



Ishaq Dar assures Pakistan to close deal with IMF to revive economy

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammed Ishaq Dar has said that the government is making all possible efforts to steer the economy of the difficult situation in order to put it on the path of sustainable economic growth. (Details on Page 5)



JI Chief writes to CJP, demands suo motu over Karachi LG polls

Ameer JI Siraj-ul-Haq has appealed to Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial to take notice of the election commission's failure and partiality in conducting the local elections in Karachi in a transparent manner. In a letter addressed to the Chief Justice, He said that Jamaat-e-Islami believes that the EC not only failed to conduct honest elections in the provincial capital but also elected the worst party during and after the election process. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Assistance

BAHAWALPUR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits free-flour distribution points established as part of PM's Ramazan Relief Package for deserving families on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM reviews arrangements for distribution of free flour bags

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR :Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday arrived here to review the arrangements for the distribution of free flour bags among the deserving people under PM's Ramazan Relief Package.

The prime minister inspected the distribution point at Abbasyia School and inquired about the process, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also interacted with different people, especially the aged ones and females and listened to their complaints.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to take care of the elderly and physically handicapped people.

He also inspected a free medical camp set up by the district administration.

Earlier, the prime minister had visit to Lahore, Kasur and Sargodha to review these arrangements.

Rana Sanaullah says 'will give tit-for-tat response to Imran Khan's enmity'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has threatened the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief once again and said that they will give tit-for-tat response to Imran Khan's enmity.

Rana Sanaullah said in a statement that Imran Khan has turned politics into enmity. He added that they will give tit-for-tat response to Khan's enmity instead of being silent.

The interior minister alleged that the former premier used all undemocratic tactics to end the politics of the opposition parties. He added that the matter goes far beyond the 'point of no return'.

He claimed that the ruling parties invited Khan for a 'charter of economy' but PTI gave its response in the shape of abusive remarks. Sanaullah further alleged that Khan attempted to register a case against the rulers after the Wazirabad gun attack.

Sanaullah alleged that the 'evil of Imran Khan' must be



eliminated through the power of votes. He added that the ruling parties shut the doors of dialogues after the unresponsive attitude of PTI.

The interior minister claimed that Azhar Mashwani was present with Imran Khan.

Reacting to Sanaullah's statement, PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari said on Twitter that the interior minister gave a statement like a head of a terrorist outfit. He said that the nation knows how to respond to the people exceeding their limits.

He said that PTI knows its boundaries and responds to any illegal move.

'Your letter appears PTI's press release', PM Shehbaz tells President

Spokesman Report

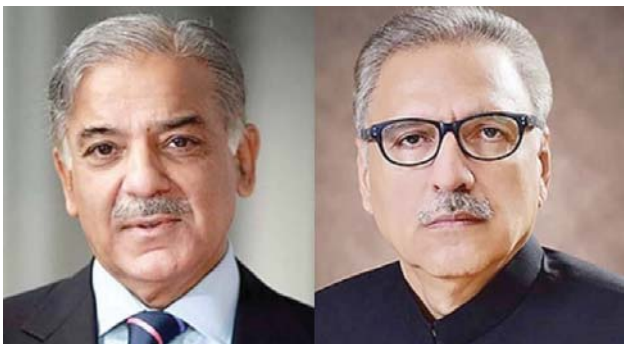
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has replied to President Arif Alvi's letter.

President Alvi on Friday had penned a letter to PM Shehbaz, urging him to ensure the implementation of the Supreme Court's orders in relation to the general elections in both provinces.

PM Shehbaz Sharif in his five-page letter response to the president stated that he is compelled to say that your [President] letter is more like a press release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his reply, wrote that the letter did not reflect the constitutional position of the president and that is what you have constantly been doing. "Your letter contains one-sided, anti-government views that you express openly."

The premier further added that on April 3, 2022, he dissolved the National Assembly and followed



the unconstitutional directive of the former prime minister.

"Your [president] order to dissolve the National Assembly was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on April 7.

PM Shehbaz Sharif in a letter penned to President Arif Alvi said you have also failed to fulfill the constitutional duty in the case of my oath as prime minister while on several occasions you have been actively 'working against' the elected government.

Shehbaz Sharif alleged the

president of neglecting attacks on law enforcement personnel due to party affiliation.

"You ignored attempts to disrupt private property, create chaos, you ignored PTI's efforts to bring the country to the brink of economic default," a letter penned to the president said.

"Having tried my best to establish a relationship, I am compelled to respond to you by the tone you used in your letter," Shehbaz further said.

The prime minister referred to

the annual world report issued by Human Rights Watch covering 2021 when the PTI's government was in office, which said "the Pakistan government intensified its efforts to control the media and curtail dissent. Authorities harassed and at times detained journalists and other members of civil society for criticizing government officials and policies. Violent attacks on members of the media also continue."

The prime minister also referred to AL Jazeera report of last year on the annual World Report 2022 issued by HRW with specific reference to the chapter on Pakistan.

The previous government kept the National Commission for Human Rights dysfunctional for the most part of its tenure, besides deliberately obstructing the appointment of its members and chairperson because the NCHR had issued a damning report on state of human rights.

The prime minister added

that there were several reports of the international human rights organizations which reflected poorly on the track record of PTI's previous government, which unfortunately escaped his (president's) attention.

The prime minister reminded the president that he did not raise any concerns when the previous government carried out a witch hunt against the opposition.

He said a fabricated and false narcotics case entailing death penalty was made against Rana Sanaullah Khan, then an MNA.

By framing false cases, male and female members of the parliament of other political parties were subjected to the worst kind of political victimization, he said, adding "Even a female member of the family of former prime minister was not spared, solely to politically eliminate them."

The prime minister said that NAB was used to tame the political opposition and dissent.

Oil marketing firms demand OGRA to compensate losses

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) on Sunday demanded Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) make a policy to recover the losses caused by foreign exchange fluctuations.

The OMAP Chairman Tariq Wazir Ali penned a letter to OGRA, expressing concerns over financial losses due to the foreign exchange fluctuations and demanding the authority to withdraw the funds given to underserving companies.

He held the OGRA chairman responsible for the injustices with oil marketing companies.

PTI's politics all about creating chaos, unrest in country: Maryam

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that the politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was all about protecting personal agenda by creating chaos and unrest in the country as he had nothing to do with the people's problems.

Addressing the office bearers of PML-N's lawyers wing here, she said that the decision of PTI to dissolve assemblies in the Punjab and KP was also aimed at creating anarchy and turmoil in the country as this cabal was not concerned about resolving



ing public issues.

She said that the PML-N was never afraid of going into elections rather it was ever ready and would win the elections whenever held. However, she said that her party wanted level playing field as nobody was above the law.

She said Panama papers case was to target the elected government of Nawaz Sharif as nothing was proved against

Nawaz Sharif and then he was disqualified for just having an iqama. Nawaz Sharif gave the narrative of sanctity of the vote in the country, she added.

Maryam Nawaz said that PTI chief blatantly violated the law and the constitution but no action was initiated against him. She said the PML-N believed in serving the masses and its performance in the past was the evidence. Whereas, the previous PTI government did nothing for the welfare of the masses and it was responsible for current inflation in the country.

She said PTI Chief Imran Khan was hiding himself in Zaman Park and avoiding to appear in the courts to face cases

against him. Maryam said the PML-N always showed respect for the courts and its leadership presented themselves for accountability. The PML-N leadership faced fabricated cases during the previous PTI tenure however all of them presented themselves for accountability but nothing was proved against anyone.

Multiple cases were registered against the PTI chief but he was not appearing before the courts which showed his non-serious attitude towards the institutions. PTI chief was in fact escaping from the courts including Toshakhana, Tyrian White and foreign funding cases, as he had nothing to prove his innocence.

Elections will be held after Aug 2023: Rana Tanveer

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain Sunday said that the next general elections will be held on time after August 2023 and lauded the Election Commission of Pakistan's announcement delaying provincial assembly elections in Punjab as a decision 'in the best interest of the country.'

The ECP under the constitution had postponed the elections keeping in view the security, political and economic challenges, he said while talking to a private news channel.



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan and other leaders in connection with a case registered at a local police station.

Imran Khan along with other 16 PTI leaders have been summoned by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad for interrogation into a case lodged at the Golra police station.

The PTI leaders who have been summoned for interrogation included Murad Saied, Aamer Mehmod Kiani, Amjad Niazi, Raja Khurram Nawaz, Ali Amin Gandapur, Shibli Faraz, Asad Umar, Dr Shahzad Waseem, Farrukh Habib, Omar Ayub Khan, Hammad Azhar, Asad Qaiser, Hassaan Khan Niazi, Jamshed Mughal and Imran Khan's Chief Staff Officer (CSO) Colonel Retired Asim.

The accused have been ordered to appear before the investigators at the earliest, otherwise, legal action will be taken against them, the call-up

notice read.

Imran Khan and other PTI leaders had been booked in two cases lodged at the CTD and Golra police stations.

Yesterday, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore granted PTI Chairman Imran Khan protective bail in three terrorism cases registered against him in Lahore following last week's clashes between Police and PTI workers outside Zaman Park.

ATC Judge Aijaz Ahmed Butter granted former premier Imran interim bail in the terrorism cases till April 4. The court also directed the PTI chief to submit surety bonds worth Rs100,000 each. The PTI chief appeared before ATC in tight security.

Khan approached ATC through his lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar seeking interim bail in three terrorism cases registered with Race Course Police Station.

Several cases have been registered against the PTI chairman under different sections including attacking the police in Zaman Park.

Fundraising Dinner

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the Iftar dinner ceremony at Pakistan Sweet Home on Sunday.



Photo: PID

JI Chief writes to CJP, demands suo motu over Karachi LG polls

Asim Tanveer

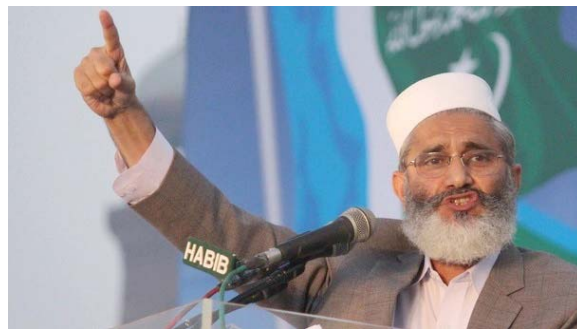
MULTAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq has appealed to Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandal to take notice of the election commission's failure and partiality in conducting the local elections in Karachi in a transparent manner. In a letter addressed to the Chief Justice, Ameer Jamaat said that Jamaat-e-Islami believes that the Election Commission not only failed to conduct honest elections in the provincial capital but also elected the worst party during and after the election process.

Along with its application, the Ameer Jamaat has also submitted proofs of rigging in twelve constituencies of Karachi and the bias of the Election Commission in favor of the ruling party of the province. He has requested the Chief Justice that the Supreme Court should take notice of the matter using its constitutional powers and decide on the deliberate violation of the Constitution by the Election Commission

and declare the election in the controversial Union Committees null and void.

It has been stated in the petition on behalf of Siraj-ul-Haq that according to the Constitution of Pakistan, it has been decided to use the powers of the governments at all levels for federal, provincial and local government purposes through the elected representatives of the people. Election Commission has been established to bring and conduct fair and transparent elections. At present, the worst rigging in the elections to be held in Karachi on January 15, 2023 and the failure of the Election Commission to prevent this rigging is the subject of my letter.

I want to attract Also, I would like to state that Karachi is very sensitive due to the situation in the past 30/35 years and due to the worst local government conditions, the citizens here are hoping for improvement every day. This is the reason. That the efforts of Jamaat-e-Islami to solve the problems in Karachi were



appreciated by the citizens and they voted the most in the elections.

It is a legal requirement to hold elections within 120 days after the completion of the term of the local bodies, but after the completion of this period in 2009, in 2015 and after the completion of this period in 2020, these elections were held in 2023. 3 times elections after the release of the schedule. The polling was postponed at the request of the Sindh government. In order to hold these elections, Jamaat-e-Islami had to constantly approach the Election Commission, Sindh High Court and the Supreme

Court. Even before the elections to be held on January 15, 2023, the ruling party in Sindh had announced that Karachi The next mayor will be Jayala. To achieve this objective, flawed electoral rolls, constituencies based on bad faith and appointment of electoral staff based on political affiliations were used.

Against which Jamaat-e-Islami continuously contacted the Election Commission but it was completely futile. The polling of the January 15 elections was conducted in a generally peaceful atmosphere, during which it was clearly noted that the ruling party had not only

cast fake votes in the 35/40 Union Committees it had elected, but also the fixed majority in these constituencies. The Presiding Officers and Returning Officers were appointed in favor of the ruling party and refused to submit Form XI and Form XII (result of the respective polling station).

On which the polling agents of Jamaat-e-Islami insisted, they were made to wait till midnight in some places and the next day in some places. When they managed to get the results from the polling station after a hard struggle, the returning officers of many USCs defeated the candidates who won by a margin of thousands of votes and announced the victory of the PPP candidates and issued fake Appendix-A. gave As soon as these matters came to the knowledge, Jamaat-e-Islami approached the Election Commission. The same thing was done with PTI in many UC seats, so a large number of applications were filed in the Election Commission.

PM Shehbaz gave 'ill response' to President Alvi's letter: Fawad Chaudhry

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior vice president Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif gave an ill response to President Dr Arif Alvi's letter written within the constitutional provisions.

Mr Alvi had, earlier, asked the PM to direct the concerned authorities to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in line with the Supreme Court's order for holding elections to avoid any complication including the contempt of court.

Addressing a presser along with PTI general secretary Asad Umar, he said the way PM had responded to the



president's letter was enough to dawn [on people] how lowly a man he was. "There is no space for forced disappearances in the country and the country is not far from constitutional government", he added.

He said hundreds of thousands of people rejected the tactics being employed by the fascist government at the

PTI's Minar-e-Pakistan rally on Saturday night adding that the entire country was standing beside PTI chief Imran Khan. "All ways leading to Minar-e-Pakistan were blocked using containers and we cannot find an equivalence to this government's oppression", he added. People were being captured from Lahore and termed "missing persons",

he said, and FIA was serving notices on them.

He alluded that he had not witnessed the worse treatment of political workers adding that women were being harassed inside their homes. "We cannot tolerate such ill-treatment", he added. **Read Also: Police raid house of Farrukh Habib's in-laws for his arrest**

He went on to say that so far six persons had died in the pursuit of obtaining subsidized flour bags imploring where they [the government] had brought this country to. "The incumbent government will drag down the country to the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list again", he added. Oil prices had decreased in the interna-

tional market, he said, but they increased in Pakistan.

He said politics was defined as trekking forward after looking into others' arguments adding that the way the government was moving forward had given rise to a big crisis in the country. "You are so afraid that you are distancing yourself from elections and all eyes are on the Supreme Court", he added.

Mr Umar said there would be no space for democracy in the country if the country was run the way it was being run adding that next week would be decisive in the country's history. "Country has no longer a judiciary of the 1950s and everyone will see the judiciary defending the country", he added.

Gandhara art exhibition attracts large number of visitors in Beijing

Spokesman Report

BELJING: The Pakistan-China joint exhibition being held at the Palace Museum to showcase the cultural heritage of Gandhara has attracted a large number of visitors.

The exhibition titled "Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road" was jointly organized by the Palace Museum and Department of Archaeology and Museums, National Heritage and Cultural Division, Pakistan.

The exhibition featured a wide array of artifacts, sculptures, and other items that were representative of the Gandhara culture.

Talking to APP, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque said that the exhibition had generated a lot of interest among Chinese people and it would further promote cultural ties and the people to people exchanges between Pakistan and China.

He said that initially, the exhibition was organized for three months but owing to interest shown by the people, it was expected to continue for months.

The exhibition also included a multimedia presentation, art installations, and interactive activities to help visitors understand the cultural history of the region. Over 170 art pieces brought from various museums of Pakistan would



be showcased at the Palace Museum, Beijing. The event was also an important part of the Year of Tourism Exchanges being celebrated by China and Pakistan this year.

Ambassador Haque said that a large number of people from both countries, including government officials, academi-

cs, and members of the public had so far visited this exhibition and learnt more about Gandhara Heritage.

The Gandhara exhibition was a great opportunity for both countries to learn more about each others' culture and history.

The exhibition will also help strengthen the ties between the two nations and promote mutual understanding, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistani and Chinese cultures had several similarities. He said that the cultural exchanges would further strengthen all weather friendship between the two countries.

Pakistan sweet home in Islamabad: a model of welfare to be emulated says NA Speaker

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: while addressing the fund raising ceremony at Pakistan Sweet Homes Islamabad, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that serving humanity is the best goal in life. He said that struggle for the welfare of needy and destitute incur blessings in both worlds.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has applauded the tireless efforts of Ex-MNA/Chairperson Pakistan Sweet Homes Islamabad

Mr.Zumrid Khan for maintaining the exemplary model of welfare organisation. He said that such individuals are praiseworthy and their efforts for welfare of needy and destitute children will be unforgettable.

While stressing on the need to take care of needy people, Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has encouraged to support Pakistan Sweet Homes. He also expressed his resolve to continue to stand with Pakistan sweet homes as this place would nourish these children in such a way that they will play pivotal role in the history of Pakistan.

Imran Khan thanks people of Lahore for not letting him down

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has thanked Lahorites for making Minar-e-Pakistan rally a success, reported ARY News.

In his tweet, Imran Khan wrote: "Despite cabal of crooks locking down Lahore (see map) & arresting 2000 of our workers, people of Lahore came in huge numbers to make our 6th Minar-i-Pakistan jalsa a great



success. I want to especially thank my Lahorites for not letting me down yet again. Proud of you."

MQM-P informs Centre, PBS regarding reservations over census

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has informed the federal government and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) regarding its reservations on the census.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) Rabita Committee held an emergency session at Bahadurabad headquarters under the chair of the convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui today. The Rabita Committee held discussions on the political situation, LG by-polls and census.

The political expressed reservations about census once again. The MQM-P leaders said that census staffers failed to reach several areas, whereas, several families residing in the same building were counted as a unit in some areas. They said that census is a red line for MQM-P and they will force the government to rectify the census process.

Sources told ARY News that the



political party also apprised Centre and the chief census commissioner regarding its reservations.

The majority of Rabita Committee members recommended to take part in LG by-polls after the increase of 53 union councils (UCs). The committee said that MQM-P's stance regarding the delimitations was proved true.

Earlier, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan decided against attending all parties conference (APC), summoned by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on March 18 to discuss reservations over digital census.

MQM-P did not attend the APC - summoned to discuss reservations over digital census - due to its 'power show', scheduled for March 18 at Karachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah.

Mariyum grieved over demise of PID Protocol Officer's sister

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over demise of the sister of Maqbool Ahmed, Protocol Officer of the Press Information Department.

The minister, in a condolence message, prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

Mariyum said she was saddened to hear the news about demise of Maqbool Ahmed's sister.

India Removes Security outside UK High Commission



News Desk

NEW DELHI: The Indian government has removed security outside UK High Commission in New Delhi over BBC documentary against Narendra Modi and the removal of the flag from its high commission in London by the Khalistan protestors.

On Sunday, the Indian flag at the High Commission in London was brought down by a pro-Khalistan protestor. India summoned the UK

deputy high commissioner to India to lodge a protest and accused the British government of "indifference" to the security of diplomatic premises.

The Narendra Modi government is using ill-tactics against the UK government after its flag was taken down by the Khalistan protestors.

The Modi government has removed the security outside the UK HC and announced to construct of public toilets outside the high commission.

Sardar Attique expressed deep concern over the martyrdom of a Kashmiri youth

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan expressed deep concern over the martyrdom of a Kashmiri youth in Kupwara yesterday and said that the Indian forces are martyring the youth in fake encounters. India wants to crush the freedom struggle of Kashmiris with military force. He has demanded the international community particularly UN and OIC to increase pressure on India to stop violating the fundamental rights of Kashmiri leaders and other detainees.



determined to continue the freedom movement based on their right to its logical end at any cost. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations met him at Mujahid Manzil Rawalpindi. He said that the sacrifices of Kashmiris for the freedom

movement of Kashmir are unforgettable. The zealous residents of Occupied Kashmir and the Hurriyat leadership endured all atrocities but did not bow down to India. Now is the time to give them self-determination to Kashmiris to restore peace and human rights in the world.

Narendra Modi's fascist Indian government has turned the occupied area into a big jail after 5th August 2019. He said that the fascist Modi wants to impose a Hindu-Too agenda in the occupied area and they are trying to turn the majority of Muslims in the area into a minority. Now it is the responsibility of the international community to stop the Hindu party BJP from brutal acts and illegal actions in the occupied territory. Kashmiris have sacrificed millions of precious lives for their right to self-determina-

tion and until independence. The freedom movement will continue.

He warned and said that India should leave its obstinacy and come to its senses, otherwise the Kashmiri people, together with the Pakistan Army, will do the fate of India that its name and mark will be erased. India is doing acts of oppression and extremism in Occupied Kashmir. The silence of the United Nations and international powers poses serious threats to the peace in South Asia. If the United Nations does not give the Kashmiris the right to vote, South Asia will face a terrible disaster. The right to self-determination is the fundamental right of Kashmiris, until Kashmiris get freedom from the clutches of India, Kashmiris will continue to protest against India. Kashmiris continued to struggle till their independence he added.



KARACHI: NED University student Makhdoom Naushirwan Ali presenting a bouquet of flowers to former Interior Minister Gen(R) Moinuddin Haider. Iqbal Hussain Siddiqui is also present.

Railways need to make it profitable: Haji Aslam

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Railways is a national entity and collective efforts are required to make it a profitable organization, said Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). In a meeting with Mr. Suleman Khalid, Assistant Operation Officer PR, said that burden on the downtown area could be lessened by constructing a parking plaza and a multi storey market on railway land outside Jhang Bazar. He said that this proposal was floated 15-20 years ago but it could not be materialized. He said that for the time being this land could also be used for parking till the final decision is taken.

He also welcomed the proposal to build a modern restaurant at Railway platform but said that we should make it easily accessible instead of erecting barriers. He also stressed the need to use railway polo ground behind district headquarter hospital for the promotion of healthy sports activities. He was critical of the installation of a railway engine just outside the historic building of the railway station as it has blocked its outlook. He also criticised the high handedness of the parking contractor and said that he is harassing the persons who visit this railway station to drop or receive their guests.

Mr. Suleman Khalid Assistant Operation Officer gave a presentation and said that two high speed cargo trains are visiting this city daily and the business community must avail this safe, affordable and efficient service. Comparing the fare of railway containers with road fare, he said that two side fare of a container is only 187,000 while one way road fare is Rs. 3 lacs. He further said that rail can enter into the city any time but trucks have limited entry timing. He said that earlier railways were not allowed to lease out its land but now this bar has been lifted.

He said that we could now use railway land for profitable purposes. He said that daily ten thousand passengers visit Faisalabad Railway Station and we should also consider exploiting its publicity potential. He clarified that a drop lane has been provided outside the railway station where visitors could drop their guests and stay there for 15-20 minutes. He requested FCCI to formally submit an application to establish a cargo point of Pakistan Railway in FIEDMC. He also floated a proposal that FCCI and railway officials must conduct a joint visit to finalize the proposals before inviting Divisional Superintendent Pakistan Railway Lahore to FCCI.

The employees of Sheikhha Fatima Hospital have been deprived of their salaries



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: According to details, the Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Model Hospital (SFBMM) Sholam, which is run by the cooperation of Tetra Continental Parma (TCP) NGO in Tehsil Birmal of the Lower South Waziristan Tribal District, has suffered due to non-payment of salaries to the employees of the hospital.

More than 45 kidney patients of Wana lost the dialysis process, while the children's ward of the hospital has also been closed, where the best facilities were available in the pediatric intensive care ward, but that too has been closed.

On the other hand, Dr. Fazal Rahim, MS of Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Model Hospital (SFBMM) Sholam gave his stance and said that I have informed the concerned authorities about this issue.

However, the authorities concerned have assured me that the withheld salaries of the employees will be released soon.

All the facilities in the hospital are available for the patients, there are no problems for the patients, the hospital is running as usual.

Sources say, that the medical and technical staff of Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Hospital Shoam have not received their salaries for the last five months, due to which this situation has arisen.

However, in the hospital, more than 45 kidney patients were doing their dialysis process from here, which has been closed.

But the closure of the Children's Ward has created extreme difficulties for the poor people here.

As the intensive care system for women's delivery cases and premature births has also been closed, kidney patients have appealed to higher authorities to take notice.

It should be clear that Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Hospital Sholam was established in Birmal Tehsil with the support of United Arab Emirates for the medical facilities of the people of the area. In which, apart from local people, patients from the neighboring country of Afghanistan also used to get their treatment.

Now the sources say, that the salaries of the staff have been stopped for the last five months, due to which there is a fear that this hospital will be closed.

NIH confirms one death from Coronavirus in Sindh

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Sunday confirmed that one death was reported in Sindh from COVID-19 during the last 24 hours.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health, 106 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

The case positivity ratio was 2.52 per cent, while 22 patients were in critical condition. As many as 4,213 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

413 tests were conducted in Lahore out of which, 24 cases were confirmed with a ratio of 5.81 per cent, while 179 tests were conducted in Islamabad out of which 10 cases were reported confirmed with a ratio of 5.59 per cent. APP

Protest

LAHORE: Workers of PTI shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Gomal University to end financial crisis, no concession for female students: VC

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Vice-Chancellor of Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah has said that no concession will be made on the issue of honor and dignity of female students, to end the financial crisis, all the staff of the organization have to play a joint role.

Preparation of selection board for teacher promotions is going on. Any problem, I am available for you round the clock.

He expressed these views while addressing the Chairman Council of Gomal University, Registrar Prof. Dr. Jabbar Khan, Dean of Agriculture Faculty Prof. Dr. Saleem Jilani, Dean of Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Nimat Ullah Babar, Dean Prof. Dr. Zahid Awan, Controller of Examinations

Prof. Dr. Liaquat, Director of Finance Madam Iram Director Admission Riaz Ahmed Bettani, Additional Registrar Dr. Shafiqullah Khan, heads of all teaching departments were present.

He said that it is the responsibility of the heads of the departments to pay full attention to the respect and honor of the girls and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

Immediate action will be taken against the official involved in such shameful act, parents send their respects to us for best education and training.

and those who have a bad eye on their trusts do not deserve any concession, the dean and the head of the institution should see that there will be no compromise on their honor and reputation apart from the quality of education.

In the past, the recovery of pension from pensioners was reduced and now they have to pay more. Pensioners were always paid out of salary.

They are also aware, but when the money is available, we will give it. Right now, our focus is on paying the salaries to the employees.

Because not paying those who are doing duty would be a huge abuse, we also have serious problems with salaries.

The arrears are the responsibility of the students and the teachers should take interest in their recovery. The head of the department should take care of this.

Inflation is increasing, 12 crores of salary, 3 crores of electricity, diesel payments are not received from HEC. The departments that are recov-

ering and those that are not recovering cannot be equalized. I will see the performance of the department with the performance of its head.

You check the performance of your staff and staff. Team work will work. Mark non-performing teachers. I will take action.

This is the institution, so I am, we all identify with this institution, we have to stop thinking of harming the institution for the sake of personal animosity.

I have never seen a person as good as Professor Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed financially and morally.

Professor Dr. Sarwar is Nawab, but what have we done with him, we have to change our attitude.

Negative people have to be stopped, I am your own VC, I belong here, outside VCs have to do their time and go away.

Chaudhry Mustafa distributed Ramadan food packages to deserving families

Abdul Majeed Tahir

BIHMBER: Chief Executive of Kisgama Health and Welfare Trust, Chaudhry Mustafa, OAK Tree Trust UK and Dr. Ian Charles distributed Ramadan food packages to 425 deserving families at LOC Bandala Samahni Chowki, Penga, Kahawalian and other places in district Bihmber DG Information Azad Kashmir Raja. Azhar Iqbal Khan, Secretary General of Kisgama Trust, Raja Rabnawaz, Chaudhry Mahfouz AC Ahmad Subhani distributed the food package along with journalists, local leaders.



Raja Azhar Iqbal Khan, while talking about social reform, said that we should take care of our neighbors during the month of Ramadan, don't waste and waste food during Suhr Iftar, instead of 10 types of food in Iftar, make it shorter so that there is balance in the society. Instead of eating and drinking more, we should take care of the deserving families in our neighborhood. May Allah make us a person who creates service. Chaudhry Mustafa continued the tradition like the previous years. We are especially grateful to OAK Tree Trust and Dr. Ian Charles.

According to the details, the first phase of distribution of ration to deserving families in Samahni valley was completed by the team under

the direction of Chief Executive of Kisgama Health and Welfare Trust, Chaudhry Mustafa. It included food items, flour, sugar, pulses, dates, and other items. On the occasion of distribution of rations, on behalf of Kisgama Welfare Trust, Secretary General Trust Raja Rabnawaz Khan Chaudhry Moazzam said that he has reached the LoC on the instructions of Chaudhry Mustafa. Yes Information appreciates the services of Raja Azhar Iqbal, the mission of service will continue, AC Chaudhry Ahmad Subhani Nagyal, Qari Mohammad Anwar, Haji Munirullah, Ghulam Ahmad Rabbani, Ghulam Mohiuddin, Iftikhar Sajid Azimi, Mazhar Jafari, Raja Zul Qarnain in the ration distribution ceremony. Chairman Town Commit-

tee, Dr. Muhammad Ishaq, Adnan Mukhtar, District Information Officer, Sr. Madras Rashid Iqbal, Qaiser Taib, Dr. Nazir, Muhammad Farooq Qatahir Mahmoud Mambar Atif and others also addressed and said that we salute the special efforts of Chaudhry Mustafa, spending in the way of Allah is the best.

Former administrator Raja Ghulam Rabbani said that he is grateful to Chaudhry Mustafa and his entire team for helping the people affected by the LoC. have always used all their abilities to serve the people in the entire tehsil including Bandala Valley, Member Board of Governor Press Foundation Nasir Sharif Butt Sr. Journalist President Press Club Raja Ghulam Mohiuddin, Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Chaudhry, Mazhar Jafari, Badr Salam and Qaiser Taib said that the director We are especially grateful to the media, which considered all communities on an equal footing, distribution of ration to the deserving families has been completed transparently, the media will fully cooperate in this good work. Recitation of the Holy Quran by Qari Muhammad Anwar, Mu'alana Muhammad, Mush-taq Adnan Mukhtar was blessed.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:41 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 4:38 pm
Maghrib 6:23 pm
Isha 7:47 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

MOFA Palestine condemns Israeli attack on Palestinian family

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns the cowardly and hateful arson attack by Israeli settlers against a Palestinian family in Sinjel village near Ramallah this Sunday at dawn;

While the family escaped the fire that engulfed their home, there is no doubt as to the criminal and murderous intent of Israeli settlers who carried out this cowardly attack while the family of six was sleeping;

This attack is part of an escalating, malicious, and murderous campaign of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians that are informed and fueled by the genocidal, anti-Palestinian, and racist ideology of the current Israeli government;

This hateful ideology openly and unreservedly expressed by senior Israeli ministers, including the self-defined fascist minister Bezalel Smotritch, who recently repeated his denial of the existence of the Palestinian people calling their identity "an invention";

APEX Committee reviews facts regarding hostel incident during earthquake

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of H.E. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President IIU, the Apex Committee of the university reviewed matters related to the damages that happened to turnstile gates by some student groups, after the earthquake jolts on last Tuesday.

In the meeting it was recommended that those students who are involved in damaging the valuable assets of the university during the unfortunate incidents must be interrogated and strict action will be taken by the university administration.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Vice President (Administration & Finance), Prof. Dr. NabiBuxJumani here in the council hall of Administration Block at the new campus. The meeting in detail reviewed matters pertaining to safety and security issues at hostels. It also discussed the matter of probe regarding an unfortunate incident that occurred at turnstile gates of the university hostels which was scripted by some

pressure groups of students just to gain their undue and unlawful advantages / objectives regarding hostel mess and illegal occupancy of hostel seats.

The meeting was also attended by all the Vice-Presidents, Deans, Director Generals, Directors, Provosts (Male & Female), Students Advisors' (Male & Female), Security Consultant and other relevant officials of the committee.

On the occasion, a detailed briefing was taken from the stakeholders on the planted incident that occurred at the exit gates of the university hostels after earthquake jolts happened on March 21, 2023. The Vice President, after watching the viral contents on social media disseminated by the students groups to defame the institution, asked all the Deans and Directors and Security Officers for sharing their opinion about this incident which happened at exit gates of hostel premises after about half an hour of earthquake jolts on last Tuesday.

In this regard all stakeholders shared during the meeting that



the university management has taken strict measures to streamline the hostel seats and students mess system. They added that illegal occupants and some student groups are creating hurdles for the management, while on the day of the earthquake, some student groups were pressured to stop the hostel mess and stop the verification of student's cards at the entry and exit points of hostel premises. They further told that

the incident occurred after almost half an hour of earthquake jolts as the student groups damaged the costly computerized verification / identification turnstile gates installed for the security and safety of hostel boarders at hostel blocks of the university.

Almost all members of the meeting gave their valuable opinion on this matter and also shared allied safety and security measures to be taken at campus to avoid any

unforeseen incident at campus.

During the meeting participants also shared that to avoid such incidents the university administration must take serious measures against scripted action by the students groups. While they recommended having such mock exercises / safety and defense drills once or twice in a year for safety and security of students and employees.

The meeting chair also shared

his opinion among the participants that the university administration in the light of the vision of Worthy President has taken such initiatives to provide a peaceful and secure environment to students at campus.

The meeting participants agreed that all facts must be identified justly without any kind of internal or external pressures as the matter was politicized by some pressure groups.

Dry lake

ISLAMABAD: A view of boats stand at dry lake bed at Rawal Dam, due to low rainfall in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Social Champ Gives Back to Community through Philanthropic Initiatives

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Social Champ, the Martech startup providing social media management solutions, is breaking new ground in corporate social responsibility and setting an example for other businesses.

As part of its social responsibility commitment, Social Champ partnered with Pledge1% to dedicate its time and product to various philanthropic causes. By giving back, Social Champ is ensuring that its success has a positive impact on society.

"Even before Social Champ, I was committed to giving back to society, especially the university that gave me my two co-founders by volunteering and training students on

behalf of Microsoft, Nokia, and now Meta (Facebook). However, with Social Champ, we had the opportunity to give back on a bigger scale, so since its inception, we decided to make policies that would help us do so. Apart from partnering with Pledge1%, we are also committed to regularly helping those who cannot afford social media management with discounts & cut-offs, especially after the pandemic. This has enabled us to stay humble in the face of hardships and maintain scalable success," said Sameer Ahmed, CEO of Social Champ.

The company is also committed to mentoring and supporting the next generation of tech entrepreneurs. Khan is a mentor at the Founders Institute, where he helps entrepreneurs launch successful startups. Additionally, Social Champ's co-founders provide one-on-one mentoring sessions to startup owners. The company is also part of the Techstars batch, which encourages a #givefirst approach to all founders.

"Giving back to the founders' community is so important," said Social Champ's CEO, Sameer Ahmed. "After all, you understand the struggles that they are facing right now, so you are able to relate to them on another level," said Khan.

Social Champ's mission to give back extends to solopreneurs and founders just starting their careers. The company recently launched a powerful FREE tier with unlimited posting and all unlocked features,

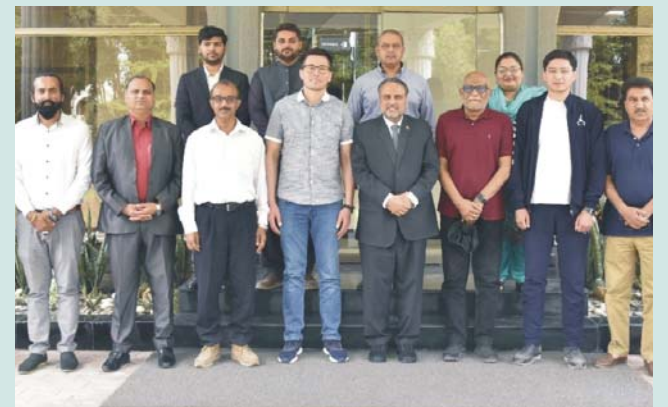
but for only three social profiles. This innovative offer is aimed at helping these businesses grow their social media presence without breaking the bank.

"We were working on a dynamic free plan that can support and help all who are starting out with social media and do not have the funds or the workforce to support a digital presence fully. And last year, we were finally able to come up with one. Our free plan is not limited in functionality or has anything locked. You can access all premium features for three accounts without actually paying us at all. However, as you grow, we would like to grow with you, so you can easily scale with a higher plan whenever you like," said Shakir Ghani, COO of Social Champ.



Syed Anwer Mahmood former secretary Information hosted an Iftaar dinner at Islamabad Club today. I attended the function. Prominent seen in the picture are the host, former minister Information, Mr Nisar Memon and secretary Information, Mrs Shaheera Shahid and senior journalists and officers.

Kazakhstan delegation visits Islamia University to discuss rain enhancement in Cholistan



Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR : In continuation of the dialogue and efforts of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur for Rain Enhancement in Cholistan, a delegation from Kazakhstan led by Dr. Hanif (Alumni), Ex-chief meteorologist, PMD, comprised of Mr. Ainabek Altay, CEO, ICCCT, Mr. Mirassilov Kanat, Tech expert, ICCCT, Mr. Imtiaz, ICCCT Representative in Pakistan and Dr. Khalid Alamgir, Technology Expert were warmly welcomed at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur by the team of experts from the National Research Centre of Inter cropping and Representative of PRO-IUB.

The delegation visited the Cholistan dessert and expressed their keen interest in the installation of their Rain Enhancement Technology (RET) at Cholistan. The delegation was also called upon by the Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob to discuss the possibility of rain enhancement in Cholistan and the other matters of mutual interest.

Engr. Prof. Athar Mahboob offered the full support for RET. Experts and stakeholders of the RET were very excited to initiate a research-oriented Pilot Project of RET in Cholistan. At the end of their visit, the delegation also visited different departments of university and witnessed the wheat-and sugarcane-based strip intercropping trials at NRCI research fields.

Sikh community continues goodwill gesture of serving food to fasting Muslims during Ramzan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sikh community in Peshawar has continued its goodwill gesture of serving food among fasting Muslims during the holy month of Ramzan with the objective of promoting love, fraternity, respect and honor among people of different faiths.

Every year Sikh community living in different parts of the country including Peshawar, arrange Iftari (serving of food for breaking fast) and food distribution among fasting Muslims with the aim of reflecting the sentiments of reverence they had for holy month of Ramzan.

As the fasting month of Ramzan begins, Sikh residents in Peshawar come out for arranging Iftari

dinners, announcing special discounts on their shops for fasting Muslims besides helping the poor fasting faithful by providing them edible goods at their doorsteps.

For ordinary citizens gathering of turban wearing Sikhs around long plastic mats spread to serve food for fasting Muslims at places like Bolton Block of Lady Reading Hospital of Peshawar becomes very strange and incomprehensible, leaving them in a state of bafflement.

Many faithfuls are found sharing their feeling of bewilderment over seeing Sikh youth standing in front of their doors for the distribution of food items to break fast.

"This year within four days of Ramzan, we have distributed food items among 100 deserving

Muslim families for providing them ease in fulfillment of their religious obligation", informs Jatinder Singh, Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter of National Peace Council for Interfaith Harmony.

We have not started holding of Iftari for which looking for volunteers and will start as arrangements are made, Jatinder told APP.

Each of the ration pack consists of essential items including cooking oil, rice, pulses, chick pea, beans, sugar and tea, he added.

The price of ration has almost doubled this year from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 7500 because of inflation in the country. He said donations are coming from people from diversified faiths and soon the second phase of distribution of food

ration will be made.

We used to make the arrangement for serving of big Iftari for fasting Muslims but corona pandemic affected the practice.

Last year only on Friday iftaries were arranged in different areas of the city due to the shortage of volunteer, Jatinder added.

Apart from arranging Iftari, we are also focusing on provision of edible goods to fasting Muslims at their doorsteps, Jatinder apprised.

Being a dweller of city since generations, we know who is in need of financial support in our locality so we extend them help.

The objective behind this practice by Sikhs is to promote love, fraternity, respect and honor among people of different faiths, remarked Jatinder Singh, adding



that we were living in this country from generations and wanted to convey the message of mutual coexistence among its citizens. Jatinder said our Muslims neighbours and friends also mark respect to holy occasions of Sikhs by extending goods wishes.

Similarly both Muslims and Sikhs attend occasions of happiness and bereavement from both sides to maintain the bond of unity, neighbourhood and humanity.

The measures taken by Sikh community of Peshawar are receiving commendations from people

from all walks of life and social media users are displaying these news as beauty of Pakistan where people of different religions are living in harmony and respect of each other.

Bilal Ahmad, a graduate from Peshawar who serves as volunteer in iftar dinner arranged by Sikhs, said he share these pictures on social media with a pride that how people of different faiths are living in conformity in our country.

"In each Ramzan I spare time and participate in such iftar dinners to acknowledge the good initiative taken by Sikh community in promoting respect and love in society by serving fasting Muslims," opines Ahmad Khan, a young dweller of Peshawar.

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Price-hike may cause malnutrition in children, lactating mothers

Hussna Khattak

Breaking the 49 years highest inflation record since 1974, Pakistan where around 22 percent of people were already living below the poverty line, may witness a significant increase in malnutrition and stunting among pregnant and lactating mothers and children due to substantial increase in prices of daily use commodities in the wake of last year's devastated floods that has caused about USD 40 billion losses to the government kitty.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) report 2023 has revealed that in February last, inflation in the country surged to a record 31.5 percent, which is the highest in the last 49 years since 1974, resulting in record increase in prices of daily use agriculture and non-agriculture commodities including vegetables, fruits, milk and meat prices in open markets in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The economic, agriculture and health experts feared that such scenario might aggravate problems of stunting, underweight and overweight in children and anemia, Zinc and vitamin A deficiencies in pregnant and lactating mothers could lead to premature births and underweight and weaker neonatal.

Professor Dr Muhammad Naeem of Swabi University told APP that the country where the lower middle-income poverty rate was about USD 3.2 per day and upper middle income poverty rate was around USD 5.5 per day, is likely to push additional 1.9 million household including 12.1 million people into poverty in the wake of the last year floods devastations that played havoc to all socioeconomic

sectors including agriculture, livestock and food services.

In Peshawar, one KG meat of large animal was being sold at Rs800, a dozen eggs on Rs300, one KG milk and yogurt on Rs200, potato on Rs800, tomato on Rs110, onion on Rs150, apple on Rs300, strawberry on Rs300 and lemon on Rs200 per KG which was beyond of purchasing powers of the poor and local income groups.

Similarly, 15 pc un nourished children were suffering from wasting, 15.3pc in Punjab, 23.3pc in Sindh, 18.9pc in Balochistan, 16.1 in AJK, 23pc in NMD and 12.1pc in ICT. Similarly, 12.9pc children were overweight in KP, 9.9pc in Punjab, 5.2pc in Sindh, 16.7 pc in Balochistan, 13.4pc in AJK, 18.6pc in NMD and 5.8pc in ICT.

"Anemia, deficiencies of Vitamin A, hemoglobin and zinc were major causes of stunting in children and underweight birth," said Dr Riaz Khan, children specialist at Govt hospital Pabbi Nowshera while talking to APP.

He termed inadequate nutrition among mothers during pregnancy as one of the main reasons for malnutrition among children leading to stunting and underweight. The un nourished children and mothers suffer from depression and anxiety, cardiorespiratory disorders and low immunity and poor wound healing and concentration in studies and jobs.

Dr Riaz said nearly 45.8pc neonatal start breastfeeding in the first hour of birth out of which 44.6pc in rural areas and 47 percent in urban regions in the country against 50pc target set by the WHO, adding the proportion of children breastfed for first six months in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was estimated as 60.7pc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 59pc in

NMD, 42.1pc in Azad Kashmir, 43.9pc in Balochistan, 57.6 percent in ICT and 54.9pc in Gilgit-Baltistan.

"One out of three children received complementary food between 6 to eight months i.e. 35.9pc at the national level while 14.2pc children have an access to minimum dietary diversity, 18.2pc minimum meal frequency and 3.6pc in the minimum acceptable diet."

"KP health department report prepared by the PTI government itself spoke of the poor performance of the PTI rulers, who failed to strengthen mother-children nutrition programs despite 10 years long rule," said Ikhaitar Wali, PMLN KP spokesman.

He added the challenges of stunting, malnutrition and pregnancy-related deaths could have been averted if proper attention was paid by the PTI rulers. He accused the former PTI government of its failure in the construction of mothers-children hospitals in the province.

Dr Riaz said women of reproductive age of 15-49 years were bearing double burden of malnutrition and as per the national nutrition survey one in seven women i.e. 14.4 percent undernourished and 36.9pc food insecure. He said malnutrition and stunting in women and children could prove fatal and underscored the need for arresting inflation and price hike to provide a balanced diet to all.

Javeera Qazi, spokesman, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) KP told APP that anti stunting and malnutrition program was launched in the country under which Rs1,500 per boy and Rs2000 per girl was being given to all registered pregnant and lactating mothers and those with children under two years of age for specialized nutritious food and immunizations services.

Besides Khyber and Upper Dir of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, she said the program was also launched at Bagh, Ghizer, Hunza, Kharang, Kharan, Badin, and Rajanpur where BISP nutrition experts were facilitating the beneficiaries women.

Mustaqeem Khan, senior planning officer KP health department told APP that 56 sites in NMD were identified for the construction of mothers-children hospitals, basic health units and rural health centres.

The feasibility study of the project costing Rs12,440 million was completed besides allocation of Rs3,900 million for 2022-23, he said, adding extra allocation was made to mothers and children nutrition program in budget while a modern paraplegic centre was being constructed at Bakakhel Bannu with an estimated cost of Rs900 million. To protect mothers-children and the general public from chronic diseases, he said the KP Govt was spending Rs1.1 billion on purchase of medicines.

To boost balanced nutrition for mothers-children and prevent non-communicable diseases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said a foreign bank would provide USD 90 million for the project to be completed in the next five years.

The district headquarters hospitals were being strengthened in terms of equipment, medicines and gynecology services, he said adding the Asian Development Bank has provided USD 25 million out of USD 100 million committed amount for the project to be completed by 2026.

The KP government would spend Rs2 billion on strengthening and running of BHUs and primary healthcare centres by establishing mothers-children wards initially in 15 districts besides spending Rs1.5 billion on maternal and newborn's health and allied services in the province.

Food items price hike during the holy month of Ramadan

With the onset of Ramazan, the prices of food items started to skyrocket and no check on that from the concerned quarters.

During a visit to the markets to check the food items' rates and compare it with the government rates issued by the district administration, it is clearly evident that the rates of food items are increasing with every passing day during the holy month of Ramadan.

The price of live chicken has increased to Rs. 350 per kg and the price of rice increased by Rs 70 per kg, said a Vander during a visit to the market. He said the price of rice has gone up to Rs 335 per kg, split chick-peas (Chana Dal) started selling at 220 to 260 rupees per kg and the price of beans increased by Rs 60 per kg with jumping of beans rates from Rs. 281 to Rs 339 per kg.

The price of spices increased from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per kg, a shopkeeper told APP during a visit.

He disclosed that the price of spices in the city has reached Rs. 600 per kg and the prices of oil and ghee also increased. He said the price of ghee and oil increased by Rs. 62 per kg while the other vegetables and fruits were also out of purchasing power. Garlic is being sold at Rs. 360 and ginseng at Rs 620 per kg while Peas 200, Arvi 180, Zucchini 170, green and capsicum 150 rupees and tomato 120 per kg are being sold.

The rates of fruits also increased like Malta 440 per dozen, Cano 400 per dozen while Banana Rs. 300 per dozen, Pomegranate Rs. 400, Irani Apple Rs. 340 per kg, Guava Kohati Rs. 350 and Strawberry Rs. 280 per kg.

The skyrocketing price hike was also witnessed in beef, which was Rs 700 per kg before Ramazan now sold at Rs 800 and Rs. 1000 per kg while the rates of mutton was increased from Rs 1400 to 1600 per kg, thereby increasing to 1800 per kg. "The rates issued by the district administration do not suit us," a Butcher in the local market said.

When asked about the imposition of fine and raid from the officials of the district administration, he replied with a smile that during the recent rain, most of the officials did not come inside the Sabzi Mandi for checking rates due to heavy mud stranded water, therefore, the shopkeepers were charging rates of their own choice.

Hanna Urak Valley: The most visited yet neglected tourist spot of Balochistan

Abdul Shakoor Khan

When man first began to explore the world, his top four desires have been flowing water, blowing air, flowering flora, and pleasing serenity. The historic Hanna Urak Valley, Quetta is home to all four of these elements.

Urak Valley, a place of picturesque landscape surrounded by uneven mountains in the Quetta district of Balochistan, has a population of about 24000.

The Hana Lake, which was established by the British, is close by Urak Valley, which is 20 kilometres from Quetta. The end of it has a small waterfall that serves as the entry to the nearby Wali Tangi Dam.

It is the ancestral home of the Pashtun Kakar tribe, who are renowned for their kindness, bravery, and hospitality. High-quality apple trees are grown here, and they are exported to a number of nations.

Hanna Urak Valley now has the distinction of being the only tourist point in Balochistan with average daily visits of between 15,000 and 20,000 tourists. The most visits ever recorded at any of Balochistan's tourist points.

According to Mr. Mohammad Yunus, the landlord in the Hanna valley, "around fifteen to twenty thousand people from throughout the country and parts of Balochistan rush to Hanna Urak Valley daily to observe the natural beauty.

He said, "We have a deep connection to this place, and we always abide by the golden rules of hospitality when visitors arrive in the valley. One cannot avoid visiting Hanna Valley at least once if you are travelling to Quetta."

"Tired of our busy schedule and daily routine, we spare time and visit Quetta to experience scenic Urak valley", Usman Ansari, a resident of

Landhi area of Karachi said.

Ameer Hamza Sarangzai, narrating the history of the valley said that before Pakistan came into being, our ancestors had inked MoU with the British rulers regarding the provision of water to the cantonment established adjacent to the Hanna Valley. The British Army stationed at Cantonment was charged per gallon.

However, he noted that "after the Independence of Pakistan, elders of the valley including Malik Sikandar Khan, Malik Taj Mohammad, Haji Abdul Rahim Sangzai and others met the then governor and agreed to continue providing fresh water free of cost. "This tradition continues till day"

Our love to the homeland has compelled the then President and Field Marshal Ayub Khan to visit Hanna Urak. During his visit in 1965, he announced to build a dam for the people of the area. He fulfilled his promise and "Wali Tanki Dam" was built that helped storage the water and irrigate the agriculture land.

Malik Nasir Khan former Councilor of Hanna Valley, said, "Due to scarcity of funds, the provincial government could not pay heed to tourism sector, especially developing the biggest tourist point," By allocating a sizable budget for the development of tourist spot, it could generate millions of rupee only from Hanna Valley.

"The recent flash floods devastated 100 percent of apple orchards and agricultural land, swept away road and other infrastructure, Mr. Yunus landlord of Hanna said.

As road infrastructure has perished, it takes two hours to reach the Hanna valley from the entrance which used to take 30 minutes, he said lamenting that despite the passage of eight months, neither compensation to the victims were given nor steps were taken to restore the damaged infrastructure.

"We had, on our own, established small hotels, swimming pools, parks, and other edible spots to attract the tourists," The effort was aimed at

generating revenue for the local community but after the floods, it has shut completely leaving the area people in dismay.

Mr. Ibrahim JUI leader in the valley also seemed disappointed on the response of the authorities concerned to restore tourist activities since it has at standstill after the floods destroyed everything.

"In the aftermath of a catastrophe that hit the province in June 2022 agriculture, apple orchards and small business are no more there to support the local community of Hanna Valley." It is the responsibility of the provincial government to take the issue seriously and initiate rehabilitation process on war-footing. The concerted efforts, in this connection, would not only ease issues faced by the local community but also generate revenue for the provincial kitty.

Balochistan Spokesperson Babar Yusufzai when contacted reaffirmed the government's resolve to save the tourism sector of the province. "Government is well cognizant of the issues faced by the people of the valley. The rehabilitation process is underway and we are striving hard to complete it as soon as possible,"

About Hanna Valley, he assured that strenuous measures would be put in place to restore the damaged road infrastructure. We will leave no stone unturned to revive the hustle bustle of the tourists at the historic Hanna valley.

Secretary Tourism and Culture Manzoor Hussain said Balochistan tourism is characterized by diversity in the fields of tourism.

Balochistan has been blessed in terms of tourism. There are beautiful sites and "I request people from the country and outside Pakistan to visit Balochistan and enjoy the beauty of nature and make investment in it."

He said that the government was trying to equip the picnic points with all sort of facilities and pay special heed to Hanna Urak and other tourist points in the province.

Tourism – A vital resource to support economy-I

Saeeda Irum

Despite setbacks of earthquakes, floods and Covid-19, Pakistan's tourism sector still has vast potential and can still gear to achieve significant milestones serving as an engine of economic growth and uplifting residents of remote hilly areas.

An amalgamation of scenic beauty of mountain ranges, vast plains, soothing lakes, gushing rivers, enchanting coastline, calm deserts and religio-historic monuments, the country hosts socio-cultural relics gathered from knowledge and experience of invaders, rulers, historians, communities and anthropologists.

Diversified in cultures and cuisines, the country also boasts of noble traditions of hospitality, brotherhood, religious harmony encompassing Bhudda, Gandhara, Indus, Mughals, Sikhs and other civilizations in its architecture, attire and abode.

It is geographically unique with archaeological heritage, spiritual and cultural sites providing ample tourism opportunities for nature lovers and followers of different religions. Thus one can judiciously claim that Pakistan's tourism industry holds limitless potential.

But unlike many countries of the world earning billions of dollars annually through their tourism industry, Pakistan is still struggling to fully capitalize this potential although some strides surface in recent past like winning the Best New Exhibitor Award at Travel and Adventure Show 2023 at New York in January this year.

Around 20 prominent companies of Tourism and Hospitality Sector along with provincial tourism departments from Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan presented Pakistan's rich tourism potential at



the international show. The participating companies also had meetings with major tour operators in USA and counterparts in other countries as series of shows at this event had attracted over 2.5 million travelers to over 4,500 world's top destinations.

"Pakistan has variety of tourist destinations with the strongest and unique traditions of warm hospitality by local people as also acknowledged by foreign tourists," said Managing Director, PTDC, Rana Aftab. "Therefore, it is high time to promote awareness by educating our people of their duties to preserve environment and cultural belongings of our country."

He said Pakistan's participation in Travel and Trade Show has been highly impactful in terms of response from the public and international tourism organizations.

"The event provided an opportunity to interact with top international and domestic tour operators, cruise lines and travel providers," he stated. "Besides routine tourism, we also have vast potential to promote cultural and religious tourism by attracting believers of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikh religions."

To be Concluded

IS Iftar dinner hosted by ICCI

Ishaq Dar assures Pakistan to close deal with IMF to revive economy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammed Ishaq Dar has said that the government is making all possible efforts to steer the economy of the difficult situation in order to put it on the path of sustainable economic growth.

Addressing as chief guest an Iftar dinner hosted by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in honor of foreign diplomats, Dar said that friendly countries were expected to materialize their commitments with Pakistan that would pave the way to close the deal with the IMF and revive the economy.

He said that in 2016, Pakistan was a rising economy as it was expected to become the world's 18th-strongest economy, but was now facing serious economic challenges.

He said that Pakistan would not default and the government was making all possible efforts to steer it out of a difficult situation in order to put it on the path of sustainable economic growth.

He lauded the initiative of ICCI for hosting an Iftar dinner for diplomats.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI urged the government to ensure consistency in economic policies that would enable the business community and investors to invest in Pakistan with confidence.

He assured that the business community would fully support the government in its efforts to revive the economy.

He highlighted the business and investment opportunities in Pakistan for diplomats and said that Pakistan was a huge market of over 220 million consumers and offered great investment opportunities in various sectors of its economy.

He said that foreign investors should transfer technology to Pakistan and explore joint ventures and investments in areas of interest.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, former federal minister said that the government was determined to promote ease of doing business and hoped that the current difficult phase would be over soon.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan needed exports to overcome its foreign exchange crisis and hoped that the foreign diplomats would fully cooperate with Pakistan in



realizing this goal.

Engineer Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI thanked the chief guest, diplomats and all the participants for attending the Iftar dinner.

He said that if the government creat-

ed a more conducive business environment, the private sector would be able to improve the health of the economy.

Junaid Afzal, Chairman, Nova Group said that with the efforts of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI, Nova



Group was working out on an attractive discounted package of residential and commercial plots for the members of the business community.

He said that Nova Group would cooperate with ICCI for the establishment of an industrial park in the region.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said the business community is hopeful that Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will soon conclude a deal with the IMF that will enable Pakistan to cope with its current economic crisis.

He urged the government to work hard to end the country's reliance on

foreign loans and make it self-sufficient and assured that the business community would fully support in achieving this goal.

Atadjan Movlamov, Dean of Diplomatic Corp & Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Ulanbek Totuiaev Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci Ambassador of Turkey, Adam M. Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia, Dr. Ramez Alraee, Ambassador of Syria, Neil Hawkins High Commissioner of Australia, Mohammad Azhar

Bin Mazlan High Commissioner of Malaysia, Maciej Pisarski, Ambassador of Poland, Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama

RSP VSV ndc, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal, Dilşad Şenol Ambassador of Republic of Turkish Northern Cyprus and diplomats of many other countries including Saudi Arabia attended the Iftar Dinner.

They appreciated the ICCI for hosting a magnificent Iftar dinner for them.

Photos by Ghulam Farid

Palestine condemns aggression in an around Al-Haram Al-Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine condemns in the strongest terms Israel's continued provocations and aggression against both the worshippers and the sanctity of Holy Sites in Jerusalem, particularly in an around Al-Haram Al-Sharif;

Israeli occupying forces' aggression against worshippers during the holiest month of the year, in grave violation of historic, legal, and political status quo of Jerusalem;

The State of Palestine also condemns the unlawful detention of worshippers followed by the forced invasion of Jewish settlers into

Al-Haram Al-Sharif under the protection of Israeli occupying forces;

Israel, the occupying Power, is not committed, as it falsely claims, to either bring about calm in Jerusalem or to guarantee the freedom of religion and worship for all; Israel, the occupying Power, is willfully and deliberately provoking Muslim worshippers during the Holy Month of Ramadan and is imposing additional punitive restrictions;

The State of Palestine holds Israel fully responsible for dangerous repercussions of its violations on regional and international peace and security; Al-Haram Al-Sharif is

place of Muslim worship, protected and preserved by the historic and internationally recognized status quo and under sole authority of the Islamic Waqf and the custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

Israel is an occupying Power and has no rightful claim or sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem, including its Holy Sites;

Worshippers have the right to pray in and around Al-Haram Al-Sharif, whenever and in accordance with Islamic practices;

Israel's militarization and attempts to upend hundreds of years of Islamic traditions is clearly aimed at spatial and temporal division of Al-Ha-

ram Al-Sharif and to impose its control;

Israel's criminalization of Ramadan celebrations and social and cultural assemblies in Jerusalem is an attack on Palestinian polity and existence;

We call on the international community to ensure that Israel, the occupying Powers, adheres to its obligations under international law;

We also call on international community to reaffirm its rejection of and non-recognition of any Israeli claims of sovereignty over any part of Palestine, including in Jerusalem, and over its Holy Sites.

Fouzia Younis assume charge as Consul General UK at Toronto

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Director of Communication & Public Diplomacy at the British High Commission (BHC) Islamabad Fouzia Younis has been elevated as Head of the UK Consulate in Toronto and is on way to join as Counsel General of UK with a sense of fulfillment as it is perhaps the first time that a British Muslim woman has been appointed Head of a Diplomatic Post.

In a tweet, the UK High Commission Islamabad wished Fouzia Younis all the best for her new diplomatic stint. Fouzia has been considered a very dedicated diplomat, a friendly and sociable person.



During her posting, she engaged the Pakistani media persons in active and constructive dialogue and hosted a number of receptions and briefings for them where she explained to them the British government's point of view on several issues of mutual interest.

In a post on social media, she shared the news in the following words: "Privileged to be appointed as

His Majesty's British Consul General to Toronto. Special moment as we think it is the 1st time (but don't have data) that a British Muslim woman has been appointed as Head of a Diplomatic Post. I won't be the last."

In a message to the girls who are struggling hard to make their mark in life, her advice is "To the girls who look like me, who are battling prejudice, racism and sexism from within communities & outside, who are told they can't do it, or that they don't sound or look the part. Don't let anyone dim your power. You can change the world. Shout out to my colleagues & old/new bosses for your every word of advice and challenge

to help me find my voice. We serve and represent the UK of today, we represent all of us, we shape all our futures. I can't wait to get cracking in Toronto to do just that!"

A number of her colleagues, former and present and media friends termed Fouzia's new appointment not only a matter of pride for the British Muslim women but also for the Pakistani women as beginning from a humble family that moved to the UK back in 1960s and 1970s, she has achieved the dream.

At this point of my life I am missing my parents, my aba and ami who sacrificed their life for the success of their children, commented Fouzia.

IS National Services Acknowledged

Dr. Rizwan Uppal conferred 'Tamgha-i-Imtiaz' for his outstanding services to Pakistan

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: President Islamic Republic of Pakistan, conferred upon the civil awards on "Pakistan Day" to the selected individuals for their outstanding services. Amongst the awardees, Dr. Rizwan Uppal is a renowned name in the medical fraternity in Pakistan. He is conferred upon "Tamgha-i-Imtiaz" in recognition of his over 25-year-long service in the medical field.

Dr. Rizwan Uppal has a unique personality and practices allopathic and homeopathic simultaneously to cure patients. He believes in correct diagnostics to treat diseases at the earliest possible time and also emphasizes research in healthcare, academic contribution, and social responsibility.

He has an excellent academic background and secured the third position in intermediate (Pre-medical) from the Federal

Board and was awarded the President of Pakistan, Gold Medal for securing the first position in the college. He got admission to Army Medical College (AMC) Rawalpindi and graduated as an MBBS doctor by earning many Gold, and silver medals for outstanding results in various subjects along with many certificates of Honour. He did post-graduation in medicine (FCPS) and Pulmonology (MCPS). He also attained the foreign UK (MRCGP) and US qualifications (USMLE). He served the Pakistan Army medical branch for fifteen years in various institutes and hospitals and then opted to start his journey of private practice.

During his practice, he realized that no one field can cure every illness and then he started to work on alternative medicines by practicing homeopathy and became a Member Alliance of Registered Homeopaths MARH

(UK). Following his vision of correct diagnostics, he founded a state of Art Imaging and lab diagnostic center in Islamabad in 2005, named Islamabad Diagnostic Centre (IDC) and Dr. Rizwan is the founder Chairman of IDC. Being a leading chain of imaging and lab diagnostic centers, IDC



is currently providing top-quality diagnostic services in 36 different cities in Pakistan. Over 2,500 employees comprised of qualified doctors and lab technicians are serving countrywide in IDC branches and earning respectfully. IDC follows global guidelines and international standards. The ISO-15189 accredited pathology services are offered through a team of highly

qualified pathologists and technologists who manage multiple labs across Pakistan. IDC is also recognized for FCPS radiology, the apex qualification in radiology in Pakistan. The imaging modalities are also connected through PACS where doctors from abroad are also involved to make telediagnosis. IDC is a constitutional part of ISRA university helping graduate studies, contributing research in various diagnostic fields with COMSATS, AIOU, and Quaid-e-Azam Universities in Islamabad.

IDC has attained a leading position in radiology and is considered the only private diagnostic center recognized for FCPS in radiology training. By adding modern technologies such MRI, CT scans, Digital X rays, Mammography, CBCT, OPG and DEXA Scanners, etc, and reliable imaging services by using teleradiology and PACS, IDC is serving the country with



the largest team of radiologists.

Historically, Dr. Rizwan started the diagnostic services to the public in 2003 at Wah Cantt as the first branch in the name of his late father Dr. Aslam Uppal who was very popular in the area for his quality treatment and benevolent attitude.

Considering his corporate social and national responsibility, Dr. Rizwan has established three state-of-the-art Labs in underprivileged District HQ

Hospitals of Attock, Jehlum, and Chakwal, through a Public-Private-Partnership scheme and offers highly subsidized services to the Ministry of Health, Punjab which enabled Government to offer free of cost tests to the patients.

During the challenging time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, IDC has delivered COVID-19 diagnostics with exceptional turnaround times (TAT) at its NIH-approved testing facilities

all over Pakistan and enhanced the diagnostic capacity of Pakistan. With government collaboration, IDC also helped NCOC to deploy smart lock-downs to contain the pandemic spread.

Dr. Rizwan Uppal has two Patents on his credit, one related to measuring pressures in a failing Heart and the other to dealing with the dreadful effects of high-altitude hypothermia and hypoxia. He was awarded a COAS commendation certificate for these innovative tasks. Dr. Rizwan continuously conducts medical research and has so far contributed over 22 research publications in world-wide renowned medical journals. His recent study was about the COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V for developing antibodies in more than 80% of patients after the first dose. He also manages a welfare project under the title of 'Poor Kidney Patient Association' of Pakistan.

31st March is the last date for renewal of ICCI membership

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD : The membership renewal process of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) is in full swing for the year 2023-24 and as per Trade Organizations Act, the last date for renewal of membership is 31st March 2023.

The Chamber has already notified its members through various means including letter, email, WhatsApp and SMS that the membership of ICCI shall expire on 31-03-2023 and all members are required to get the membership renewed on or before 31-03-2023, submitting a copy of the latest Income Tax Return for the year 2022 (and copy of latest Sales Tax Return if applicable). For this purpose, ICCI office will remain open from 9:00 am to 4:00 till March 31, 2023.

BAJK provides Rs.145.90m loans under 'Personal Loan' scheme



News Desk

MUZAFFARABAD : Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir provides more than 145.90 million rupees loans to the customers under the special loan scheme "Personal Loan".

Khawar Saeed, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank, said in a business review meeting that Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has the lowest mark-up rate in the market and provides customers with household services like children's education, marriage, home renovation on the most convenient terms and provides loan facilities for personal needs. Any citizen of Pakistan/Azad Kashmir can avail loans against Government Securities, bank's own deposits or deposits of other banks under the personal loan scheme. The tenure of this loan is up to three years and monthly, quarterly repayment facility is provided. The needy are benefitting from loans under the fastest processing. According to the bank spokesperson, the social and economic development of the region is being accelerated by prompt payment and the easy access of consumers to credit schemes like advance salary loan, tourism development, housing finance, gold loan, car financing, motorcycle loan, home appliances, SME, micro, commercial, health care etc. Under the supervision and leadership of President/CEO Khawar Saeed, the bank is achieving its goals with the hard and team work of the staff and customer support.

Anjum Nisar says already record inflation, high markup cut private sector borrowings

News Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday warned the Central Bank of any further jump in the key policy rate in the upcoming Monetary Policy next month, as the economic crisis continued to deepen due to wrong economic policies amidst record highest markup rate in the region.

FPCCI former President and Businessmen Panel (BMP) chairman, Mian Anjum Nisar said that already unprecedented inflation and high mark-up rate have drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. He said that the central bank raised its key interest rate by 300 basis points, exceeding investor expectations, as the cash-strapped country attempts to encourage the International Monetary Fund to release critical funding. The key rate of the State Bank of Pakistan now stands at 20%, its highest level since October 1996. Now there are reports that the SBP would raise the interest rate by another 2 percent at the upcoming meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to unlock the stalled IMF loan program.

The Businessmen Panel (BMP) chief suggested the Central Bank to adopt an accommodative monetary policy stance, asking the finance minister to fulfill his commitment of reining in inflation besides cutting interest rate and strengthening the undervalued local currency against dollar.

Demanding competitive interest rate at regional countries' level, he said that the SBP's stance of keeping monetary policy rate at 17% was already high compared to the markup rate of China, India and Bangladesh. Yet, the central bank jacked up the key policy rate by another 300 basis points to 20% in last monetary policy, leading to the crash of economy, which will remain bearish until announcement of next Policy announcement.

Kazakhstan ready to strengthen long-term economic partnership with Pakistan: Kazak Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Minister for National Economy, Republic of Kazakhstan A. Kuanyrtov has said that Kazakhstan was willing to strengthen lasting and long-term economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan are engaged in mutual discussions for long-term economic partnership, which would pave the way for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries in the future.

The Kazakh Minister said this while briefing to the international media in Astana, Kazakhstan.

He said, Pakistan has engines of growth like Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad with which businessmen of Kazakhstan can get benefits from business connections, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

A. Kuanyrtov said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan could play an important role in regional Economic and trade Integration, for which



negotiations were going on in both countries. He said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan had opportunities for economic and trade cooperation in many sectors including textile, agri-

culture and energy.

A. Kuanyrtov said that the volume of mutual trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was much less than its potential, which needed to be further increased.

He said that regional trade was very important without which the dream of economic prosperity in the region would not be realized. He said that the concept of a middle corridor was very important for regional connectivity from which all regional economies could get benefits.

The minister said that Kazakhstan is currently in trade balance and "we are striving for sustainable development for which we are working on stable economic policies." He said that they were following the policy of developing their country's current geo-political position for geo-economic benefits.

He said that revenue collection, food security and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were the pillars of our economic policies.

He said that currently, 45 percent women were working in the SME sector, adding that

the government was trying for the maximum Foreign Direct Investment in Kazakhstan and there was already investment in Kazakhstan from European Union and Pacific countries.

He said that the Middle Corridor concept was very important in the economic policy of Kazakhstan and along with this, we were following the Trans Caspian policy which would pave the way for economic integration between the countries of the region.

The minister said that Kazakhstan had recently completed constitutional and political reforms and within ten months the process of reforms and elections was completed.

He said that after these constitutional reforms in Kazakhstan, the atmosphere for economic and investment would be smooth, from which a new face of Kazakhstan would be seen.

Free and fair elections in Kazakhstan will start a new democratic era in the country and it will have a positive impact on investment and economic inclusion in the country, he added.

Price hike

RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying watermelon attraction for costumers for selling purpose alongside a road at Rashid Minhas road in the city.



Photo: Online

FCCI emphasized the need to build industry-academia linkages on a solid basis



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Dr. Sajjad Arshad, Senior Vice President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) has emphasized the need to build industry-academia linkages on a solid basis in the real sense and said that they will have to take compression and conducive steps to emerge skilled force to accelerate our industrial sectors.

He further expressed that the education Institution like FAST- NU is God gifted education Institution because it has generated industrial revolution in Faisalabad because of producing required skilled force. He said that it was a great dream which practically benefited the industrial sector.

He further expressed that in this regard there is further dire need for the appropriate linkages of the Chamber with other educational and research institutes including due promotion of required fruitful education so that Pakistan can be prepared for the fourth industrial revolution without any resistance.

He was addressing a prestigious function at the campus of FAST University situated in the middle of Faisalabad-Chiniot road near Jhang Canal branch as the chief guest.

He said that it is a matter of great joy that an institution like FAST exists for the students of Chiniot and Faisalabad & many others and provides them with the best educational facilities which are being provided smoothly & comprehensively. He further said that the future of Pakistan is related to information technology and FAST- NU is providing the latest & modern facilities in this field. He said that Fast University is an institution of international education standard point and I am rightly proud of it as Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also appreciated the management of Chiniot campus. Finally, Director of FAST University Chiniot Campus, Dr. M. Shahzad Sarfaraz, presented the university's badge to Dr. Sajjad Arshad, Senior Vice President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

People worried about jobs and inflation, tired of political conflict

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said the masses are worried about their jobs and increasing inflation and they are fed up with endless political wrangling.

Politicians have crossed all boundaries of morality in the race to humiliate each other and instead of giving any program to save the country's economy, they are indulging in accusations, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman of PVMA said in a statement issued here that the IMF is playing a cat-and-mouse game with Pakistan while not a single political party has any plan to run the economy with or without the help of the international organization.

Political leaders have failed to present a workable solution to the nation, which is



disappointing the public and the business community, he added.

The business leader said that the politicians are unable to understand that the problem of the people is not their power,

but earning bread and keeping employment in the unbearable inflation.

He said that for the majority, it has become impossible to run the budget of their homes and the solution to such problems lies with the government which gives some relief and protection to the people but now the welfare of the people has been neglected and they are at the mercy of the circumstances.

There is no economic governance in the country and the political leaders are not ready to agree on the Charter of Economy.

In these circumstances, people and businessmen are worried about the political and economic future of Pakistan.

He informed that items of daily use are more expensive in the market compared to the official inflation data, while nothing is being done to control profiteering, leading to public outrage.

A signing ceremony of MoU between Nova City and ICCI hold

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD : Yesterday, a dignified ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding was held between Nova City and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In the ceremony, the MoU was signed at ICCI Office G8. After which, an Iftar was organized by Nova and ICCI at Serena Hotel Islamabad in which businessmen and ambassadors were also present along with the Chief Guest Ishaq Dar. In the memorandum of understanding, Chairman Nova Group Chaudhary Junaid Afzaal and President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari signed a special concession plan on Nova Plots. In addition, NOVA and ICCI discussed the committee for establish-

ment of Special Economic and Industrial Zone in joint ventures between NOVA and Chamber.

A large number of members of the Chamber and the real estate community were present on the occasion. The senior management of Nova Group also graced this memorable event.

According to details, during the MoU signing ceremony between Nova City and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it was announced that Nova City will provide special discounts on plots to ICCI members, along with Nova City.

All ICCI members will also get convenient plans for their balance payments. Not only that, but Nova City also offered possession of plots on forty percent of the payments for chamber members.

Addressing the ceremony, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari thanked Chairman Nova Group Chaudhary Junaid Afzaal and said that the services rendered by Nova Group and its entire management to the members of the Chamber are undoubtedly the best in history.

Speaking on this occasion, Raja Hamid Mehmood, Chairman of Business World Marketing, expressed his happiness and said that he is very happy with the signing of the MoU between Nova City and the Chamber of Commerce after countless efforts.

A special thanks to all the Chamber members and Realtors who, as always, answered our voices and made this enjoyable event a success. Giving special thanks to Chairman Nova Group



Chaudhary Junaid Afzaal, Raja Hamid Mehmood said that I am deeply grateful to

him for the way Chaudhary Junaid Afzaal implemented all my requests. We are

proud to have the privilege of providing support and services to ICCI members.

