



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا جب رمضان کا مہینہ آتا ہے تو آسمان کے تمام دروازے کھول دیئے جاتے ہیں، جنہم کے دروازے بند کر دیئے جاتے ہیں اور شیائین کوڑ بھروسے سے جلائے جاتا ہے۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 1899)

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Plan was hatched to assassinate me inside Judicial Complex, claims Imran Khan

PTI Chairman Imran Khan claimed on Monday that a plan was hatched to assassinate him inside the Judicial Complex. Addressing a speech via video link, the deposed premier claimed, "If I went inside the Judicial Complex, these people could assassinate me." (Details on Page 8)



China to continue strengthening cooperation with OIC: Spokesperson

A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday that the OIC was the symbol of solidarity of Islamic countries and China will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation with it. China will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation with the OIC, help the member states enhance their capacity building in public health and other areas of development. (Details on Page 8)

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National Idea Bank 2022

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the closing ceremony of the National Level competition of National Idea Bank 2022 on Monday.



Photo: PID

Dar clarifies statement regarding delay in IMF programme

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar on Monday clarified his statement given on March 16 on the floor of the Senate with regard to the reasons behind delay in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, saying it was being quoted out of context.

"My comments with regards to Pakistan's nuclear programme was in response to a colleague senator's specific question, wherein, I emphasized that Pakistan has sovereign right to develop its nuclear programme, as it best suits our national interests, without any external dictation, which, by no means should in any way whatsoever be linked with the ongoing negotiations with the IMF," he said in a statement.



The minister clarified that neither the IMF nor any country had attached any conditionality or made any demand from Pakistan with regard to "our nuclear capability and the delay in IMF staff level agreement is purely due to technical reasons, for which we are continuously engaged with the IMF in order to conclude it at the earliest."

PTI's 'disgusting' smear campaign against COAS deserves strongest condemnation: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the "disgusting" smear campaign of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir, at the behest of Imran Niazi, deserved the strongest condemnation.

On Twitter, the prime minister said that Imran Niazi was stooping to unprecedented lows in his desperation for power and going to the extent of damaging the country and undermining its armed forces and their leadership.



The campaign against the COAS was intolerable and the continuation of a conspiracy against the national institutions, according to a PM Office press release.

The prime minister urged overseas Pakistanis to raise their voice against the "foreign-funded" campaign. He said as the dirty political game was being played through the expatriates, they should not become part of the conspiracy.

He said Imran Khan was violating the constitution by dragging the institutions and their leadership into his "dirty" politics.

The prime minister also instructed the interior minister to strictly deal with those running such a smear campaign against the institutions.

He also warned of strict legal action against those fanning chaos and subversion in the country.

A campaign against an army chief appointed purely on merit for the first time in the country's history could only be an agenda of the anti-Pakistan elements, he added.

"The whole nation stands by its institutions and is united against miscreants," the prime minister remarked.

PTI's Atif Munsif among seven killed in gun attack in Abbottabad



Bureau Report

ABBOTTABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Tehsil Chairman from Havelian Atif Munsif was among the seven killed in a targeted gun attack on his vehicle on Monday.

Atif Munsif was reportedly on his way home when unknown attackers opened fire at his vehicle in the village of Langra resulting in his death, and the deaths of his four security guards and three other workers. The assailants also fired a rocket at the vehicle which burnt the vehicle and gutted the dead bodies, confirmed District Police Officer (DPO) Umar Tufail.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

Coalition govt condemns attacks on police & Rangers, vows to take action against miscreants

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government Monday strongly condemned attacks and torture of police and Rangers on the orders of Imran Khan and said strong action would be taken against those who had violated the law.

The prime minister chaired the important meeting of the allied parties, which continued at the Prime Minister House for six hours.

The leaders, in a joint statement, said the police and Rangers, who came under attack, were only implementing the court orders.

During the meeting, the overall economic, political, internal and external situation of the country and peace and security were reviewed in detail.

The participants were briefed in detail about the economy, revival of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programme and measures taken by the prime minister for relief to the public.

The relief measures included farmers' package, supply of free flour during Ramadan to poor families, scheme to provide special relief of Rs 50 in the price of petrol to the low income people, special CSS examination for youth across the country,



promotion of solar energy, interest free and inexpensive loans for youth, rehabilitation of flood affectees and other programmes.

The attendees appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for revival of the economy and the IMF programme, and for providing maximum relief to the people despite difficult economic conditions and expressed complete confidence in his leadership.

They said that it was a matter of grave concern that trained miscreants, many of them belonging to banned organizations, attacked officers and personnel of state institutions with petrol bombs, sticks, catapults and weapons.

Such behaviour in no way was constitutional, legal, democratic and political, they said, adding taking up arms against state, targeting of officers and Jawans, shooting at them, burning of vehicles, besieging the court premises and then rioting there, throwing of police vehicles in canals, and stopping and torturing policemen who were on duty were acts of extreme lawlessness, which nobody state could tolerate.

The meeting expressed solidarity with officers and Jawans of state institutions and lauded their sense of duty and declared that no leniency would be shown and strict action according to law would be taken against those elements who had broken the law.

IHC orders police to produce Hassaan Niazi within 24 hours

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered the police to conduct medical examination of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Hassaan Niazi and produce him before the court within 24 hours.

Yesterday, Barrister Hassaan Khan Niazi, the nephew of former prime minister Imran Khan, was arrested by Islamabad police from outside Judicial Complex, despite securing bail.

The IHC heard the petition seeking the recovery of Hassaan Niazi. The court issued orders to allow Niazi's meeting with his family and lawyers' team. The IHC chief justice directed the police to not subject Niazi to torture in the custody nor commit any legal violation.

During the hearing, SHO Ramna police station and the representative of the Inspector General (IG) Islamabad appeared before the court. The SHO Ramna police station confirmed that Hassaan Niazi was taken into custody by the police.

Imran Khan writes to CJP, urges probe into 'assassination plots'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has urged Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial to order an investigation into 'continuing threats' to his life and the 'assault' on his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

The former prime minister penned down a letter to CJP Umar Ata Bandial, urging an investigation into 'continuing threats' to his life and the 'assault' on his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

In his letter, Imran Khan pointed out that he had been consistently requesting for video link facility from courts for multiple court appearances because his "life is at risk."

"With no security provided to me and with one assassination plot already attempted against my life in Wazirabad, I have been placing my life at risk every time I have to make a court appearance," he noted.

The former prime minister claimed that the events of Saturday — when Khan's house was raided by the Punjab Police while he was at Islamabad Judicial Complex for his court hearing in the Toshakhana case — were evidence that an assassination plot.

"When we arrived in Islamabad and were moving towards the Judicial Complex, we were trapped on all sides by containers to block my arrival at the Complex and before the Magistrate to deliberately try and create a false situation of no show," he claimed.

"To provoke the mass of people gathered in support of the police and Rangers resorted to tear gas and baton charge against ordinary unarmed citizens and the PTI leadership accompanying me. What was worse the police stationed on the roof of the Complex started hurling stones into the crowds," he alleged.

Free flour bags

LAHORE: A large number of people in a queue to collect free flour bags distributed by the Government in connection with the Ramadan package at Argenton Road.



Photo: APP

China to continue strengthening cooperation with OIC: Spokesperson

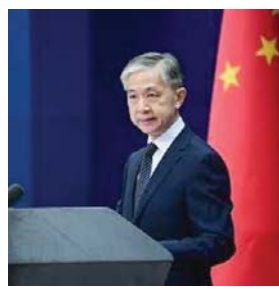
News Desk

BELJING : A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was the symbol of solidarity of Islamic countries and China will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation with it.

China will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation with

the OIC, help the member states enhance their capacity building in public health and other areas of development, and work toward new progress in bilateral relations, he said during his regular briefing held here.

He said that the 49th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers adopted a text that spoke positively about China and added, it recognized the good progress of OIC-China cooperation



and said that the OIC looked forward to further cooperation with China.

"We deeply appreciate

this," the spokesperson said. Wang Wenbin said that the meeting also particularly welcomed the normalization of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran which was achieved with China's support.

"This fully shows that solidarity and friendship among Islamic countries is a common aspiration that they and China share," he added.

The spokesperson said that China and the Islamic world

enjoy traditional friendship. The two sides firmly support each other in defending core interests and have engaged in fruitful Belt and Road cooperation.

He said that China will continue to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative with Islamic countries and jointly promote world peace, stability and sustainable development.

Plan was hatched to assassinate me inside Judicial Complex, claims Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE :Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan claimed on Monday that a plan was hatched to assassinate him inside the Judicial Complex.

Addressing a speech via video link, the deposed premier claimed, "If I went inside the Judicial Complex, these people could assassinate me. My companions had signaled me to depart. The objective of the 20 people present in the Judicial Complex was to assassinate me. Our lawyers were subjected to torture inside the Judicial Complex".

Mr Khan urged the Chief

Justice to hold an investigation over the "20 people present in the Judicial Complex". He also appealed to the Chief Justice to hold hearings of cases against him via video link, requesting that the Chief Justice to see what was going on in the country.

The country's history did not witness such brutality as it did in the tenure of the incumbent government, lamented Mr Khan.

He took a dig at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), saying the opponents will not win elections at any cost.

"These people want my assassination. By shelling in the toll plaza, efforts were made to



incite the PTI workers. I have mentioned many times that I am facing a threat to life. So why have I been summoned persistently", the former premier, bashing his political opponents.

He went on to claim, saying,

"If I am sent to jail, these people will assassinate me, there as well".

Continuing to take a dig at the rulers, Mr Khan claimed, "They are resorting to tactics against me for their own sake. These people are not interest-

ed in holding elections. But they are in power to assassinate me".

On Sunday, Mr Khan Sunday demanded release of party workers and their children arrested during police raids homes of PTI workers in Islamabad.

In his message on Twitter, Imran Khan said: "Fascism at unprecedented levels with police in Islamabad raiding homes without warrants to abduct PTI workers. Where the worker is not present, children as young as 10 yrs are picked up."

PTI chief Imran Khan demanded the immediate release of all PTI workers and their children who have been abducted by police.

NA Speaker felicitates people of Iran on Nowruz Day's celebrations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday felicitated the government and people of Iran on Nowruz Day-the festival that marks the Persian New Year 1402 and the official beginning of spring equinox, when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal lengths.

In his special message on the celebration of Nowruz, the speaker said that the friendly and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran had spanned over decades.

Pakistan valued its relations with Iran, he said, adding that both countries had supported each other in every difficult hour and pointed out that Iran had extended its support on every international platform.

Info Ministry briefs NA panel on draft legislation pertaining to attached departments

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Monday was given a briefing on draft legislation pertaining to attached departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Press Information Department (PID), Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), Associate Press of Pakistan (APP) and other related acts.

While briefing the panel, Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid said seven bills were under consideration, which would be forwarded by the ministry to the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) after making amendments.

In that regard, she said, the



ministry had been persistently holding consultations with the stakeholders to seek their input as directed by the Islamabad High Court.

She said the ministry was also working on the draft bill for journalists' protection, which would be finalized after incorporating suggestions from the stakeholders.

The Information Secretary said the cases pertaining to the protection of journalists and media professionals were transferred from the Human Rights Division to the Information Division, which had now

transferred them to the Parliamentary Affairs Division.

The panel expressed dissatisfaction over the briefing given by the Secretary Information regarding the draft legislation.

The committee meeting chaired by Javaria Zafar Aheer directed that the Minister for Information and Broadcasting should brief the committee on the amendments in its next meeting.

The representative from the Islamabad Capital Territory Police briefed the committee on the progress of the cases pertaining to the protection of journalists and media professionals. He said directives had been issued to the patrolling officials of the ICT Police for the security of the media houses as well as the residences of the media professionals.

He said that as per the court directions, only one first information report would be registered in one case.

The committee directed the Minister for Interior to brief it regarding the measures taken by the ministry for the protection of journalists in the next meeting.

Later, the panel deferred the Private Member's Bill titled "The Indecent Advertisement Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2022" (moved by Muhammad Jamal-ud-Din, MNA) along with other legislative business and decided to consider the same in the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by members of the National Assembly Zulfikar Ali Behan, Ms. Naz Baloch, and Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Naseer Baloch and Nasir Khan Musa Zai, while Kiran Imran Dar and Ms Zaib Jaffar joined it through video-link. MNAs Moulana Abdul Akber Chitrali, Muhammad Jamal-ud-din and Aliya Kamran, movers of the respective motions /bills, also attended the meeting.

NDMA's 20th relief cargo reached Adana to assist quake-hit Turkiye



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched its 20th relief cargo to assist the quake-hit people of Turkiye that reached Adana carrying over 1,300 winter-

ised tents.

The NDMA tweeted that it was another tranche of 1,350 (Type-II) fire-resistant winterised tents (100 tonnes load) from Lahore in line with the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif through a special cargo service, earlier in the morning.

Imran talks about peace after terrorists resided in Zaman Park: Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

LAHORE : Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz assailed on Monday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, saying the latter was now talking about peace after terrorists resided in Zaman Park.

Taking to Twitter, Mr Nawaz launched a fresh salvo at the deposed premier, saying, "Now he realises that he will be dealt with iron hands".

"Imran Khan is now speaking about peace after police mobiles were attacked and dozens of policemen were injured. Not only this, but petrol bombs were also used, and terrorists lived in Zaman Park," she bashed Mr Khan.

Earlier today, the Pakistan Democratic Movement, strongly condemned on Monday the torture on the policemen amid the appear-

ance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan before the court.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a meeting of the allied parties during which different matters were underscored including the torture on the officers. Apart of that, the purported audio leak of former Chief Justice Saqib Nasir and Khawaja Tariq Rahim was condemned as it featured the statement against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz.

Sources privy to the development said that all the parties - formed the PDM - believed on action - against any entity - as per the constitution. Besides this, the maligning campaign against the Army and the COAS was also strongly condemned. The PDM leaders ensured to stand by the institutions of the state, vowing to deal the extremists with iron hands.

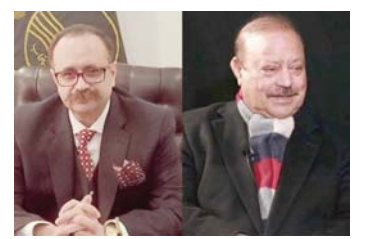
AJK President, PM pay rich tributes to Syed Ali Ahmed Shah on 33rd death anniversary

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR : Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, and Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan have paid eulogizing tributes to former AJK President Ghazi Millat Syed Ali Ahmad Shah for his political and social services to the nation.

In their separate statements issued on Monday, on the occasion of the 33rd death anniversary of the former AJK President, to be commemorated on March 21, the duo said the deceased would be remembered for long in the annals of Kashmir history for his selfless service and indomitable role in the freedom struggle of Azad Kashmir.

"Ghazi Millat Syed Ali Ahmad Shah, one of the close associates of Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, was a fearless, sincere, courageous and highly revered leader who played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of Azad



Jammu and Kashmir", they said, adding that the former president had fought against despotic regime along with Kashmiri freedom fighters.

They said that, as the President of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Ali Ahmad Shah established a revolutionary army and incorporated Amur-e-Deeniya into government departments.

They said that the deceased was a man of honesty and integrity and a true follower of Islamic principles. "He had played a significant role in the freedom struggle and the movement of accession to Pakistan", they said.

Govt reduces per litre petrol price for motorcyclists by Rs100: Musadik

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The motorcyclists and the low-income segment of the society will be given a relief of Rs100 in per litre petrol price instead of Rs50, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik announced on Monday. Addressing a presser in the federal capital, he said the prime minister had given the ministry only six weeks to implement the reduction.

Malik further said the owners of big vehicles would be paying Rs100 more for per litre of petrol, claiming the incumbent government stood by

the poor of Pakistan.

The minister said the decision on gas tariff was implemented from January 1, 2023 under which the the poor and the rich would be paying separate bills. On Sunday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a big relief for low income segment of society by giving a subsidy of Rs50 per liter under petroleum relief package.

Chairing a review meeting on the relief package here, he said the petroleum relief will be given to low income consumers who have motorcycles, rickshaws, 800 cc cars and other small cars.

Drastic drop in cotton production to destroy export sector

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said reduced cotton production is a great threat to the export sector which is already crumbling under tough IMF conditionalities.

The cotton crisis is to hit the textile sector which is responsible for most of the export earnings and is catering for millions of jobs, he said.

The government should immediately make an effective strategy to import cotton and increase its production, he added.



Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said in

a statement that after the floods, the production of cotton was estimated to be only nine million bales, but according to recent estimates, it will decrease to 4.7 million bales due to a drastic reduction in the area under cotton cultivation.

He said that if the farmers were not given adequate returns, the area under cotton cultivation will decrease further next year spelling disaster for farmers and the textile sector.

It is possible to increase the production of cotton only by increasing the support price which is not according to the ground realities therefore they are switching to other crops.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the production of cotton in 2004-5 was 14.1 million bales, which is not impossible to achieve, but the farmers must get incentives and use modern technology, otherwise, they will continue to prefer rice, sugarcane and maize over cotton.

The import bill of cotton, edible oil and animal feed will continue to increase if cotton output decreases, he warned.

Currently, the cost of cotton production is costing almost Rs7000 per 40 kg and farmers should get a profit of Rs2000 per 40 kg otherwise they will lose interest in cotton cultivation.

VC KMU inaugurates KIMS and KIDS new buildings/ KIMS and KIDS hosts white coat ceremony



Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University, KMU, Peshawar vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq has said that young doctors are the centre of our hopes and it is our mission to equip them with modern medical sciences and skills as well as high medical ethics. The shifting of KIMS and KIDS to the new buildings will not only solve all the problems that were hindering their all-around development, but it will also help make KIMS and KIDS an ideal post-graduate education and research centre for the southern districts. He expressed these views as chief guest at the white coat ceremony organized by the KMU-Institute of Medical Sciences, KIMS, and the KMU-Institute of Dental Sciences, KIDS, for the first-year students and the joint inauguration of the new buildings of the two colleges. Former VC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hafiz Ullah, Registrar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Gandapur, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Azmat Ullah Wazir, former principals of KIMS Prof. Dr. Tariq Mufti, Prof. Dr. Salim Khattak, Prof. Dr. Lal Mohammad Khattak, present Principal Prof. Dr. Mussarrat Jabeen, former Principal of KIDS Prof. Dr. Aziz Marjan, present Principal Prof. Dr. Fahim Ullah, a large number of faculty and students were also present at the occasion.

Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq while welcoming the newly admitted students said that you and your parents are lucky because you have got the opportunity to show your essence in a holy profession like medicine and serve the suffering humanity. He said that you have to be a good doctor and also have good morals. Prof. Zia said that from the next academic year, measures will be taken on an emergency basis to increase the number of seats for KIMS to 200 and for KIDS to 100, as well as to develop KIMS and KIDS as an ideal center for FCPS training in the southern districts. After shifting KIMS and KIDS to new buildings our target is to build two new medical colleges in Peshawar and Swat region, on which work has already been started.

Earlier, vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq and other guests inaugurated the new buildings of KIMS and KIDS. It is worth mentioning that the new buildings of the above two colleges have been constructed at the cost of 27.47 million rupees in a period of eight years from the annual development fund of the provincial government on an area of 120 kanals in KDA Kohat where academic facilities, as well as laboratories, library, cafeteria, hostels, gym and indoor sports facilities, will also be available.

RCCI concerns on closure of Poultry Industry due to high inflation



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Poultry sector is under severe pressure due to increase in production cost. Currently sixty percent of poultry farms have been closed resulting in job loss. The government should work on cultivation of soybeans at the local level so that dependence on imports is reduced. These views were expressed by Saqib Rafiq, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, while addressing the meeting of the Standing Committee on Poultry in the Chamber house.

He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber had raised the issue of import ban and containers stuck at the port at all levels, and the government should take steps to reduce the cost of production.

RCCI President Saqib Rafique and Chairman Dr. Farhan Farooq presided over the meeting. Issues related to the poultry sector were discussed in the meeting. The committee expressed concerns over the increase in cost of production, non-availability of chicken meat due to inflation and recommended that the government should provide incentives and tax exemptions to promote local machinery/plants for import substitution. Chairman Farhan Farooq welcomed the suggestions from the committee members.

Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, former Presidents Dr. Hassan Saroosh, Raja Amer Iqbal, Malik Shahid Saleem, committee members and members of RCCI were also present in the meeting.

Appearing

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Staff of Chairman (PTI) Imran Khan, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz leaving Judicial Complex Court on wheel chair after he appeared in the Court in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

CEJ-IBA's 'Click! The Digital News Ideathon' draws audiences looking to bypass

News Desk

KARACHI: Nearly 150 beginner, intermediate, established, and aspiring content creators gathered at the Centre for Excellence in Journalism's (CEJ-IBA) 'Click! The Digital News Ideathon' to learn how to monetise their content and diversify their revenue streams to sustain their platforms.

The event was organized by the CEJ-IBA in collaboration with Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW).

Multimedia Journalist-Sabah Bano Malik kicked off the event with a warm welcome to the audience and spoke about the constant evolution of the digital landscape. CEJ Director, Amber Rahim Shamsi opened the event with a call to action: "We need to reinvent jour-



nalism, how we gather news, where we distribute it and how we engage with audiences."

In his opening address, Ambassador Alfred Grannas highlighted the partnership between the CEJ-IBA and DW, and encouraged participants to learn how to monetise, with a caveat: "Make money- become millionaires! Just do not forget your duties as a journalist" In his opening address to the audi-

ence, acknowledged the draw of making money through social media platforms and highlighted the partnership between the CEJ and DW.

The first panel discussion for the day, 'Journalist or Influencer' invited panelists-including Sahar Habib Ghazi, Shehzad Ghias, Syed Muzammil and Azaz Syed- to reflect on the Pakistani news audience's desire for serious content, and the blurred lines

between journalist, influencer, citizen journalist and vlogger. Moderated by Amber Rahim Shamsi, they also addressed how to deal with negativity on social media platforms.

Broadcast Journalist Syed Muzammil spoke about the various models, platforms, and strategies available for content monetization, and gave several tips on how to get the most out of the digital space.

"Identify your area of expertise. Create an audience. Substance matters."

Selected participants were then invited to attend breakout sessions, where they learned about making monetization work for them- not the platform; and why diverse revenue streams lead to better content.

Content Creator and Entrepreneur, Amtul Baweja spoke

about her personal journey in leveraging her social media to become an entrepreneur. She shared her experiences in discovering what kind of content worked and what did not, and the challenges she faced in dealing with trolls and haters. She also weighed in on whether influencers can be called the entrepreneurs of today.

Journalist Alia Chughtai moderated an engaging panel discussion on 'Clickbait', where panelists including Munazza Siddiqui, Ali Warsi, Maria Memon, Zeeshan Ahmed, and Risham Waseem discussed the accusation that content creators and digital news platforms often use misleading headlines to bait audiences. They also examined the advantages and disadvantages of 'Clickbait' and discussed alternatives.

Arts Council Karachi honored Mahira Khan with the Cultural Ambassador of Pakistan award

News Desk

KARACHI: "An Evening with Mahira Khan" was organized by Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi in Auditorium I which was hosted by the famous writer and intellectual Anwar Maqsood. Mahira Khan and host Anwar Maqsood had a heart-to-heart conversation on Sunday at the Arts Council of Pakistan. The evening was full of witty exchanges on politics, The Legend of Maula Jatt and the importance of financial independence for women in Pakistan. Welcoming Anwar Maqsood and actress Mahira Khan, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah said that everyone knows Mahira Khan and Anwar Maqsood, it is a matter of happiness for us that today Mahira is among us, I would like to thank Fiza

and Nabeel.

Without whom this would not have been possible, Anwar Maqsood started the conversation by saying that whenever I have spoken to anyone, he was a politician or a soldier, today is the first time I am speaking to an actress like this. I have written a lot for TV actors including Uzma Geelani, Khaleda Riasat, Samina Ahmed, Sania Saeed, Rubina Ashraf, Bushra Ansari, Badar Khalil, till now I have not written any play for Mahira because since I have stopped writing, Mahira Khan became famous, famous actress Mahira Khan said that I wanted to become an actress since childhood, my grandmother objected to this, when I was offered to be a VJ, she said that I want to work in films, I took permission from my family to become a VJ, when I got a call from

Shoaib Mansoor, I did not believe that he would do the film "Bol". I told Shoaib that I have just had a baby, I got the answer that there is no problem, in our time, babies used to be on the set, then I, mother, Abu and my son Azlan went to Lahore.

Mahira Khan said that scripts are too long these days, to which Anwar Maqsood said that when I wrote Sitara and Mehr un Nisa, there was no forced dialogue in it. Mahira Khan said if girls are not financially independent then they can't do much. It was great to work in India. It was my dream to work with Shah Rukh Khan. Anwar Maqsood then asked that you and Shah Rukh Khan have What was the same except the nose, on which the whole hall echoed with applause, Mahira Khan laughingly said that many people told me to get a



nose surgery, I said never, what is the use if the nose is amputated. She said that what I learned in life is to come on time and give my full time. I also produced the telefilm "Ek Hai Nigar".

I don't produce for money. Story of General Nagar is the story of a courageous woman, she said that listening to old songs is my hobby, I like songs of Pakistani Sufi Kalam, Rafi and

Geeta Dutt, two DVDs when I went to college. I had, on Geeta Dutt's "Piasa" and "Aangan Terha". I tried very hard to speak good Punjabi in Mola Jat, Anwar Maqsood said, I watched your movie "Mola Jat" thrice in which Mola Jatt drinks a lot and becomes Fawad Khan while romancing, on social media. Some things have been said by me, the rest are all lies, Mahira Khan expressed her desire and said that any politician should be honest, to which Anwar Maqsood said that an honest person can make everyone dishonest, 23 crores Population is, if the state becomes Madina, then 19 crore people will have their hands cut off. In the end, Mahira Khan was given the Cultural Ambassador of Pakistan award by the President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:49 am
Zohr 12:16 pm
Asr 4:35 pm
Maghrib 6:19 pm
Isha 7:42 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
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WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

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MH 561116
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Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
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Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

AIOU offers admissions in BS programs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is offering 2.5 and 4-year BS programs in the second phase of spring semester 2023 which will continue till April 18. Admissions in 4-year BS programs (FA/E.Sc based) are being offered in Accounting and Finance, Arabic, History, Sociology, Economics, Pakistan Studies, Islamic Finance, Islamic Studies (General, Quran and Tafsiir, Shariah, Hadith and Hadith Science, Seerat Studies, Dars-e-Nizami and Interfaith Studies).

Admissions in 2.5-year BS programs (BA/B.Sc based) includes Accounting and Finance, Arabic, English, Pakistan Studies, Economics, Gender and Women Studies, Library and Information Sciences, Mass Communication, Islamic Studies (General, Quran and Tafsiir, Shariah, Hadith and Hadith Science, Seerat Studies, Dars-e-Nizami, and Interfaith Studies). Other programs in the second phase include 1.5, 2.5, and 4-year B.Ed programs, Postgraduate Diploma programs, Associate Degree (Arts and Commerce), BBA, and certificate courses (6 months). Admission forms and prospectus of all the programs are available on the university website. The procedure for submission of forms is explained in the prospectus.

Dawlance established a global Research and Development Center at NUST

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : The parent company of Dawlance, Arçelik has established its second R&D center in Pakistan at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). Arçelik is the 2nd largest manufacturer in Europe, operates in 53 countries with 83 subsidiaries has 30 R&D centers around the World.

Arçelik produces leading sustainable and innovative home appliances products at its, cutting-edge technologies in nine countries. For fostering innovations in Pakistan, Arçelik established an R&D center in Karachi in 2017 just after the acquisition of Dawlance and now is making a new investment to establish an Arçelik Global Research & Development (R&D) Center, at the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), in Islamabad to accelerate its effort to grow in Pakistani market. The new R&D center was inaugurated with a ceremony attended by the

Pro-Rector of NUST RIC-Air vice Marshal (Retired) Dr. Rizwan Riaz, the President of Koç Holding Consumer Durables Group Dr.Fatih Kemal Ebiçlioglu, Arçelik Chief Commercial Officer of Turkey and South Asia Can Dinçer, Arçelik Chief Production and Technology Officer Nihat Bayz, CEO of Dawlance Umer Ahsan Khan and Pakistani officials.

Arçelik's Executive Director of R&D-Mr. Emre Oğuz and the Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance (Pakistan)-Mr. Umer Ahsan Khan signed this historic agreement, at the NUST University in Islamabad, along with Pro-Rector RIC-Air vice Marshal (Retired) Dr. Rizwan Riaz. This initiative will deploy highly qualified engineers to train the youth in modern skill sets for creating a globally competitive workforce in Pakistan

Arçelik's R&D center in Karachi caters to all product categories in Dawlance, including Refrigerators/Freezers, Split ACs, Wash-



ing Machines, Water dispensers, TV & Small Domestic Appliances (SDAs). Expertise exists in all fields of product design & development including structural design, modeling/analysis, system design and testing, embedded software design, design implementation. Only appliance manufacturer in

Pakistan with this capability.

The CEO of Dawlance-Umer Ahsan Khan stated that: "Arçelik's partnership with NUST-the premier technology institute in Pakistan, shows our commitment to foster technological advancements in Pakistan and enable the professional development of the

youth. Arçelik has been making healthy investments to foster research, modernize production and provide the highest quality products. The young engineers at NUST will gain valuable experiences, by learning about Arçelik's global quality standards, regulatory compliance and best practices."

The Pro-Rector RIC of NUST-Air Vice Marshal (Retired) Dr. Rizwan Riaz said "We are thankful to Arçelik for working directly with NUST to utilize the research-centric environment of this prestigious engineering institution, to complete its ongoing and futuristic R&D projects. This partnership will enable the development & testing of IT solutions, pertaining to the home appliances category, as Arçelik is expanding its footprint in Pakistan and other Asian countries, to show its confidence in the talents and scientific potential of the youth." The entire infrastructural & running cost of this venture will be managed by the Arçelik team. This initiative will also help in gaining deeper insights into the local consumer's needs and preferences to develop innovative solutions, based on the needs of the Asian markets. Large volumes of data will be collected & shared with the Arçelik team, for exploring the possibilities to export IT solutions, globally.

National Day

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Mauritius Rashidally Soobadar and Additional Secretary Ministry of foreign affairs Javed Ahmed Umrani and others cutting the cake during 55th Anniversary of the Independence Day and the 31th Anniversary Mauritius at Local Hotel, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Real estate sector can bring direct investment of billions of dollars: Adil Bhatti says

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that the real estate sector can bring direct investment of billions of dollars. The burden on Pakistan's economy can come down in a few months. A government-private partnership can revolutionize this sector. Overseas Pakistanis have immense confidence in this sector. Due to the wrong policies of the government, this sector has declined. Adil Nawaz Bhatti has demanded the government to implement the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act immediately and give this industry an opportunity to play its role in the development of the country. go The real estate sector is the way to restore the country's economy and is a way out of the current situation. Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that due to the failed economic policies of the government, millions of real estate agents associated with this sector are unable to run their businesses and real estate A large number of estate agents have been forced to close their offices.

CDA to fully assist NGOs to keep Islamabad clean, green



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) needs the active support of non-governmental organizations to increase green cover in Islamabad for improving its environment amid the increase in civic infrastructure.

This was stated by CDA Chairman, Noorul Amin Mengal, while speaking at the launching ceremony of the spring tree plantation activity at the Arts and Crafts Village, Shakarparian. The National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) in collaboration with the CDA and Komatsu conducted the plantation activity.

Mengal assured the NFEH that the CDA would continue to provide the best possible facilitation to it, as a sincere NGO committed to increasing tree cover in the country, to keep Islamabad clean and green.

Head of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs of NFEH Halima Khan, said that at the launching of the plantation activity, 400 saplings were planted while in total 1,000 saplings would be planted in the current season in different parts of the federal capital.

She welcomed the gesture of the CDA chief for providing assistance to extend this plantation activity to other parts of the federal capital.

She told the audience that her NGO after successfully running the Clean and Green Karachi campaign in collaboration with the Commissioner and other civic agencies had decided to expand the same drive to other urban centres in Pakistan.

She said that NFEH had the complete resolve to expand its tree plantation campaign to other parts of Pakistan in collaboration with the corporate sector.

Others who attended the ceremony and took part in the plantation activity were Mr. Khalid CTO of Komatsu Soft Pakistan, Samia Rehman, Coordinator CSR activity, Muhammad Munir Director of Parks CDA, Nasir Najam GM of Nestle, Dr. Awais Siraj CEO of Chal Foundation, and Tamana PBS Association.

Friendship between China and Pakistan is exemplary

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt said that the friendship between China and Pakistan is exemplary; China has given full proof of being a sincere friend by supporting Pakistan in every difficult period. Not only the heads of the two countries, the people of both countries are also equal partners in every suffering. We are proud of China's friendship.



Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt distributed Ramadan gift packages to deserving people from the platform of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation like every year. Later, President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, Aasma Ismail Butt, said in her special message that as you know, the month of Ramadan, which is full of blessings, is about to begin. All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation decided to give a Ramadan gift package

to Muslim brothers and sisters who are suffering from financial problems, and even two meals a day has become impossible due to their financial crisis.

The chairman of the federation and the entire team pray for the safety of Pakistan and its people in the holy month of Ramadan. And expect that in this blessed month of Ramadan, all Muslim brothers and sisters will share happiness with each other too. And in the month of Ramadan, never forget those people who are suffering from financial hardship. Remember that distribution of sustenance never decreases, but always increases. Our beloved country Pakistan is going through a difficult time, the people should support the government so that they can get rid of this difficult time together. On this occasion, I am extremely grateful to our friend China, who has always supported Pakistan and its people in every difficult period. I pray that this ideal friendship between the two countries will remain forever, Amen

Etihad Group Organizes Live Balloting & Early Possession Ceremony of Etihad Town Phase 2

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Recently, Etihad Group organized a live balloting event for its new housing project, Etihad Town-Phase 2. The event was open to all customers that had previously acquired plot files in the project - with possession of plots expected within 6 to 8 months.

Etihad Town Phase 2 is located at a 3 minutes' drive from Ferozpur Road and 2 minutes from Halloki Interchange, and offers a variety of plot sizes for potential customers. The development boasts modern amenities and wide green spaces for families to enjoy. It is an ideal choice for people from all walks of life that are looking for a comfortable and affordable home in a convenient location.



Chaudhry Sohail Munir, Mr. Faisal Khokar and Mr. Nabeel Khokar were present at the event. On the occasion, Mr. Faisal stated that he was excited with the development of the Etihad Town Phase 2 and expected the new development to offer a chance for families to create a long lasting home

for themselves. On the occasion, Etihad Group COO Mr. Shuja Ullah Khan stated that he was delighted to help launch Etihad Town Phase 2 and to offer potential clients the opportunity to purchase a home in a prime location at a convenient price. He further

expressed his belief that the balloting process is a fair and transparent way of allocating plots to customers and revealed that balloting for the project would be conducted after every 30 days. He concluded by saying that he looked forward to welcoming customers to the new housing development.

Promotion of real-estate sector at the cost of industry criticized

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said the economy suffers if the interests of shopkeepers become more important for policymakers than the interests of the country.

When the priority is to reward the property mafia and the broker mafia, investment in the industrial sector dwindles hitting production, exports, jobs, and revenue, it said.

When the private power plants are the apple of the eye of policymakers, it is no wonder that the circular debt exceeds four thousand billion rupees, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that the share of wholesale and retail businesses in the GDP is about 20 percent, but they are neither taxed nor the markets are closed in the evening because they are supporters of a political party.

If this sector is taxed then billions of dollars can be saved and if their prices are controlled then the entire population of the country can get relief but this will never happen, he added.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that agriculture is a major sector of the economy but the agricultural income is not being taxed properly.

He added that apart from the shopkeepers, the real estate mafia is also given special favors. This sector has been given free rein to loot the public and has been made so profitable that no one is willing to invest in the productive sector.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
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 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
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 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
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 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislambad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Needing a holistic social security mechanism for factory workers

Iftikhar Ahmed

Since the world economies are facing serious crunch and price hike with Pakistan also not an exception, the backbone of our economy, the industrial workers are in dire need for a holistic social security system to ensure their survival.

As different departments are working in this sector and the factory workers have to run pillar to post for getting their in-service and post retirement dividends. This is an extra fatigue adding to their hardships.

Although, the federal and the provincial governments have taken different measures to protect interests of factory workers, yet after devolution of the Labor Department after 18th amendment, the situation had become complicated.

In present scenario, social security department, workers' welfare fund, labor department and EOBI are working for the same purpose but under different institutions.

According to a spokesman of Directorate of Social Security Faisalabad, there are more than 20,000 establishments in Faisalabad with the district divided into three zones; Eastern, Western and Northern Zones to facilitate the workers.

More than 150,000 workers were secured in Faisalabad while out of total establishments, about 9000 units were closed and more than 100 units defaulted to social security department," he claimed.

Contesting the department claims, the factory owners claim that closing 50%

units was not their fault as they were compelled to do this due to increasing cost of doing business. They were also critical of policies and efficiency of the social security department as they claimed to pay a huge amount as contribution for welfare of their workers and demanded fair functioning of the department.

"It is worrisome that 50% units had to be closed down leaving thousands of workers jobless with remaining units working at 40% capacity," said President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Dr Khurram Tariq.

"Scores of factory workers await facilities like educational scholarship, death and marriage grants since 2019 despite contribution by the employers," Dr Khurram Tariq claimed. "Therefore, the social security department and workers' welfare fund must step forward to resolve this issue."

The directorates of social security are working in all major cities of the Punjab including Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Sheikhupura, Multan, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffar Garh, Bahawal Pur, Sialkot, Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala and Gujrat.

Any factory worker registered with Punjab Employees Social Security Institute (PESSI) is called secured worker and he and his family members are entitled to sickness, injury, Iddat, maternity and gratuity benefits besides disablement pension, artificial limbs, funeral grant and free education for children.

But Muhammad Akram, a secured factory worker has claimed delayed provision of medicines for workers from social

security hospital Faisalabad as he raised questions on capacity of the department. "Around 60% of the establishments are still uncovered and their owners are avoiding payment of contribution on different excuses," he claimed.

Akram suggested that contribution paid by employers of Faisalabad, must be spent on welfare of workers in this area. "Adopting this mechanism would ensure legitimate financial benefits to the workers of respective regions and districts."

He also proposed to conduct a survey on the pattern of digital census to devise a system with spatial imaging and ensuring registration of 100 percent industrial establishments. "It will provide a true picture of industrial establishments enabling the department to register real number of workers through door-to-door survey."

He demanded future planning on the basis of an authentic data ensuring that every registered factory worker gets all facilities enshrined in the Constitution. "Workers related policies must be framed on tripartite basis by involving employees, employers and the government functionaries."

Amidst the claims and demands of the employers and the employees, Admin Officer Directorate of Social Security Faisalabad (East) Zulqarnain Malhi claims that the social security department provides full health cover and financial benefits to secured workers besides ensuring full safety at workplace.

After registration, he said, the secured worker through his employers contributes

6% of his wages and in return, the social security department provides him social security cover including the health facility.

"Presently, 22 social security hospitals are working in Punjab including four hospitals in Lahore and three in Faisalabad," he said. "If required facility is not available at these hospitals, it is arranged at other hospitals locally or sending critical patients abroad if necessary and PESSI bears entire expenditures."

He said complete treatment for cardiac patients with the facility of bypass surgery, angiography, angioplasty etc as well as CT scan and nuclear block facilities are available at Rehmatul-Lil-Alameen Institute of Cardiology and Social Security Teaching Hospital in Lahore.

Social Security Hospital Islamabad provides diagnosis and complete treatment of breast cancer while treatment of kidney diseases, gastroenteritis, hepatitis, dengue fever diagnosis are also available at respective Social Security Hospitals.

"We also provide prostheses and spectacles to secured workers and their families besides facility of modern laboratories and physiotherapy centers, ambulance service and dispensaries," he said. "PESSI also arranges free education and every year nine scholarships are provided to children of secured workers at medical colleges affiliated to Social Security Hospitals."

Now whatever the claims of stakeholders, it is prime responsibility of the concerned departments to ensure maximum possible benefits to factory making them to sail through this era of economic turmoil.

'Urgent' climate action can secure a livable future for all

'Urgent' actions are needed to counter human-caused climate change, according to a new report by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"Without urgent, effective, and equitable mitigation and adaptation actions, climate change increasingly threatens ecosystems, biodiversity, and the livelihoods, health and well-being of current and future generations," said the report, released Monday in Interlaken, Switzerland.

Reports by the IPCC are considered the planet's most authoritative assessments of the state of global warming, its consequences and the measures being taken to tackle it.

"Humanity is on thin ice – and that ice is melting fast," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Our world needs climate action on all fronts – everything, everywhere, all at once."

At the same time, the report said there were many feasible and effective options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change, and they were available now.

"Transformational changes are more likely to succeed where there is trust, where everyone works together to prioritize risk reduction, and where benefits and burdens are shared equitably," said IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee.

"This Synthesis Report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all."

In his video message released on Monday, UN chief Guterres described the report as a "how-to guide to defuse the climate time-bomb".

Climate action was needed on all fronts: "everything, everywhere, all at once," he declared, in a reference to this year's Best Film Academy Award winner.

The UN chief proposed to the G20 group of highly developed economies a "Climate Solidarity Pact," in which all big emitters would make extra efforts to cut emissions, and wealthier countries would mobilize financial and technical resources to support emerging economies in a common effort to ensure that global temperatures do not rise by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Guterres announced that he was presenting a plan to boost efforts to achieve the Pact through an Acceleration Agenda, which involved leaders of developed countries committing to reaching net zero as close as possible to 2040, and developing countries as close as possible to 2050.

The Agenda calls for an end to coal, net-zero electricity generation by 2035 for all developed countries and 2040 for the rest of the world, and a stop to all licensing or funding of new oil and gas, and any expansion of existing oil and gas reserves.

These measures, continued Guterres, must accompany safeguards for the most vulnerable communities, scaling up finance and capacities for adaptation and loss and damage, and promoting reforms to ensure Multilateral Development Banks provide more grants and loans, and fully mobilize private finance.

Shameful attempt of promoting anti army narrative on allotment of land in Punjab-II

Also similar, detailed and comprehensive information have been shared by @PEconomist on its Twitter thread and many others on social and print media according to which the Government of Punjab will give this land temporarily to the army to make it cultivable through a joint venture. That means possession and ownership of this land will remain with Punjab government.

While adding further, they say that due to poor land reforms, ineffective agricultural policies, climate change and increasing population, the annual growth of the agriculture sector in Pakistan's economy, which was 4 percent in 1960, has reduced to 2.5 percent in 2022 which is not compatible with the continuous increase in the population of Pakistan. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 76 million acres of the country is cultivable, of which about 27 percent (209 million acres) is not cultivated. Apart from this, about 9 million acres of land used by the Punjab government is barren which can be seen in pictures or visiting the land. Punjab, the most fertile region of Pakistan, due to the lack of modern methods and facilities in the field of agriculture, not only could not cultivate the barren lands, but in terms of production from agricultur-

al lands is suffering day by day degradation. While, the world gets about 75 to 120 manna of rice and wheat from one acre of land, in Pakistan the farmer can get only 35 to 40 manna. Pakistan's agricultural decline is not only a burden on the economy, but there is a fear of severe food shortage in Pakistan in the near future. To deal with this emergency, the Punjab government has made a plan to restore the agriculture sector with the help of the Pakistan Army. Under this project, the barren lands of the Punjab government will be made

cultivable and the production of low yielding lands will be increased. The intervention of the army will only be to provide an integrated administrative structure. The project implementation and agricultural activities will be carried out by the local population and the people of the villages will have a livelihood close to their home. With the use of modern agricultural methods, machinery and high quality seeds, agricultural production will be increased manifold.

They added that, in the first part of the project, different varieties of pulses, millets and rice will be

cultivated. This will be followed by large-scale cultivation of canola and wheat. Forty percent of the revenue generated from the crop will go to the Punjab government, 20 percent will be spent on modern research and development in the agriculture sector and the remaining 40 percent will be used for the next crop and expansion of the project. Apart from the cultivation of crops, trees will also be planted on a large scale on all agricultural lands, which will also play a positive role in the environment.

While explaining the positive impacts they say that, the project is expected to generate billions of revenue to the provincial government in a few months. For example, if 30 maunds of wheat are produced from 1 acre of land, then 30 lakh maunds of wheat

will be produced from 100,000 acres and the income will be about 11.4 billion rupees which will help in the economy revival of Pakistan. Due to this the economic wheel of agriculture and our farmers will start moving faster. Army will not receive any revenue share from this project.

While elaborating the purpose of the project they added that making barren land arable to combat the challenge of malnutrition. It will

help in revival of agriculture sector and provision of livelihood for local villages, farmers and small farmers. It will be helpful in ensuring foreign exchange for research and development in agriculture sector. It will promote the introduction of modern farming methods and cooperative corporate farming model in the agriculture sector and availability of modern agricultural facilities in the local area will greatly benefit the small farmers. It will also assist in reducing Pakistan's agricultural imports and increasing exports. A major part of the land involved in this project will be allocated for research, which will be conducted in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Institutes of Pakistan.

Readers, it's quite evident from the information, facts, data and figures that this step of allotting barren land to Pak Army will bring a revolution and positive impact on our deteriorating Agriculture Industry. All propaganda against this remarkable joint venture is baseless and shameful. This disgusting attempt of promoting anti-Army narrative while neglecting the facts is not in the larger interests of Pakistan. All such malicious intentions are condemnable and these attempts will be failed to divert the attention of the nation from truth and facts.

Concluded



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Govt flexing muscles to manage power supply in summer - I

Raziq Ali Shah

The government is mulling multi-pronged strategy to cope with upcoming power shortage issue during summer despite economic turmoil and rising fuel prices following International Monetary Fund demands.

Since uninterrupted power supply is considered as crucial for development of industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors, its smooth supply to domestic consumers is equally important.

Therefore, the present government is vigorously pursuing the arrangements to overcome load-shedding in coming summer and provide respite to industry and common consumers in scorching heat.

Rising fuel prices and new energy situation after Ukraine war also necessitated Pakistan to utilize its indigenous resources like hydel, solar, wind and Thar coal as it has already announced not to build any new power projects depending on imported coal and ensure 60 percent of its power through local sources by 2030.

"We are taking pragmatic steps to overpower load-shedding by focusing on generation, transmission and energy conservation to provide maximum relief to people," stated Minister for Power Division Khurram Dastgir.

"The present government has already added 1,980 MW cheap electricity to the system from Thar coal reserves in just 10 months besides 720 MW and 1100 MW from Karot Hydropower and K-3 Nuclear Power Plants," he added.

Khurram Dastgir said the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) government led by the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had successfully added over 10,000 MW electricity to national grid through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects during 2013 to 2018.

"Efforts of the then PML-N government, had not only controlled load-shedding but also surplus power was available in the system," he remarked. "But, criminal negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government had delayed number of projects dragging the country to darkness once again."

He informed that total power generation from Thar coal stood at 2640 MW with formal commissioning of 1320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Project under the CPEC. "Another 330 MW Thal Nova Thar coal project has already been synchronized in February that would help reduce load-shedding in summer and cut the power tariff."

Khurram said there were 175 billion tons coal reserves at Thar that were sufficient to generate 100,000 MW electricity. Moreover, Bolan-Gawadar Transmission Line has also been completed to import 100 MW electricity from Iran. "This project is expected to address power shortage issues in Gawadar as the transmission line would start working in mid of March."

Regarding 6,000 MW PM's solar energy project, he said the request for proposals to set up first 600 MW solar project at Muzaffargarh has been sought and open bidding for it would be held on April 17. "These indigenous power projects would help address energy issues and reduction in power tariff."

To be concluded

China-Russia ties in new era

Xi's visit expected to herald greater progress

Xinhua

MOSCOW :Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived here on Monday afternoon for a three-day state visit to Russia at the invitation of his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

Many in Russia applauded the high-level development of China-Russia relations in recent years, and are eagerly looking forward to the visit. They expect deeper cooperation in politics, economy, trade, people-to-people and culture as well as new progress in bilateral ties in the new era and greater contribution to world development.

Head-Of-State Diplomacy

Exchanges between the two heads of state are the compass and anchor of China-Russia relations. Under their guidance, the China-Russia relationship is brimming with new dynamism and vitality, setting a fine example for developing a new model of major-country relations featuring mutual trust, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

Russian officials and scholars believe that with Xi's visit to Russia, the two heads of state will work



together for steady and sustained progress in bilateral cooperation, which will continuously benefit the people of the two countries.

The Russian people respect President Xi very much and eagerly look forward to the old friend's visit, said Galina Kulikova, first deputy chairperson of the Russia-China Friendship Association. Kulikova has been engaged in Russian-Chinese public diplomacy for more than 65 years

and was awarded the Friendship Medal, China's highest state honor. She said that Xi's visit shows that China attaches great importance to bilateral relations and will promote practical cooperation between the two countries.

In March 2013, Xi chose Russia for his first trip abroad as Chinese president. Ten years later, Xi again picked Russia for his first overseas visit following his re-election.

Since 2013, Xi and Putin have jointly blueprinted the development of bilateral ties and practical cooperation in various fields, held frank and in-depth exchanges of experiences in state governance, communicated and coordinated closely on major international issues, and attended multiple major events organized by each other. The two sides remain committed to building a multipolar world, advocate and practice true multilateralism, and have reached important strategic consensus on upgrading China-Russia relations, safeguarding regional security and stability, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Xi's visit once again testifies to the importance of Russia-China relations and reaffirms that Russia and China will continue to practice true multilateralism, promote the construction of a multipolar world, enhance global governance, and contribute to world development, said Sergei Lukonin, head of the Department of Chinese Politics and Economics at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Russia-China relations provide example of harmonious: Putin

Xinhua

BELJING: The Russia-China relations provide an example of harmonious and constructive cooperation between major countries, Russian President Vladimir Putin wrote Monday in the Chinese newspaper People's Daily, just before Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia.

In his signed article Russia and China: A Future-Bound Partnership, Putin addressed the friendly Chinese people and expected that his talks with Xi will "give a new powerful impetus" to bilateral cooperation in its entirety.

The visit reaffirms the "special nature" of the Russia-China partnership, which has always been built on mutual trust, and respect for each other's sovereignty and



interests, he wrote.

The firm friendship between Russia and China is consistently

growing stronger for the benefit and in the interest of our countries and peoples,

the article said, adding that the progress made in the development of bilateral ties is impres-

sive, and Russia-China relations have reached the highest level in their history and are gaining even more strength.

The two sides have reached an "unprecedented level of trust" in their political dialogue, and their strategic cooperation has become truly comprehensive in nature, said the article.

The Russian leader remarked that Russia and China have consistently worked to create an equitable, open and inclusive regional and global security system that is not directed against third countries.

Putin expressed his belief that the friendship and partnership based on the strategic choice of the peoples of the two countries will further grow and gain strength for the well-being and prosperity of Russia and China.

COMSTECH Training on Randomized Clinical Trials in Uganda

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with the Islamic University in Uganda organized a two-day training on "Randomized Clinical Trials at Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala, Uganda.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, welcomed the participants of the training workshop online. He said the objective of this training is to build capacity in the critical area of clinical trials for drug discovery and development. He said that the clinical trials as per international standards, following the principles of good clinical practices, healthcare code of ethics, and biosafety, and in compliance with regulatory and sponsor requirements are critically important for successful outcome of drugs, vaccines, biologicals, and even diagnostics development process.



He said that it is important to have growth and greater involvement of OIC nations in this field. He mentioned that this international workshop is an attempt to fill the capacity gap. Dr. Choudhary said that this is a critical step in the long journey of a drug, biologic or vaccine to move from preclinical phase to a clinically validated product.

Assistant Secretary General of OIC for Science and Technology, H.E. Mr.

Askar Mussinov delivered his message online. He said I am delighted to share this message with you all in support of this two-day training. He said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) supports this joint initiative of COMSTECH and IUIU, and recognizes the immense importance of clinical trials towards the development of safe and effective medicines against prevailing and neglected diseases.

Mr. Mussinov said that clinical trials provide a scientific basis for further development in medical sciences. He said that it is essential for OIC states to establish this sector on strong footing and build capacity to discuss and develop new medicines.

Consultant COMSTECH on health initiatives, Dr. Abdur Rashid, Program Officer COMSTECH, Ms. Maham Yameen, Head and Consultant Nephrologist, Maroof International Hospital, Prof. Dr. Mujtaba Quadri, Director ORIC, Indus Hospital, Dr. Ammad Fahim participated in the training from Pakistan, and COMSTECH distinguished scholar, Prof. Dr. Khalid Saeed Khan, from the Granada University in Spain also participated in the training.

More than 100 national and international participants participated online, while 60 researchers from Uganda participated in the training in-person.

Japan provides additional \$5.58mn to strengthen weather forecasting in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan decided to increase the amount of a grant aid for "the Project for Installation of Weather Surveillance Radar in Multan" from 2.042 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 14.99 million USD) to 2.8 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 20.57 million USD).

The original Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between two governments on 31 August 2018. Responding to the request from the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, this time, the Government of

Japan decided to provide additional amount of 760 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 5.58 million USD) for this project.

The Notes to this effect for provision of additional amount were signed and exchanged between Mr. ITO Takeshi, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Pakistan is prone to natural disasters such as floods and landslides caused by heavy torrential rains, tropical cyclones and earthquakes. This results in heavy damages, particularly, due to floods trig-

gered by monsoon rains.

The Japanese government has been assisting Pakistan proactively, in the enhancement of weather surveillance capacity since the 1980s, in order to mitigate the damage by flood.

Including the additional amount pledged today, the total amount of Japanese assistance for weather surveillance radars in Pakistan has reached about 11.3 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 82.9 million USD).

So far Japan has supported the installation of 6 weather radars in the cities of Islamabad, Karachi, Dera Ismail Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Multan (ongoing) and Sukkur

(ongoing) and will cover 80% of the country and benefit 90% of the whole population.

The weather radar network will surely contribute to further strengthening the weather forecasting capability in Pakistan and help Pakistan become more resilient to future natural disasters.

In the signing ceremony, Mr. Ito stated, "This project will enhance PMD's capabilities, it will be able to disseminate information and deliver more accurate weather forecast, it will be able to send out warnings to protect life and properties of the people in Pakistan. The whole population of the country will be benefitted."



Annual charity dinner organized by Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust

Spokesman Report



OLDHAM :Annual charity dinner organized by Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust was held at Eastern Pavilion Hall Oldham. President of TI North West Asif Rasheed Butt-Ali On-Atif Chaudhary-Amjad Mughal-Owais Chaudhary-Muhammad Safdar-Pinky-Poet Naghmana Kanwal-Kashmiri leader Raja Najabat-Javed Tariq-International Islamic poetry groups.

A large number of community members also participated in the evening. Adeel Riaz performed the functions of organizing the dinner ceremony well, while comedian Salman Malik entertained the participants with his unique style of humor.

Under the motto that light is for everyone, so far we have operated on the eyes of one hundred and seventy thousand people and given them the blessing of sight again. They provide facilities to the deserving people at their doorsteps. Managing Director Sadaf Javed said that after meeting the target of providing eye treatment to deserving people last year, we organized the annual dinner, which was made possible by generous donations from the community.

PTI North West President Asif Rasheed Butt said that Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust is doing welfare work all over the world. Al Mustafa Welfare Trust Director of Donor Management Nisar Ahmed said that with the financial support of the community of Greater Manchester, we will cross the target of two lakhs to bring light to the eyes of the blind. Kashmiri leader Amjad Hussain Mughal said that enabling blind people to see again is a rewarding work of political and social personality. Aliya Hashmi said that the people who participated in the dinner gave donations generously.

Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust is engaged in the service of humanity. Razia Chaudhry, a prominent figure who works for women's rights, said that people should continue to participate in good deeds like this after donating generously. The host, Chaudhry Bilal Ghafoor, a prominent businessman, said that we have financially supported Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust in setting up a dozen free I-camps in Pakistan.

Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust is working in a very organized manner. By taking blood samples, AIDS also helps them in the diagnosis of dengue and other diseases. I thank those who participated in today's program. A special prayer was made for the dinner and the participants were treated to traditional Asian food.

Suffering and needy Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust follows the Sunnah of Rasool in enabling the blind to see the natural sights again and to make them useful citizens of the society.

Pakistani Exporters Should Tap the Baltic Region: Suleman Chawla



Commerce Desk

KARACHI : Mr. Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has proposed that Pakistani exporters should tap the potential to export to the emerging European economy of Lithuania in the Baltic Region. He also expressed his admiration of the fact that Lithuanian economy has grown by over 500 percent since 1990 - and that, for all practical reasons, points us to the direction to where the Lithuanian economy is headed.

Mr. Suleman Chawla appreciated the fact that H. E. Ricardas Degutis, Ambassador of Lithuania to Pakistan, visited the FPCCI Head Office within days of his assuming the role; and, that shows his seriousness to promote trade & economic relations between the two countries.

He added that FPCCI will explore the possibility of signing an MoU in trade promotion with its counterpart chamber in Lithuania to pave the way for an enhanced economic cooperation agenda between the governments of the two countries.

Acting FPCCI Chief highlighted the fact that Pakistan has always regarded Lithuania as one of the important countries for trade & strategic affairs given its geographical location at the Baltic Sea; and, sharing land borders with Russia, Poland and Belarus.

Mr. Chawla extended his full support from the platform of FPCCI to help organize trade visits & B2B engagements of Lithuanian importers and investors to explore Pakistani world-class textiles; leather products; IT & ITeS; sports goods; surgical instruments; mineral & natural resources; rice, fruits & vegetables and hospitality & tourism.

Mr. Suleman Chawla apprised the session that Pakistan has made tangible gains with Lithuanian neighbors Russia and Belarus in the recent months vis-à-vis trade relations. It is only logical to expand those gains to the Baltic Europe, he added.

H. E. Ricardas Degutis, Ambassador of Lithuania to Pakistan, informed the prominent business personalities at FPCCI Head Office that he is willing to play his role, as country's top diplomat for Pakistan, to connect FPCCI to Chamber of Lithuania as people-to-people & business-to-business linkages must be fostered to strengthen economic relations.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
40,918.45	41,329.95	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,398.03	40,909.24	
Index Value	Change	
4,034,016,704	-411.50	
Percentage	Time	
-1%	20 Mar, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,402.33	+66.93	
Percentage	Time	
+0.91%	20 Mar, 4:26 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,079.98	+218.00	
Percentage	Time	
+0.68%	20 Mar, 12:26 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
26,945.67	-388.12	
Percentage	Time	
-1.42%	20 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187	189.4
Bahrain Dinar	749.54	757.54
Canadian Dollar	207.5	209.5
China Yuan	40.91	41.31
Danish Krone	40.38	40.78
Euro	298.5	301.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.9	36.25
Indian Rupee	3.41	3.52
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	916.88	925.88
Malaysian Ringgit	62.85	63.45
New Zealand \$	176.66	178.66
Norwegians Krone	26.33	26.63
Omani Riyal	732.14	740.14
Qatari Riyal	77.42	78.12
Saudi Riyal	75.2	76
Singapore Dollar	207.5	209.5
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	305.25	307.78
Thai Bhat	8.26	8.41
U.A.E Dirham	77.25	78
UK Pound Sterling	340.5	344
US Dollar	283.2	286

Engr. Khurram Dastgir lays the foundation stone of first ever 765/ 220 kV Grid Station

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan has laid the foundation stone of NTDC's 765/220 kV Mansehra Grid Station, which is the first of its kind in Pakistan located at Sawan Maira, district Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

While addressing the ceremony, Federal Minister said that the present government is exerting full efforts to utilize local resources for generation of electricity to reduce the reliance on expensive imported fuel. He said that 765 kV Mansehra Grid Station project is funded by World Bank with an estimated cost of PKR 24 billion and will be completed within 30 months. The grid station will be connected to a 765 kV double-circuit transmission line for evacuation of 2160 MW cheap and environment friendly electricity from the first stage of the Dasu Hydropower project. This project of transmission lines and grid stations will cost a total of PKR 132 billion.



Khurram Dastgir said that 2000 megawatts of electricity will be added to the national grid from Thar coal project this year. Prime Minister will inaugurate the power project

in Thar on March 22. Construction work on Transmission line to supply 2000 megawatts from that coal project is in full swing and will be completed at the end of next month. He said that a feasibility study will be done immediately to build a solar park on 5 thousand kanals of land in Hazara Division.

Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan also addressed the ceremony and said that NTDC is executing its development projects vigorously for timely completion. Mansehra grid station is one of the first two 765 kV grid stations being constructed by NTDC. After completion of this project basket price of electricity will be decreased.

During the ceremony, Federal Minister planted a tree at the project site. Federal Minister Murtaza Javaid Abbasi, PML N leader Captain Saifdar, Special Assistant to PM Sardar Shahjahan Yousaf and others also addressed the ceremony. NTDC's senior officers, representatives of the Chinese Embassy and World Bank, contractors and local notables were present on the occasion.

DMA assures to address encroachments and other issues of traders

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The encroachment in markets are creating hurdles in smooth growth of business activities and DMA should take the concerned market associations on board to remove all encroachments from the local markets. This was said by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry while talking to Yasir Farhad, Director Municipal Administration, CDA during his visit to ICCI.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that a week schedule in coordination with market associations should be developed to survey the local markets for removal of encroachments. He said that many markets need parking facilities, replacement of old sewerage systems, repair of footpaths, carpeting of roads and revival of out of order streetlights and stressed that the DMA should convey these issues to the Chairman CDA to address them. He assured that ICCI in coordination with market associations would fully cooperate with DMA to address encroachment issues in the markets.

Speaking at the occasion, Yasir Farhad, Director Municipal Administration, CDA he wants to facilitate the traders in



promoting trade activities and assured that he would like to work with market associations to address their issues regarding encroachments. He said that ICCI in coordination with market associations should make a weekly plan of visit schedule so that he could visit various markets to see the encroachments and take measures for their removal. He said that DMA has cancelled all licenses for business on green and open areas and said that the business community should cooperate with DMA

in promoting fair business practices. He said that an SOP has been developed for board license while the policy for open areas would be finalized soon.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry and representatives of various markets including Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Akhtar Abbasi, Raja Imtiaz, Tahir Abbasi, Zahid Qureshi and others also highlighted DMA related issues of their markets and gave useful proposals to address them.

FFC hands over 67 reconstructed houses to affected populace as flood relief efforts in Sindh



Commerce Desk

GHOTKI: Torrential rains and flash flooding had inundated a third of Pakistan last year with huge losses to life and property of the victims. Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) has a long history of standing with underprivileged community in testing times. As part of recent flood rehabilitation activities, FFC strived to construct houses for flood affectees in the vicinity of Ghotki. Till date,

67 houses have been handed over to the residents of Ghotki, which includes six widows. Efforts are in hand to complete construction and handing over of additional 22 houses before the onset of Ramadan Kareem so that the residents can joyfully celebrate Eid ul Fitr. FFC's Rehabilitation Project has garnered immense appreciation from locals for provision of solace and humanitarian support to underprivileged community.

Saudi-Iran deal a huge success for China

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran to reduce tensions and restore diplomatic relations is a great diplomatic achievement of China.

After this surprising decision, China's reputation at the global level and its influence in the Middle East have increased, while Pakistan has breathed a sigh of relief, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Saudi Arabia and Iran have remained locked in an indirect conflict in Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, and Lebanon and on almost every forum for a long time.

But now, there is hope for an end to the civil war and armed confrontation which will improve the overall environment in the Middle East, he added.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that both countries will save billions of dollars in terms of war expenses if the agreement remains successful.



That Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is emerging as a statesman and under his guidance, Saudi Arabia has also improved its relations with Qatar.

Saudi Arabia has recently deposited five billion dollars in the central bank of Turkey and due to all these measures, Prince Muhammad bin Salman and Saudi Arabia have emerged taller on the world stage.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that Saudi Arabia and Iran are becoming friends as a result of China's successful diplomacy which has shaken the western world. Pakistan should see this development

as a success as it has very close relations with China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, and Turkey.

Pakistan is keen to increase trade ties with Iran and KSA to better meet its energy needs, support the issue of Kashmir, and expansion of CPEC.

In this regard, our policymakers have to take care to increase relations with Iran in a way that doesn't offend America at any cost because America is the largest buyer of our exports, it is giving us aid and loans, a large number of remittances are coming in from the US and it has a lot of influence in international institutions like the IMF.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the agreement may result in some distance between India and Iran as China's influence is growing in Tehran and after this deal, Israel's problems will increase.

He noted that after India's response to the recent anti-government protests in Iran, the Iranian Foreign Minister has canceled his visit to India, and if the tension between the two countries continues it will hit Indian ambitions.

The Indian dream of reaching Afghanistan and Central Asian markets through Chabahar port will remain unfulfilled which will be a big setback for New Delhi.

Lucky Cement Limited received NFEH's 15th CSR Awards 2023

News Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited, Pakistan's leading cement manufacturer, is delighted to announce that it has won the NFEH's 15th Corporate Social Responsibilities Awards 2023 in the "Green Energy Initiatives" category. This award recognizes the company's unwavering commitment to sustainable development and reducing its carbon footprint through the implementation of renewable energy solutions in its operations.

Mr. Amin Ganny, Chief Operating Officer of Lucky Cement Limited, expressed his gratitude for the recognition and reiterated the company's commitment to promoting sustainable development. "At Lucky Cement, we believe

that it is our responsibility to promote sustainability, reduce our carbon footprint, and help build a better future for our country. We have made significant strides in this direction by adopting renewable energy solutions for our operations, including the installation of a 34MW captive solar power plant at our Pezu plant, the largest on-site solar plant in Pakistan.

This has helped us reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate our impact on the environment."

He further added, "We will continue to incorporate green energy solutions in our operations and align our efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) to promote sustainable development in Pakistan."

Bank Alfalah commits PKR 49 million to building schools

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Bank Alfalah, the biggest corporate donor for the flood-affected communities, has partnered with The Citizens Foundation (TCF) to fund the construction of a primary school in Asif Nagar in Nawabshah, Sindh, for PKR 49 million.

Bank Alfalah's contribution towards rebuilding schools is particularly noteworthy given that more than 25,000 schools have been damaged in Pakistan. The donated amount will facilitate the building of a TCF primary school, contributing to the organisation's efforts to increase literacy in areas where education is hindered by flood damage.

The signing of the agreement was held at the TCF's headquarters in Karachi in the presence of Atif Bajwa-President and CEO of

Bank Alfalah, along with Asad M Saleem-Co-founder and Chairman of the Board, Ateed Riaz-Co-founder and Zia Akhtar Abbas- Executive Vice President among other notables from both the organisations.

Speaking at the occasion, Atif Bajwa, President and CEO of Bank Alfalah, said

Ahsan Saleem, Chairman of The Citizens Foundation, commented on the partnership with Bank Alfalah, "I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Bank Alfalah for always supporting TCF in educating the less privileged as well as helping communities in times of crisis. With their recent donation, TCF will provide access to quality education for the children in the district of Nawabshah. This contribution will have a lasting impact on the lives of many children and



communities, creating opportunities for learning and growth that will

shape their futures in immeasurable ways. Education is still a dream for many children residing in under-served communities, and through staunch supporters like Bank Alfalah, we can touch as many children through education and make their dreams come true."

Bank Alfalah made a generous donation of PKR 35 million towards flood relief and rescue efforts for communities and schools established by TCF that were severely impacted by heavy rainfall. The Citizens Foundation is a non-profit organisation that has been working to improve the state of education in Pakistan since 1995. In its 27 years of operations, TCF has successfully established numerous educational institutions and is now one of the leading organisations nationwide in education for the less privileged.

Load shedding should be stopped otherwise we will be forced to take strict steps



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: People belonging to Azam Warsak area of Birmal Tehsil of Lower South Waziristan staged a 22-hour protest in front of the electricity grade station Wana against the illegal load shedding of electricity, in addition to local political leaders, a large number of people participated in the protest.

The protestors said that we are given electricity only for 2 hours out of 24 hours, 18 MW electricity is generated from Gomalzam Dam, yet we are not given our right, which is completely unjust the protestors said that electricity from Gomalzam Dam is the first right of the people of Waziristan, Former Army Chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani had promised that electricity should be given to Waziristan before Gomalzam Dam.

But unfortunately, no one is ready to implement it, if our demands are not implemented by the government, we will be forced to take strict steps.

It should be remembered that earlier electricity was available for four hours and now only 2 hours of electricity is given to the people of Lower Waziristan in 24 hours

The people of Waziristan are provided electricity for only two hours in twenty four hours from Gomalzam Dam,

The Gomalzam Dam is built on the land of Waziristan and the first right over it belongs to the people of Waziristan.

But unfortunately, the government seized it and gave it to the rest of the cities of Pakistan, the electricity of Gomalzam Dam is being used in the headland of Punjab, while the people of Waziristan have been deprived of this blessing.

Pakistani Women Football Captain Maria gets 2nd Bint-e-Hawa achievement awards

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Captain of the Pakistani Women's Football team Maria Jamila Khan received Bint-e-Hawa achievement awards a joint venture of Bank of Khyber and Bint-e-Hawa.

Chief Organizer Bint-e-Hawa Achievement Award Alam Zeb handed over the Award to her on Monday.

Maria Jamila Khan appreciated and showed her gratitude for the acknowledgement from Bint-e-Hawa organizers.

Her dedication to the Pakistani women's football team is commendable and it's wonderful to see her being appreciated for her efforts.

Maria Jamila Khan is a well-known and brilliant footballer leading the Pakistani Women's team in the UAE football tournament. She had also been declared



the best player in the tournament. Maria Jamila Khan belongs to Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and granddaughter of Hashim Khan the all-time great squash player.

It is worth mentioning here that the 2nd Bint-e-Hawa Achievements Awards took place in Peshawar on 8th March 2023 but she did not join the ceremony.

Bint-e-Hawa Achievements Awards represented and recognized dynamic ladies of our entire society who have the ability to face the challenges of society and tackle them with their expertise, skills, and experiences and make a difference in today's male-dominant culture.

They had nominated 80 women from different categories for awards who have contributed to women's empowerment and were capable of contributing towards the betterment of women's well-being.

Afridi-led Asia Lions crowned Legends League Cricket Masters champions

By A Sports -

DOHA: Openers Upul Tharanga and Tillakaratne Dilshan's magnificent half-centuries in the run chase helped Shahid Afridi-led Asia Lions to down World Giants and win the Legends League Cricket Masters 2023.

Set to chase 148, the Lions eased through to victory for the loss of just three wickets and 23 balls to spare, thanks to a solid foundation laid by their Sri Lankan opening pair.

The opening duo frustrated Giants' bowlers with a firm partnership as they raised 115 runs inside the first 10 overs before Brett Lee finally got the breakthrough as he castled Tharanga.

Tharanga scored a brisk 57 off just 28 deliveries, laced up with five boundaries and three sixes.

Meanwhile, Dilshan continued his domination and soon brought up his half-century



amid a brief partnership with Mohammad Hafeez. They put on 17 runs before Samit Patel put an end to Dilshan's astonishing knock.

The right-handed opener top-scored for the Lions in the run chase with a 42-ball 58 which featured eight boundaries.

The Lions then lost another wicket in the next over when all-rounder Abdul Razaq perished after scoring three off six.

However, Lions' mainstay Misbah-ul-Haq joined Hafeez in the middle and made sure their side amassed the total with

no further damage. Hafeez and Misbah remained unbeaten for nine runs each.

For the Giants, Lee, Patel and Monty Panesar made one scalp each.

Opting to bat first, the Giants could accumulate 147/4 in 20 overs despite Jacques Kallis'

anchoring 78.

The Giants had a dismal start to their innings as the side lost three wickets for just 19 runs inside the first powerplay with Lendl Simmons (17), Morne van Wyk (0) and Shane Watson (0) perishing cheaply.

Following the slump, Ross Taylor joined Kallis to anchor the innings with a gritty partnership for the fourth wicket.

The pair added 92 runs amid their stand but remained a touch slow as they conceded 68 deliveries before Thisara Perera castled Taylor, who could score 32 off 33. Kallis, on the other hand, carried his bat all the way through and guided the Giants to 147/4 as he received no support from the other end.

The all-rounder top-scored for the Giants with 78 off 54 deliveries with the help of five boundaries and three sixes.

Razzak led the bowling attack for the Lions with two wickets while Perera made one scalp.

Punjab lifts National Women's Blind Cricket Championship title



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab defeated Islamabad by eight wickets in the final to annex 2nd National Women's Blind Cricket Championship here at the Marghzar Cricket Ground Saidpur on Monday.

Punjab chose to field after winning the toss. Islamabad scored 108 runs for the loss of four wickets in the allotted 12 overs.

In reply, Punjab chased the target in 9.3 overs at the loss of two wickets. Nisha and Noreen were the main contributors as they scored 55 and 20 runs respectively. Nisha was declared Man of the Match.

Four teams, including Punjab, Islamabad, Sindh and Azad Jammu and Kashmir participated in the championship. The championship was organized by the Pakistan Blind Cricket Association in collaboration with the Australian High Commission.

Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins, who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony, gave away trophies and prizes to the winner and runner-up teams.

Syed Wasim Uddin Hashmi, elected as Vice President of the South Asian Kurash Federation

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Yet another honour for prominent sports patron Syed Wasim Uddin Hashmi of Pakistan, who has been elected as Vice President of the Kurash Federation of South Asia.

Representatives of Kurash Federations of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal took part in the conference.

Those who participated in the meeting voted to open the South Asian Kurash Federation and approve its Charter.

After that, the governing body of the new organization was formed.

The President of the Indian Kurash Association, Mr Dharmendra Malhotra, was unanimously elected as the President of the South Asian Kurash Federation.

Ravi Kapoor was elected as the first vice-president, Humayun Kabir (Bangladesh), Ananda Peris (Sri Lanka), Syed Wasim Uddin Hashmi (Pakistan), Dhurba Raj Neupane (Nepal) as vice-presidents of the South Asian Kurash Federation.

Nepal Kurash Association Secretary General Pratiksha Khar-el will also act as Secretary General of the new organization. Lal Singh from India will be the Technical Director and Ankush Nagar as the Treasurer.

Secretary General of the Kurash Confederation of Asia-Oceania, Mr. Farrukh Saidkulov also participated in the online conference.

Earlier, the first point raised at the conference was that the South Asian Kurash Championship was planned to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on March 17-18 this year. However, due to organizational and other reasons, the time of this championship was changed by themselves.

Commenting on this matter, the President of the Bangladesh Kurash Federation Mr. Humayun Kabir offered to hold the championship in July or August this year at a convenient time for everyone.

The matter was duly studied and it was agreed that a final decision would be made soon.

After that, the Director of the International Kurash Association Referee Committee, Mr. Ravi Kapoor noted that South Asian countries have the largest territories and the highest population in the Asian continent. However, in these countries, kurash is developing well only in a few countries. He said that kurash federations should be established in countries like Maldives and Bhutan.

He noted the need to establish a separate South Asian Kurash Federation to coordinate these processes and achieve the official inclusion of Kurash in the South Asian Games Program in the future. All participants equally supported this initiative.

The online conference was organized with the participation of the heads of Kurash Federations of South Asian countries.

Chess Tournament

HYDERABAD: Chess players trying to defeat each other during 2nd Open Chess Tournament at Dialdas Club, in the City.



Photo: Online

Bangladesh-Ireland ODI washed out after record innings

Sports Desk

SYLHET: The second one-day international between Bangladesh and Ireland was called off due to rain in Sylhet on Monday after the home side posted their highest-ever ODI total.

The rain prevented Ireland from starting their innings after the hosts reached 349-6 thanks to Mushfiqur Rahim's century, the fastest ODI ton by a Bangladeshi batsman.

Match officials called the game off shortly after 8:30 pm (2030 GMT) with no prospect of the weather improving at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh, fresh from beating England 3-0 in T20s, are 1-0 up in the series with one match remaining on Thursday.

Mushfiqur was unbeaten on 100 off just 60 balls, while Najmul Hossain and Liton Das added 73 and 70 runs respectively.

This helped the hosts break their record of 338-8 set in only the previous match, which they won by 183 runs.

Sent in to bat first, Bangladesh began cautiously in slightly overcast conditions before Liton and skipper Tamim Iqbal grew in confidence to put on 42 runs.

Hub Rally Cross 2023: A historic win for youth

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 10th Hub Rally was more exciting and different from the previous one as a young boy named Taimoor Khawaja made history by defeating experienced players in the race here Hub, Balochistan on Sunday.

Hailing from Lahore, Taimoor Khawaja did not only win Hub Rally Cross 2023 by completing the race in just 22 minutes and 29 seconds but also defeated his opponent Sahibzada Sultan, a racer twice his age.

Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali's secured second position as he covered the prescribed distance in 23 minutes and 20 seconds. Shiraz Qureshi of Karachi covered the distance in 23 minutes 28 seconds and took the third position. Interestingly Dina Patel the daughter of renowned racers Roni Patel and Tushna Patel won the women's

category first time as she finished the off-road rally in 27 minutes and 33 seconds.

Talking to the media, Dina said that race always wants you to focus on principles other than motivation or something else. For her, having a father who is also a navigator, is something extraordinary.

Shujaat Sherwani, CEO of Toyota Highway Motors and the organizer defended his veteran's category title by completing the race in 29 minutes and 01 second.

For Sherwani, it's catching hype, and plans to take it to 30 to 35 kilometre. He said that the Balochistan government is backing them in their endeavor to conduct a successful event by helping the organizers in track preparation and security provision.

UAE Consul General in Karachi, Bakheet Ateeq Al Remithi

Kicked off the event while Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori distributed the prizes among the participants.

Complete Result of Hub rally Cross 2023:

In the Prepared-A category, Taimoor Khawaja secured the first position by completing the race in 22 minutes, and 29 seconds. Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali followed him closely to win the runner-up position with a finishing time of 23 minutes and 20 seconds, while Shiraz Qureshi came in third, completing the race in 23 minutes and 28 seconds.

Talking about Prepared B category, Shehryar Shadikhel emerged as the winner, covering the race in 23 minutes and 45 seconds. Qasim Saidhi took the second position with a finishing time of 23 minutes and 49 seconds; and Jam Kamal claimed the third position by crossing the

finish line in 23 minutes and 55 seconds.

In the Prepared C category, Syed Zaheer Hussain was the winner with a finishing time of 24 minutes and 07 seconds.

Hammal Hoth secured the second position by completing the race in 24 minutes and 25 seconds; Haris Khan finished third with a time of 25 minutes and 43 seconds.

In the Prepared D category, Shakeel Burchundi was declared the winner, completing the track in 24 minutes and 26 seconds. Zafar Baloch followed closely, securing the runner-up position with a finishing time of 24 minutes and 44 seconds. Taj Khan Mahar completed the podium by finishing the race in 25 minutes and 02 seconds.

In the Women Prepared category, Dina Patel took the top spot, completing the race in 27 minutes, and 33 seconds. Afreen

Shiraz secured the runner-up position with a finishing time of 28 minutes and 36 seconds. Mrs. Rashid completed the podium by finishing the race in 31 minutes and 01 seconds.

In the Stock A category, Syed Asif Imam was declared the winner, covering the race in 24 minutes and 14 seconds. Zohaib Hassan secured the runner-up position with a finishing time of 24 minutes and 43 seconds; Aqeel Ahmad claimed the third position by finishing the race in 24 minutes and 47 seconds.

In the Stock B category, Ali Magsi secured the first position with a finishing time of 23 minutes and 29 seconds, followed by Mikael Ali Habib, who finished the track in 24 minutes and 49 seconds, securing the second position. Sultan Bahadar Aziz finished third with a time of 25 minutes and 29 seconds.

In the Stock C category, Mir

Bebark Baloch was declared the winner, completing the race in 25 minutes and 12 seconds. Jahanzaib Shabbir secured the second position with a finishing time of 25 minutes and 50 seconds; Zubair Ali farooq completed the podium with a time of 27 minutes and 29 seconds.

Jameel Ahmedani emerged as the winner in the Stock D category, completing the race in 26 minutes and 34 seconds. Noor Nabi came in second place with a time of 26 minutes and 26 seconds; while Shah Gul took the final podium spot, finishing in 27 minutes and 20 seconds.

Shujaat Sherwani emerged as the winner in the Veterans category, completing the race in 29 minutes and 01 seconds. Hameed Rind came in second place with a time of 29 minutes and 55 seconds; while M. Ashraf took the final podium spot, finishing in 29 minutes and 57

seconds.

In the FTD Prepared category, Taimoor Khawaja declared the winner by completing the race in 22 minutes and 29 seconds.

In the FTD Stock category, Ali Magsi took the top spot by completing the race in 23 minutes and 51 seconds.

In the Motocross 450-cc category, Saqib Shah secured the first position, followed by Zaigham Chauhan, securing the second position. Naeem Khan finished third.

In the Motocross 250-400-cc category, Zain ul Abedin locked the first position, followed by Adnan Chaudhary, securing the second position. Jam Waheed finished third.

In the Motocross 250-cc category, Mueqet Khan won the first position, followed by Adnan Chaudhary, securing the second position. Arif Hussain finished third.