to international cricket, as he stepped down from the 'ICC Elite Panel of Umpires'.

"His flawless umpiring across all formats of the



game has won praise across the cricketing world. Pakistan is proud of him!" he added in a tweet.

The record-holding 54-year-old Dar had officiated in 435 men's tests,

ODIs and T20s including four world cup finals to his cap.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on its Twitter account, posted that Dar had a long and celebrated

career as an international umpire. He made his international debut in 2000 and quickly rose through the ranks, with his sound decisions in matches earning him acclaim from the players and fans.

"Dar was appointed to the ICC International Panel of Umpires in 2002 and officiated at the 2003 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa. Dar continued his rise as he was appointed as a member of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires in 2004. He was the first Pakistani to be appointed to the Elite Panel," it added.

## Najam Sethi hints at change in New Zealand tour's schedule



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management committee on Saturday hinted at slight changes in New Zealand's tour of Pakistan, scheduled in April 2023.

Sethi while addressing the media here at Gaddafi Stadium, responded to a question regarding the schedule of New Zealand's white-ball tour of Pakistan in April and stated that slight changes have been made, keeping the political situation into account.

"A schedule was designed earlier but we have made some changes to it. The New Zealand series will go ahead and probably minor tweaking has been done to it," said Sethi.

"Initially it was bound to start from Karachi and then shift to Lahore and so on. So, those certain changes have been made. But, I think everything is on target," he concluded.

It is pertinent to mention that New Zealand will tour Pakistan in April this year to play a five-match each T20I and ODI series.

The T20I series will take place from April 13th to 23rd while the ODI series is scheduled from April 26th to May 7th.

National Bank Cricket Arena, Karachi will host the first four T20I matches, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore will host the fifth T20I and the first two ODIs, while the remaining three ODIs will be held at Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi.



Sohail Fakhar, Group Head Corporate Business and Bancassurance, Jubilee Life Insurance presenting the Safe Hand of the Match Award to Fakhar Zaman after HBL PSL 2023 match between Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi.

## Shakib, Towhid set up record Bangladesh win against Ireland



By A Sports -

SYLHET: Shakib Al Hasan and debutant Towhid Hridoy both narrowly missed centuries but still guided Bangladesh to a record 183-run victory over Ireland in Saturday's first one-day international in Sylhet.

Shakib hit 93 and Towhid added 92 to guide Bangladesh to their highest ever ODI score of 338-8 after the tourists put them in to bat.

Ebadot Hossain led the reply with 4-42 and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed chipped in with 3-42 to bowl out Ireland for 155 runs just shy of 31 overs.

"The way we batted was exceptional. Wasn't the easiest wicket to bat for the first 20 overs. But Shakib was brilliant, Towhid also impressive," skipper Tamim Iqbal said after the match, according to Cricbuzz.

George Dockrell was the last man dismissed after making 45, Ireland's highest total.

Stephen Doheny and Paul Stirling put on 60 runs in the opening stand but once Shakib dismissed Doheny for 34 Ireland collapsed to 5-76, never to recover.

"We were not too disappointed at the halfway stage as the wicket was good and the best time was to bat under lights," Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie said.

"But we kept losing wickets and didn't get any partnerships." Graham Hume finished with a career best 4-60 but the hosts shrugged off early pressure from the Irish bowling attack.

Shakib and Towhid added 135 for the fourth wicket to lift Bangladesh from 81-3 after Tamim (3), Litton Das (26) and Najmul Hossain (25) all fell cheaply.

He became the second Bangladeshi cricketer to reach 7,000 ODI runs after Tamim.

Shakib is now also just the third cricketer to surpass that milestone in ODI runs and 300 one-day wickets after Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya and Pakistan's Shahid Afridi.

He shifted gears after reaching his third successive ODI fifty and hitting Harry Tector for five fours in an over.

He fell seven runs short of his 10th ODI hundred after chasing a wide yorker from Hume to get the bottom edge.

Towhid played the best debut innings for Bangladesh in ODIs, adding 80 runs for the fifth wicket with Mushfiqur Rahim, who struck 44 off 26 balls.

Hume removed both batsmen in the same over before taking the wicket of Taskin Ahmed but the tourists were unable to stop the flow of runs.

The remaining ODIs will be played in Sylhet on Monday and Thursday.

Ireland, who will also play three Twenty20 internationals and a Test during their tour, last visited Bangladesh for a bilateral series in 2008.

## Team Allana appears lustrous in National Bridge Trials

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The National Bridge Trials have reached a high point as Teams Allana and Team Ghazi comprising of masterly bridge players look all set to resolve which team will represent Pakistan in the 22nd Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East Championship due to be held in May this year. When the contest between Team Allana and Team Ghazi started on Saturday morning the flow of the selection race tilted in favour of Team Allana. In two direct matches they

| Score Standings |            |       |     |       |     |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| TEAM            | CARRY OVER | SEG 1 | CUM | SEG 2 | CUM |
| ALLANA          | 24         | 22    | 46  | 30    | 76  |
| GHAZI           |            | 26    | 26  | 18    | 44  |

were successful in beating the Ghazi Team by a margin of 51 IMPS.

Later as the competition progressed Team Ghazi managed a narrow win of 4 imps thus reducing the margin. It was a tight match and both teams appeared to be geared up for a win.

In the Second Round

both teams proceeded cautiously to play for a win. Allana Prevailed and added 12 more to their lead. Allana accumulated 76 Imp with the carry over, while Ghazi gathered 44 Points.

Allana Team has in its ranks names like A, R Allana, Tahir Masood, Jahangir Ahmed Sarfraz Ahmed,

Anwar Qazil bash and Javed Miran. As for Team Ghazi their team members are Tehseen Gheewala, Mohsin Chandna Imran Abedi, Rashid Ul Ghazi, Javed Miran & Sarfraz Ahmed.

Three more Rounds are to be played tomorrow to complete 96 boards Final.

## Williamson, Nicholls double tons put New Zealand on top in second Test

News Desk

WELLINGTON: Aggressive double centuries for Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls powered New Zealand's dominance in the second Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday.

The Black Caps declared their first innings at an imposing 580-4 before reducing Sri Lanka to 26-2 at stumps on day two, leaving the tourists with a very slim prospect of squaring the two-match series.

The in-form Williamson scored 215 and Nicholls posted a career-best 200 not out, with the pair's third-wicket stand of 363 virtually batting Sri Lanka out of the contest.

Their partnership was the fifth-highest by any New Zealand combination and they became the country's first batters to reach 200 in the same innings.

Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne will resume on 16 on Sunday and nightwatchman Prabath Jayasuriya remains on four, with the deficit a daunting 554 runs.

Sri Lanka's bowlers struggled



to generate life on a flat Basin Reserve pitch, forcing Karunaratne to set defensive fields during much of the mammoth partnership.

Williamson and Nicholls batted at a lively clip from the outset, advancing quickly from a 155-2 overnight score and barely looking troubled as they unleashed an array of attacking strokes through the first two sessions.

Williamson was impenetrable as he reached three figures for the third time in successive Tests, becoming the first New Zealander to pass 8,000 runs

in the process.

It was a sixth double-century for the 32-year-old — whose unbeaten 121 was pivotal in a final-ball first Test in Christchurch earlier this week.

Having resumed on 26, Williamson struck 23 fours and two sixes before holing out in the deep off spinner Jayasuriya as he tried to escalate the scoring rate.

Nicholls marched on from his overnight 18 to reach three figures before pushing past his previous-best score of 174.

His aggressive 240-ball knock, which featured four

sixes, represented a remarkable return to form for the left-hander, whose place in the team was under pressure after failing to reach 40 in his 15 previous innings.

Nicholls said he was aware of criticism of his ongoing selection but said he was made to feel comfortable by support from his teammates and coach Gary Stead.

"Everyone in the group's been great and you really feel that support," he said.

"For me, it was just about trusting that I had done it before. It hasn't happened as much as I'd like in the last period.

"Now the challenge is doing it again knowing that the blueprint is there."

Nicholls compared the partnership with a 369-run stand with Williamson against Pakistan in Christchurch two years ago.

"The way Kane's playing, he's in a real zone out there. It was nice to make that partnership into another really big one."

Kasun Rajitha, who was off the field for a period nursing a

shoulder injury, lodged the best bowling figures of 2-126.

Sri Lanka spinner Dhananjaya de Silva said the tourists were guilty of allowing the double centuries too much leeway.

"Obviously Kane and Henry batted very well. We have to be at our best when we're facing these players but we missed our lengths," he said.

De Silva said Sri Lanka hadn't given up on squaring the series although he conceded it will be very difficult to force a victory.

"We're not playing for a draw, we're playing for a win.

"So we have to bat for at least one and a half days. We'll see what will happen," he said.

Their response began poorly.

Matt Henry removed opener Oshada Fernando for six before fellow-seamer Doug Bracewell dismissed Kusal Mendis without scoring via a spectacular catch at point from Devon Conway.

It came from Bracewell's third ball of the match in what is his first Test appearance for more than six years.