



**Ahsan highlights key situations affecting Pakistan's economic condition**

Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday informed the international community that Pakistan had less than one percent contribution to the total global greenhouse emissions, making it among the lowest in the world, but it was among the leading countries most vulnerable to the climate change impacts. (Details on Page 8)



**Per capita public debt stood at Rs 216,709 by June 2022: NA told**  
Minister of State for Finance Aisha Ghaus Pasha on Monday informed the National Assembly that per capita public debt stood at Rs 216,709 by June 2022. Replying to a query during the Question Hour, the minister said Pakistan had maintained a debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio at 73.5 per cent during the period under review. (Details on Page 8)

**ECC meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday.



Photo: PID

**President appoints Mansoor Usman as new Attorney General**

**News Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Attorney General of Pakistan Barrister Shehzad Ata Elahi and appointed Advocate Supreme Court Mansoor Usman Awan as the new Attorney General. The President accepted the resignation and made the appointment on the advice of the Prime Minister under article 100 of the constitution.

**ECC defers summary to increase drug prices**

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday deferred summaries of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on fixation MPR of 54 new drugs and increase in prices of 119 drugs. The ECC, met with Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in chair, also considered a summary of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination for maximum retail price of Remdesivir 100 mg injection and decided not to increase the price of Remdesivir 100 mg injection and the existing MRP Rs. 1892/vial shall remain fixed.



Effectiveness Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Coordinator to the PM on Economy Bilal Azhar Kayani, Coordinator to PM on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, federal secretaries and other senior officers also attended the meeting.

The ECC considered and approved a summary of Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) regarding arrangement of Finance Facility for funding of Government of Baluchistan's share of obligation in Rekodiq project dispute settlement with directions to the Finance Division to arrange payment of markup amounting to Rs. 6,238,358,879 for the period from March 31, 2022 to December 30, 2022 to the NBP for the short term finance facility of Rs. 65 billion. The ECC also deferred a summary of Ministry of Aviation on engagement of International Finance Corporation as transaction advisor for the outsourcing of three airports.

**Immense opportunities for investors in diverse sectors of Pakistan: PM**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said immense opportunities existed for investment in mining, information technology, energy, communication and infrastructure sectors in Pakistan and the government was taking measures to provide all possible facilities to investors. The prime minister was talking to a delegation of Barrick Riko Diq Mining Company led by its chief executive officer Mark Bristow. Mark Bristow informed the prime minister about the progress on the mining project. The PM said many areas of Pakistan especially Balochistan were rich in mineral resources and the government was working on priority basis for fully utilizing these natural resources. The recent agreement on the Riko Diq project would be beneficial for both sides, he said adding Riko Diq project would



be a game changer for Balochistan and would usher in a new era of progress. The PM said a project support team should be formed for execution of the Riko Diq project and directed that all relevant departments should fulfill their responsibility for implementation of the project. The prime minister was told that seventy percent people working on the project belonged to Balochistan. It was informed that the mining

company had established a school in Riko Diq with the cooperation of the community development committee in the area. Besides, steps would be taken for imparting professional and higher level education to youth of the area so that they could get jobs. It was told in the briefing, work was continuing on providing facilities of clean drinking water and health in the area and alternative energy was being used in the mining project. Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the mining company for its welfare projects to fulfill its corporate social responsibility. He invited the company to work with the government to establish Danish Schools in Balochistan. Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Advisor to PM Ahad Chema, State Minister for Petroleum Musadiq Malik, Special Assistant to PM Jehanzeb Khan and high ranking officers attended the meeting.

**Imran secures protective bail in seven cases**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday granted protective bail to the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in seven cases. A bench headed by IHC CJ Aamer Farooq and Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the pleas. At the outset of the hearing, PTI chief's lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar appeared in the court and maintained that they had acquired Khan's protective bail from Lahore High Court (LHC) after which they arrived at the judicial complex but they weren't allowed to move further. "More FIRs against Imran Khan were lodged that day," he added. At this, IHC CJ asked the lawyer to clarify why had they bypassed a forum to reach IHC. Imran Khan's lawyer said attacks on two former prime ministers have taken place, my client has also serious security threats, he added.

To this, CJ IHC remarked that the government has done 'wrong' by withdrawing Imran Khan's security. The notices were also served to the federal govt. Former PM Imran Khan reached Islamabad via road from Zaman Park. Amid security threats, Imran Khan's vehicle was allowed to enter the premises of the IHC. **Bail pleas, reservations** Imran Khan has filed different petitions for bail before arrest in Islamabad High Court. The petition argued that cases have been registered on political retaliation, the court should prevent the parties from arresting the petitioner. On the other hand, the Registrar's office of the Islamabad High Court has raised objections to Imran Khan's 7 bail before arrest petitions. The Registrar's Office objected that Imran Khan had not done biometrics and how an application could be filed in the High Court before the trial court.

**Whether ECP could change Presidential schedule on general election, observes CJP**

**TLTP**

ISLAMABAD: While hearing PTI's plea against delaying general elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial observed whether the Election Commission constitutionally empowered to change Presidential schedule for general election. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial was heading a five-member larger bench comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail who was hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) recently filed petition in the matter. After a brief hearing in the matter, the bench issued notices to Election Commission, Punjab and KP governor, and federal government seeking reply till today (Tuesday). During the proceedings, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial asked whether the ECP could change the date for elections given by the president. He remarked that they could not run away from realities, adding that the elections could only be held in favourable circumstances. The CJP further remarked that

law and constitution were made to protect the people saying that the situation in the country was quite grave and everyone seemed at loggerheads with each other. He said the election must be fair, peaceful and transparent. The CJP was of the view that elections were postponed for 40 days after the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. During the course of proceedings, Additional Attorney General requested the court to put off hearing for two to three days as the new Attorney General for Pakistan had not been appointed. However, the court rejected the request. In a surprise move on March 22, the ECP had put off elections for more than five months citing the deteriorating security situation in the country and the unavailability of security personnel. Barrister Syed Ali Zafar moved a petition on behalf of the PTI with a request to order the ECP to hold the elections on the date fixed earlier — April 30. PTI Secretary General Asad Umar, former Punjab Assembly speaker Mohammad Sibtain Khan, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly speaker Mushtaq

Ahmad Ghani and ex-lawmakers of Punjab Abdul Rehman and Mian Mahmoodur Rashid, pleaded that the ECP's decision was in violation of the Constitution and tantamount to amending and subverting it. The petition sought Supreme Court directives to the federal government to ensure law and order, provisions of funds and security personnel as per the ECP's need to hold the elections. The PTI urged requested the court to direct the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor to announce the date for elections to the provincial assembly. It is pertinent to mention that during last week, KP Governor Gulam Ali also proposed Oct 08 as the date for holding elections in the province. Earlier, he had announced May 28 as the date for polls. The PTI questioned the ECP's authority to "amend the Constitution" and asked how it could decide to delay elections to any assembly beyond 90 days from the date of dissolution of the assembly as mandated by the Constitution. It has been submitted through the petition that the ECP was bound to obey and implement the judgements of the Supreme Court and had no

**PEMRA bans coverage of rallies**

**City Report**

ISLAMABAD: In the first time in Pakistan. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)

has banned live and recorded coverage of rallies, and public gatherings in Islamabad ahead of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's court appearance in the federal capital.

**SC Judges dissenting note victory of our narrative: Maryam**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz has claimed that the dissenting note of the Supreme Court (SC) judges was the victory of the narrative regarding bench fixing. Maryam Nawaz chaired the session of the PML-N spokespersons today. The participants of the session decided to bring forth the verdicts and witnesses against PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif. They also devised a strategy to present facts about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former premier Imran Khan before the nation. They agreed on disclosing the facts about Imran Khan and other characters, to tell the truth to the nation. During the session, Maryam claimed that Imran Khan is the past of Pakistan and we have to think about the future now. She said that the nation will be informed about how the

country was destroyed in four years of the PTI government. She said that the dissenting note of the SC judges was the victory of PML-N's narrative about bench fixing to back Imran Khan. She raised questions about the impartiality of the judicial system if the bench constitution process is compromised. She alleged that Khan wants to divert the attention of the nation from his corruption cases. She added that they have undeniable evidence in cases against the PTI chief. The PML-N senior VP said that they will expose the constitutional and legal violations in the trials against Nawaz Sharif. She claimed that testimonies have been given regarding injustice with Nawaz Sharif. Maryam said that the national economy was destroyed in the past four years and the nationals become poor. She slammed the PTI chief and said that Imran Khan's 10-point agenda was actually an agenda of 10 lies.

## Protest

LAHORE: Workers of Jamaat-e-Islami shouting slogans during protest against the postponement of elections in Punjab in front of the election office, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Ahsan highlights key situations affecting Pakistan's economic condition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday informed the international community that Pakistan had less than one percent contribution to the total global greenhouse emissions, making it among the lowest in the world, but it was among the leading countries most vulnerable to the climate change impacts.

He expressed these views while addressing the 10th

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)-2023, a news release said.

The four-day APFSD meeting started on March 27 under the theme "Accelerating the recovery from the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific" at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok.

Addressing the forum, the minister highlighted key situations affecting Pakistan's



economic condition, including Covid-19, inflation due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict and severe climate disasters that caused a loss of \$30 billion.

He said Pakistan had taken several measures, including the Post-Flood 2022 Resilient Recovery Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (4RF) Strategic

Policy aimed at restoring the lives and livelihoods of the affected people, especially the most vulnerable.

Some of the post-flood recovery measures taken by the Government of Pakistan, he said, included the provision of emergency relief to one million households under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), initiating of a youth internship programme to provide marketable skills and the creation of a National Flood Protection Plan to combat adverse effects of floods.

## Saudi, Iranian foreign ministers to meet during Muslim holy month

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, have agreed to meet during the ongoing Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Saudi state news agency SPA said on Monday, under a deal to restore ties.

Both ministers spoke by phone for the second time in a few days, SPA said.

"During the call, a number of common issues were discussed in light of the tripartite agreement that was signed in the People's Republic of China. The two ministers also agreed to hold a bilateral meeting between them



during the ongoing month of Ramadan," SPA said.

Ramadan is likely to end on April 20.

Earlier this month, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to revive relations after years of hostility that had threatened stability and security in the Gulf and helped fuel conflicts in the Middle East from Yemen to Syria.

The deal between the

regional powers, Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and long-time rival Shi'ite Iran, brokered by China, was announced after previously undisclosed talks in Beijing between top security officials from the two countries.

Analysts say both sides stand to benefit from de-escalation, as Iran seeks to undercut U.S. efforts to isolate it in the region and

Saudi Arabia tries to focus on economic development.

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

The kingdom also has blamed Iran for missile and drone attacks on its oil facilities in 2019 as well as attacks on tankers in Gulf waters. Iran denied those allegations.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement has also carried out cross-border missile and drone attacks into Saudi Arabia, which leads a coalition fighting the Houthis, and in 2022 extended the strikes to the United Arab Emirates.

## Islamabad police arrest PTI workers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police arrested the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers in during former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan's arrival in the federal capital.

The Islamabad police spokesman said that the decision was taken in a meeting was held under the chairmanship of IG Islamabad in connection with Imran Khan's appearance in the court, in which injured DIG operations, SSP operations and other senior officials were present.

Islamabad police have warned of arrests as section 144 is enforced and people with the court's permission will only be allowed to enter the premises.

## Karakoram Express and Karachi Express to be upgraded: Saad Rafique

Bureau Report

LAHORE : Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that Karakoram Express and Karachi Express will be upgraded by June 30 this year.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, he said these trains would be upgraded on Green Line pattern.

He said that upgradation of these two trains would provide good travelling options to passengers.

He said that special Eid trains would also be operated, adding that seasonal trains would be run during summers, which include Awam Express, Shalimar Express and Bahauddin Zakaria Express.

He said, "We are planning to run cargo train having a capacity of transporting 12,500 tonnes of cargo."

He hoped that branding initiative would help earn handsome amount of revenue.

He said that land of railways would be utilised for commercial purposes, as rules had been framed and sent to the cabinet and soon approval would be obtained.

Preparation for introducing solar system at stations, terminals, buildings, DS offices, headquarters was underway to reduce electricity expenses and soon the project would be announced.

Railways had decided to reduce freight fares by 10-15 per cent, he added. He said

that Hirok bridge would be completed by coming April 15. The minister said that efforts were being made to make Sibi-Harnai section operational before the end of this fiscal year.

Saad Rafique said that process of outsourcing three airports was under way, adding that Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad airports would be outsourced.

He said these airports would be outsourced after competitive bidding.

He said, "The PIA restructuring have to be carried out and the matter had been discussed with international consultants." He said that efforts were being made to give restructuring roadmap in few months besides starting its implementation.

## IHC Orders to stop recounting of votes in six Karachi UCs

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to stop recounting of votes in six union councils (UCs) of Karachi.

According to details, IHC Judge Ijaz Ishaq issued the order on a petition filed by Jamat-e-Islami (JI), challenging the ECP's order of vote-recount in six union councils (UCs) - five of Karachi West and one of Karachi East.

The IHC, in its written order, stated that the Election Commission's March 22 decision of vote-recount was challenged. "The court was informed that the recount was scheduled to be held today in six union councils," it said, adding that if the counting occurred today, the petition will become ineffective.

Barring the ECP from holding recount, the court issued pre-admission notice to Election Commission for April 29.

## Seven killed, 1,103 injured in 1,071 accidents in Punjab

News Desk

LAHORE: At least seven people were killed while 1,103 injured in 1,071 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

A spokesman for the Rescue 1122 on Monday said 530 drivers, 21 underage drivers, 144 pedestrian and 436 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 219 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 248 persons placing the provincial capital top of the list followed by 88 in Faisalabad with 92 victims and third Multan 68 with 63 victims.

As many as 908 motorcycles, 82 rickshaws, 93 cars, 22 vans, 11 buses, 19 trucks and 125 other vehicles besides slow-moving carts were involved in the accidents.

## Recurrence of Quran's willful desecration in Denmark manifests growing hatred, Islamophobia: FO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned yet another "abhorrent" act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Denmark, calling it the manifestation of growing hatred and Islamophobia.

"The recurrence of such willful and vile acts is a troubling manifestation of growing hatred, racism and phobia against Muslims and their faith," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

She said the repeated occurrence of such premeditated acts calls into question the efficacy of legal framework behind which Islamophobes

hide and incite hatred with impunity.

She said the exercise of the right to freedom of expression could not be used as a smokescreen to deliberately denigrate the Holy Scriptures or personalities of any religion.

The spokesperson called on all states to develop legal deterrence with a view to preventing and prosecuting such acts, in line with the responsibilities and duties enshrined in international human rights law.

"We also call upon the international human rights machinery to speak out against such intentional actions that constitute incitement to hate, discrimination and violence against Muslims solely because of their faith," the spokesperson remarked.

## Per capita public debt stood at Rs 216,709 by June 2022: NA told



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Aisha Ghaus Pasha on Monday informed the National Assembly that per capita public debt stood at Rs 216,709 by June 2022.

Replying to a query during the Question Hour, the minister said Pakistan had maintained a debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio at 73.5 per cent during the period under review.

She said the country's total public debt was Rs 52,721 billion till December 2022, including domestic debt of Rs 33,116 billion and external debt of Rs 19,605 billion.

She said most countries relied on the debt inflows to fulfill the shortfall in available resources to fund the government budget. The government borrowed to mainly finance its budget deficit approved by the parliament every year which included the Public

Sector Development Programme, running of the civil government, and more importantly to pay interest on loans taken in the past, she added.

Answering another question, the minister the government was committed to an interest-free economy, and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in consultation with the Finance Division was working to devise a policy for adopting interest-free banking instruments.

Aisha Ghaus said an amount of Rs 50,120 million had been released to the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government so far during the current financial year 2022-23 to meet current and development expenditures of the erstwhile FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas).

Rs 115,200 million (Rs 60 billion for current and Rs 55.2 billion for development) was allocated for current and development expenditures of the erstwhile FATA during FY 2022-23, she added. However, she said, no amount was earmarked for temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) during the current financial year.

Mohsin Dawar, Minister for Religious Affairs Mufti Abdul Shakoor and Minister of Overseas Pakistani Sajid Hussain Turi staged a walk-out of the House for not releasing development budget to the erstwhile FATA.

## 133 new corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Monday said that 133 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Monday, the case positivity ratio was 2.66 percent while 21 patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 5,007 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

As many as 559 tests were conducted

in Lahore out of which, 41 cases were confirmed with a ratio of 7.69 percent, while 120 tests were conducted in Islamabad out of which seven cases were reported confirmed with a ratio of 5.83 percent. 39 cases were confirmed from 507 tests in Karachi with a ratio of 7.69 percent.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.

## WHO to rehab 100 health centres in 12 districts of flood hit Balochistan



Bureau Report

QUETTA : The World Health Organisation (WHO) signed agreement to rebuild 100 primary healthcare centers in 12 districts of Balochistan and also provide the required medical equipment and solar systems to the flood hit areas.

The provincial health department and WHO signed six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) at a ceremony held on Thursday.

The WHO country head Dr Palitha Mahipala, Health Minister Syed Ehsan Shah and Health Secretary

Muhammad Saleh Nasar attended the ceremony.

Under the agreement, WHO will rehabilitate 100 primary healthcare centres in 12 districts and provide medical equipment, furniture and solar systems, and the provincial health department will ensure continuity of health services through human resources and ensure supplies from the health system.

On the occasion, equipment and vehicles donated by WHO for National Maternal and Newborn Child Health programme were handed over to the health secretary.

# Muslim Conference approves the organization of central officials of refugees living in AJK and Pakistan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference approved the organization of central officials of refugees living in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan. The notification of which was issued on the recommendation of President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan with the notification issued by Secretary General Ms. Mehrul Nasa. Kashmir Board, Sardar Muhammad Irshad Khan Chairman Parliamentary Board, Major (Rtd) Khizur Rahman Raja Chairman Ex-Servicemen Board, Mian Karimullah Qureshi Karn-



hi Chairman Research and Writing Board, Ms. Samia Sajid Raja Chairperson Women Wing Ms. Afshan Saeed Advocate Chairperson Person Advocate Wing, Ms. Maimoona Kayani Advocate Chair-

person Student Wing, Syed Nazar Abbas Chairman Finance Board from Jammu, Malik Karamat Hussain Central Vice President from Kotli, Central Vice President Sardar Manzoor Hussain Khan from Haveli, Haroon

Azad Central Deputy Secretary Information, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah Central Chairman Education Board, Rana Ghulam Hussain Central Office Secretary, Sardar Ashfaq Ahmad Khan Coordinator for Finance, Sardar Shaikat Sharif Chaghtai Chairman Development Board, Syed Khalid Amir Gardezi. District Bagh. Central Secretary, Sardar Muhammad Kamal Khan. District Poonch. Central Secretary, Muhammad Salim Awan. District Muzaffarabad. Central Secretary, Raja Umar Farooq. Mirpur District. Central Liaison Secretary, Pahlwan Zulfiqar Janjua. District Kotli. Central Liaison Secretary,

Mir Muhammad Mushtaq Qureshi. District Muzaffarabad. Central Liaison Secretary, Sardar Muhammad Niaz Tabasim. District Poonch. Central Liaison Secretary, Malik Liaquat Hussain. Faisalabad. Central Liaison Secretary and Qazi Zafar Iqbal Central Liaison Secretary for UAE Gulf are included in another notification Haji Zulfiqar Ali Khan Mirpur as Salar Aala, Sardar Tahir Akram Khan Advocate from Poonch as Central Vice President, Syed Ghulam Raza Naqvi Advocate from Kotli as Vice President, Raja Adil Kayani Advocate from Haveli Vice President Central Finance Secretary tagheer

Khan Advocate from Kotli, Finance Secretary Raja Muhammad Sagheer Khan from Kotli, Muhammad Afsar Khan Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Board from Haveli, meanwhile, according to another notification, the Muslim Conference approved the organization of the Punjab Province. According to the notification, Waheedul Haq Hashmi Advocate Gujranwala President Punjab Province, Liaquat Ali Rana Chakwal Senior Vice President Punjab, Sajid Qureshi Advocate Murree General Secretary Punjab Province were included. are More organizational officials will be announced in the next few days.

## Free Atta

RAWALPINDI: A large number of people stand in a queue to collect free wheat flour bags from Ramadan Package, in the City.



Photo: Online

## Free flour Ramadan Relief package is successfully continue: DC says



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the supply of free flour under the Ramadan relief package is continuing successfully in the city of Auliya. Commissioner Umar Jahangir has ordered to increase scanning counters at distribution points. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir and CPO Mansoorul Haq Rana while visiting flour supply points. Deputy Commissioner and City Police Officer He took a briefing on administrative matters including security.

Umar Jahangir said that by giving 20 kg of flour, the citizens will not have to go around again and again: more than 3 lakh free bags have been provided to the entitled people in the district. While the complaints of the citizens are being resolved in the Benazir Income Support Program centers. The CPO said that due to heavy rush at the flour points, foolproof security has been provided while police and volunteers are present at every point for public service.

## Security forces distributed 'Free Ramzan Rations' to poor families



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Security forces distributed "free" rations packages to the poor, needy and disabled in various villages of South Waziristan tribal district, which included the villages of Goorgora, Walma, Teet Sarawak, Janjall Saidan, Khon Khela, Jawakai, Malik Khel, Anzar Kaley, Gashkai Khel, Janjol Ragzai, Baloch Khel and Tabai Langar Khel.

Where Ramzan packages were distributed among the poor and needy. In this regard, a ceremony was held in Wacha Khawora area of South Waziristan tribal district.

In which the commander of the security forces interacted with the local people and asked their problems and suggestions. The local people appreciated the timely efforts of the security forces and expressed full confidence in them.

The tribal elders thanked FC South for receiving the Ramzan packages and described their giving free ration to poor families in this blessed month as a welcome initiative.

## Bank Alfalah introduces Instant Credit Card through Alfa App

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Bank Alfalah, one of the leading commercial banks in Pakistan, has announced Instant Credit Card (ICC). Instant Credit Cards offer a completely automated digital application journey that allows both liability and existing credit card customers to apply for a credit card, complete the screening and credit bureau checks, and receive approval in less than five (5) minutes. Once approved, customers can activate their credit card and start spending right away.

The ICC is an end-to-end digital experience that eliminates the need for physical visits to bank branches or any physical documentation. Customers can start the process by entering their details and selecting the card type and credit limit of their choice.

"We are excited to introduce the Instant Credit Card to our customers," said Muhammad Yahya Khan, Group Head Digital Banking Group at Bank Alfalah. "This new service is a testament to our commitment to providing faster and more convenient banking experiences to our customers, while creating a digitally inclusive world. This is an easy and hassle-free process for our customers to apply for a credit card, and we are confident that it will be a game-changer in the banking industry."

Upon approval, customers can activate their credit card through Alfa and start spending immediately. The physical credit card will be delivered to their doorstep without the need for a physical branch visit. For more information on Bank Alfalah's Instant Credit Card, please visit their website or contact our customer service center

# Rehana Khan reached the Holy Family Hospital and visited the victim

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD :Upon receiving the information about the incident of violence against the woman of Hollar Sahansa Kotli, the Chairman Person and Women Commission Ms. Rehana Khan reached the Holy Family Hospital at 2 pm on the instructions of the Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Aliyas Khan and visited the victim and assured

justice by taking strict legal action against the named accused. On this occasion, the Chairman of the People's Women's Commission Ms. Rehana Khan, on the instructions of the Prime Minister, directed the Deputy Commissioner Kotli, SSP and representatives of other agencies to immediately provide justice to the victimized woman. She told that My children's lives are in danger. The brutal

husband Idris walks around with weapons. He threatens to kill my brothers. My children should be handed over to my parents. He will kill them. He has done extreme cruelty to me and I should be given immediate justice and protection of my life. On this occasion Ms. Rehana Khan assured the victim and said that Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Aliyas Khan since he assumed power,

such cases have been dealt with several actions. He is monitoring himself and instructed me to go to all the districts and solve such incidents with the local administration immediately.

I assure you that this beastly person will be brought to justice. She asked the local administration to conduct a transparent inquiry and send it to the Women's Commission. On this occasion, the relatives

of the victim while talking to the media said that we are grateful to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Tanvir Aliyas Khan and Ms. Rehana Khan, who informed them. As soon as we met, we reached the hospital at 2:30 in the night and received our support. Such women's leadership is the best reflection of the society and we, the people of Holar, pay tribute to this good initiative.

# Weak agricultural sector will never allow economy to grow

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said the plight of the agricultural sector will never allow the economy to develop.

Inflation and poverty are continuously increasing due to collapsing agri sector, the food security situation is deteriorating and the import bill of agricultural inputs is increasing, it said.

The growth of this important sector has been 2.2 percent to 2.6 since the last fifteen years which is very low while during this period there has been a tremendous increase in the population and the demand for the industrial sector, said Brig. (retD) Aslam Khan, Chairman of PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that wheat, maize, cotton, sugarcane, and rice are the most cultivated

crops which consume most of the water, labor and capital, but their production has increased by only 1.1% in the last two decades.

He noted that the role of elites is very important in the deterioration of this sector, while other problems include wrong policies of the government, climate change, lack of investment, substandard seeds, fake pesticides, expensive fertilizers, and non-availability of

loans.

Apart from this, lack of research, primitive methods, and some other problems have also played their role, he added.

Aslam Khan said that due to these conditions, farmers are continuously suffering and their production is falling therefore the government has to import agricultural commodities and other items worth billions of dollars.

If policymakers continued

to neglect this sector, its import bill may soon reach the same level as the fuel import bill, which Pakistan cannot afford to pay. This will increase poverty and worsen the food security situation which is already far from satisfactory for years.

The biggest hurdle in the development of this sector are politicians and bureaucracy and this sector can be revived with the help of private investment.

# Mango production area has been protected due to recent rains and hailstorm

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Most of the mango production area has been protected from hailstorm, rains will meet the water requirement, borer fly control, there will be a significant reduction in fruit infestation, Principal Scientist Mango Research Institute.

Chances of downy mildew and blossom blight spread on flowers and early fruit are increased, spray a mixture of fungicides, especially strobilin group and triazole group, Abdul Ghaffar Grewal.

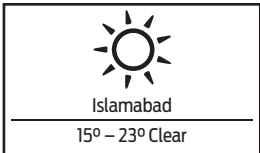
Mango oil is becoming epidemic, not controlled by conventional poisons, spray dinotifuran 50 g

or clothia nidin 100 ml per 100 liters of water.

Principal Scientist Mango Research Institute Multan Abdul Ghaffar Grewal has said that due to recent rains and hailstorms, borer and fruits have been affected on mango orchards in some areas of Punjab.

However, most of the mango production area was spared from the hailstorms. It was very important to irrigate the mango orchards before these rains so that the water requirement of the plants could be met as well as control of the borer fly. The recent rains proved beneficial in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Najam Saqib with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nasim Akhtar citizen number 6110157836416 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Uzma Maqbool (Daughter) 2. Mamoona Junaid (Daughter) 3. Najam Saqib (Son) 4. Asif Aijaz (Son) 5. Rizwan Ullah (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Prince Haider Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Prince Abbas Khan citizen number 6110196281027 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Zahra Khan (Daughter) 2. Musarat Abbas (Spouse) 3. Ghazan Khan (Son) 4. Ayaz Khan (Son) 5. Prince Haider Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Jawad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Murad Ali Jaffery citizen number 6110113469001 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Saheer Murad (Daughter) 2. Abida Jaffery (Daughter) 3. Asma Batool (Daughter) 4. Zakia Khanum (Spouse) 5. Muhammad Hadi Jaffery (Son) 6. Muhammad Jawad (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:39 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	4:39 pm
Maghrib	6:24 pm
Isha	7:48 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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Bomb Disposal	15
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Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

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Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
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Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
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PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
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Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
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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

*Naseer Vohra strongly condemned the attack on Bol News*

**Bureau Report**

FAISALABAD: Naseer Yousaf Vohra, President Central Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan talking with media person has emphasized that there is no formula to control the inflation that the government and related institutions are talking about.

Suppressing the Media freedom instead of promoting in all respect, why it is completely going against the public interests?

He said that no action is taken on the rate list given by the concerned institutions on a daily basis.

Institutions play their key role to remedy atrocities, but the indifference of institutions has created mountains of problems for the people.

He further said that asking questions and answers regarding inflation on Bol News is a part of public interests and people want to know the reasons for this inflation.

The concerned institutions instead of taking action against such price hikers, the system of extortion is still going on, which should be eradicated.

# President directs CDA to allot quarter to female employee

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has expressed displeasure over the Capital Development Authority (CDA)'s discriminatory and misogynist act of non-allotment of a residential quarter to a woman employee on the plea that quarters could only be allotted to adult-male-working dhobis (washermen) as per past practice. He said that CDA had discriminated against the female employee, and upheld Wafaqi Mohtasib's orders directing CDA to allot the quarter to the female employee.

While rejecting CDA's representation against the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, the President said that the most unfortunate part of the CDA's defence was that allotment could only be made to a male and could not be made to a female for the same services. "This is highly discrimina-



tory, CDA is directed to improve its rules that are ensuring such misogynist practices and send the report to Wafaqi Mohtasib of the same in 60 days", he said.

As per details, Ms Shahnaz Begum (the complainant) had alleged that her late husband was an ex-Washer Man attached with CDA, and he had applied for allotment of a Dhobi quarter. She joined CDA as a Washerwoman, after

the death of her husband, and made a request for the allotment of a quarter, but CDA issued the same to another employee who was junior to her in the Seniority List. Feeling aggrieved, she approached Wafaqi Mohtasib who passed the order that maladministration on the part of CDA was evident as it had discriminated against the complainant and was recommended to issue allotment orders for the quarter in question to the complainant and submit a compliance report within 30 days.

After perusal of the record and hearing the parties, it was observed that CDA had already issued allotment of another quarter to a female Lady Washer Woman in the year 2000. The President, therefore, rejected CDA's representation and upheld Wafaqi Mohtasib's orders to issue the allotment letters of the quarter in question to the female Dhobi.

## Security

ISLAMABAD: Security personnel use bullet proof shields to protect former Prime Minister Imran Khan as he arrives at the Islamabad High Court, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

# Government taken number of initiatives for Empowering youth and women, PM AJK says

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that a number of initiatives have been taken by the government to empower women. Talking to the PTI leader, Ms. Noreen Farooq Ibrahim, who called on him here today, the PM, said that along with other programs, the government has started an interest-free loan scheme in which special priority was given to women for shared prosperity.

Empowering youth and women, he said, was the incumbent government's top priority.

Referring to the PTI candidates' victory in the recently held municipal polls, he said that the PTI's landmark victory was an open expression of the masses' confidence in the vision and leadership of the chairman of Tehreek-e-Insaf, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that, being a majority party, the PTI government would complete a five-year term.

Citing the poor economic conditions of the country, he said that there was a dire



need that all the political parties and stakeholders should come together to tackle this issue head on. He said that at this point of time, economic stability in Pakistan was imperative as national security was linked to the country's economy.

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, while terming Kashmir as the basic unit of Pakistan, said that the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir were fighting a war for the completion of Pakistan. "I salute the Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership and people for their resilience and courageous struggle in the face of Indian fascism and state terrorism", he said, adding that the day was not far

when the people of occupied Kashmir would achieve their cherished goal of freedom.

He said that India should shun its traditional intransigence and come to the negotiation table to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully in line with the UNSC resolutions.

"Negotiations with India cannot proceed without giving the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir", he added. On this occasion, Ms. Noreen Farooq Ibrahim congratulated the prime minister on the PTI's landmark victory in the local elections.

## Shareholders of Soneri Bank Limited approve 2022 annual results

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The annual audited financial statements of Soneri Bank Limited for the year ended 31 December 2022 were approved by the shareholders of the Bank in their 31st AGM held in Lahore and through video-link via Zoom on Monday, 27 March 2023. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alauddin Feerasta, Chairman of the Board, with Mr. Muhtashim Ahmad Ashai, President and Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Board of Directors also in attendance.

The Bank posted profit before tax (PBT) of Rs. 4,554 million and profit after tax (PAT) of Rs. 1,883 million in the year 2022, as compared to Rs. 5,149 million and Rs. 2,854 million respectively in 2021. Earnings per share (EPS) for the year was reported at Rs. 1.71 per share for the current year, as compared to Rs. 2.59 for the comparative prior year. During the meeting, the shareholders approved the final cash dividend for the year ended 31 December 2022 @ 10.00 percent i.e. Rs. 1.00 per share, as recommended earlier by the Board of Directors.

Briefing the shareholders on the financial results, the President and CEO mentioned that Bank's Net Interest income for the year was reported at Rs. 11,267 million, increasing by 3.01 percent against Rs. 10,938 million for the prior year, while non-interest income increased by 20.21 percent to end at Rs. 5,157 million as against Rs. 4,290 million for the last year. He also mentioned that despite inflationary pressures, growth in expenses was restricted at 20.16 percent as compared to the prior year with Non-markup expenses reported at Rs. 12,245 million for the year ended December 2022. He further explained that due to the changes introduced by the Finance Act 2022, the overall effective tax rate for the Bank for the year ended 31 December 2022 stood at 58.65 percent (2021: 44.57 percent).

Bank's Deposits registered an increase of 1.64 percent when compared to 31 December 2021, ending at Rs. 409,643 million at 31 December 2022. However, the Bank's CA mix improved to 32.73 percent in December 2022 as against 27.17 percent at December 2021, with year end Current deposits at Rs. 134,080 million as against Rs. 109,494 million at the year end 2021.

The Bank's net advances portfolio increased to Rs. 208,434 million as at 31 December 2022, 25.95 percent higher than the year end 2021 level, while the Bank's Non-performing loans to total Advances ratio improved to 4.71 percent (December 2021: 5.95 percent). Specific coverage was at 71.61 percent (December 2021: 76.51 percent).

The Bank's ADR at 31 December 2022 was at 52.67%, and Capital Adequacy Ratio was reported at 15.19%.

## AIOU announces results of BA, Associate degree



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the results of different programs being offered in the spring semester 2022 including of BA, associate degree in commerce, associate degree in education, associate degree in Islamic banking, associate degree in human resource management and associate degree in marketing. According to controller examinations, results have been uploaded to the CMS portal of students.

Moreover, admissions are open in the second phase of the spring semester 2023. Programs being offered in this phase include 2.5, and 4-year BS programs, Postgraduate Diploma programs, associate degree (Arts and Commerce), BBA, B.Ed, and certificate courses (6 months). Admission forms and prospectus of all the programs are available on the university website. The last date for admissions is April 18.

## Engro Foundation recognizes NDF, ConnectHear with IATC Impact Awards 2022

**ABC**

KARACHI: Engro Foundation, the social investment arm of Engro Corporation, has announced National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) and ConnectHear as the two recipients of I Am The Change (IATC) Impact Awards 2022.

Initiated in 2012, IATC is the flagship initiative of Engro Foundation to recognize and reward philanthropic and social enterprises that are creating an impact in the development sector. The IATC Impact Awards 2022 attracted more than 100 entries in the categories of Social Development and Social Enterprise. The entries were adjudicated by the IATC team at Engro Foundation, along with an independent jury comprising Laila Jamil (Director, British Council), Madiha Rehman (Co-Founder & CEO, Phygital), Muhammad Waqas (Co-Founder & CEO, WonderTree), Zehra Mehdi Aneek (Director ESG and Sustainability, K-Electric) and Fauzia Viqar (Chair, SPDC).

Following an extensive review of the applications, National Disability & Development Forum (Social Development) and ConnectHear (Social Enterprise) were selected as the award recipients. Each of these recipients will be given a cash prize of PKR 2.5 million in recognition of their efforts and support to scale up their initiatives.

Since 2014, National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) has been striving to empower people with disabilities through awareness and skill development, while also focusing on disability rights, health, environment, poverty reduction and gender mainstreaming in underprivileged communities. To date, NDF has screened out more than 1000 children with disabilities and retained 200 children for rehabilitation services that will improve their overall quality of life.

ConnectHear is a social enterprise focusing on the next generation of assistive technology for deaf and hard of hearing communities around the world. Launched in 2017, ConnectHear has provided over 1 million minutes of in-person and virtual sign language interpretation to positively impact over 100,000 lives across Pakistan. It has also taught sign language to more than 5000 individuals to improve sign language literacy and partnered with over 80 organizations to make their services and employment opportunities accessible for persons with disabilities.

Karachi Down Syndrome Program and Disabled Welfare Association were recognized as the runners-up in Social Development category, while Science Fuse emerged as the runner-up in Social Enterprise space.

According to Ghias Khan - President & CEO of Engro Corporation and Chairman Board of Trustees of Engro Foundation, "I am delighted by the response to the I Am The Change Impact Awards 2022. Each of us has a responsibility towards Pakistan, and it is heartening to learn about the fantastic work being carried out by various organizations on education, gender and disability rights. IATC will continue to expand its reach and recognise change-makers for good in Pakistan."

Favud Soomro, Head of Engro Foundation, added that, "Our mission is to empower social organizations to make a large and sustainable impact. We are hopeful that our humble support and the IATC Awards 2022 experience will help these organizations to scale up their impact and improve lives across Pakistan."

# University of London holds an Alumni Reception in Islamabad

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: University of London hosted its Alumni Reception in Islamabad, Pakistan which was attended by the Law Minister Senator Azam Nazir Tarrar as the Chief Guest.

Mr Atta Tarrar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interior and Law, Adrian Codway, British Council Regional Director for South Asia and Professor Mary Stiansy, Pro Vice Chancellor University of London and Saad Wasim, Regional Head, South Asia for University of London, Alex Boughton, Head of Business Support Services and Holly Peterson, Head of Alumni



Development also attended the Reception from the University of London.

Prominent Speakers included Zahir Riaz and Rahat Kumain,

who are renowned Lawyers in Islamabad and Rahat is the Chairperson for the competition commission of Pakistan.

The Law Minister talked

about the achievements of the University of London Alumni in Pakistan and how the external law programme has contributed significantly to the Legal Education in Pakistan!

The event was attended by the senior members of the Pakistan Bar Council, Haroon Rashid and Hassan Pasha, distinguished Alumni of University of London and the British Council Head for Pakistan, Chevening Head for Pakistan, Head of Telenor Pakistan, and key Employers and students of University of London. Khadija Siddiqui, a prominent Alumni of University of London and winner of the British Council Alumni Awards also

attended, and was recognized with an award at the event. She also spoke at the event. Founder & CEO The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, also attended the Alumni reception. TMUC is Pakistan's one of the largest transnational education groups operating purpose-built University College Campuses across major urban cities and offering International programmes and highly reputed degrees and skills qualifications at home as TMUC is a provider of transnational education programs.

Overall it was a great event with a musical performance and networking at the end.

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# Remembering Jalil Andrabi on his 27th death anniversary

**Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai**

**‘T**oday is the 27th anniversary of Jalil Andrabi, a person of deep judicial insight and former Chairman of Kashmir Commission of Jurists. He was detained by Major Avtar Singh of the 35th Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army on March 8, 1996, and later his dead body was seen floating in the River Jehlum on March 27, 1996. Jalil Andrabi was a Muslim, but his compassion and love transcended all religious boundaries. During his intervention in Geneva at the 47th session of the United Nations Sub-commission on Human Rights in August 1995, he said, ‘My people are intelligent, industrious and peace loving. The ethical concept of human brotherhood beyond the bonds of closed religious’ groupings has always animated Kashmiris’, recalls Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, ‘World Forum for Peace & Justice.’

Dr. Fai added that ‘In killing Jalil Andrabi, Avtar Singh certainly did not act on his own volition. He was only a major. His act was no doubt a response to orders from above and occurred in a longstanding climate of impunity that the Indian army enjoys in Kashmir. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which gives any Indian soldier the right in Kashmir to take a Kashmiri’s life under any circumstance, has enabled such a climate for decades. And Jalil Andrabi had become a

hated, despised man by the Army, a man dangerous to the status quo of continued murder and torture that had been taking place in Kashmir’s jails, interrogation centers and detention facilities for many years.’

‘Advocate Jalil Andrabi knew firsthand the facts. He had been documenting the human rights violations by taking information from victim’s families and witnesses. In personal conversations he had told me how very difficult it was for lawyers to meet with the detainees and how much they are under pressure, and he had also told me that because of his political views the Indian Army had often harassed him. He knew that his life was on the line, and had spent a month in New Delhi just prior to his murder, hoping to escape India’s wrath. He had only returned to Kashmir to celebrate Eid with his family and friends,’ Fai continued.

Jalil Andrabi had been a friend of mine. His trip to Geneva in August 1995 shortly before his murder to attend the ‘47th session of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights’ was at my invitation, as were other international engagements he had attended in Washington and elsewhere. On one such occasion, we had traveled by car together, along with my wife, to attend a convention between September 1-4, 1995 in Columbus, Ohio, in order to talk and exchange views intimately on various issues on which we shared an interest. It was on this trip that I gained a much deeper appreciation for Jalil Andrabi’s character. He was a man of deep compassion and vision, high intellect

and deep judicial insight and had been personally responsible for bringing many human rights violations in Kashmir into the light of day.

During the United Nations Sub-Commission, Jalil Andrabi made two interventions, one on August 7, 1995, under agenda item 18, which was on the issue of ‘Freedom of Movement’. On that occasion he had said, ‘Mr. Chairman, the Kashmiris are waging a legitimate struggle for achieving the exercise of their right of self-determination, and the atrocities which constitute war crimes forbidden under the Geneva Conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are being inflicted upon them only because of this struggle. Therefore, besides, calling upon India to put an end to the crimes against humanity, it is necessary to compel India to allow the people of Kashmir an unfettered exercise of their right of self-determination under the UN auspices.’

‘The atrocities,’ he said, ‘which are perpetrated upon my people are not aberrations but rather integral components of a systematic policy. These atrocities are being perpetrated as a weapon of war in order to break the will of the people.’

Amnesty International has said that ‘AI is concerned that — like hundreds of victims of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir — prominent lawyer and human rights activist Jalil Andrabi will soon be forgotten.’

Mr. Nicholas Burns of the State Department issued a statement on March 29, 1996, condemning the killing of Jalil

Andrabi and called upon the government of India to conduct a full and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding Andrabi’s abduction and murder.

Such a statement was also issued by the UN Human Rights Commissioner Jose Ayala Lasso condemning the murder and calling for an impartial investigation.

Various members of Congress wrote a joint letter to then Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao of India on March 27, 1996, conveying their profound dismay at the death of Jalil Andrabi. They asked that the Indian government thoroughly investigate this shocking murder and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Unfortunately, despite this condemnation at a global level, the government of India not only did not punish the perpetrator but did not even arrest the main culprit. When the Jammu & Kashmir High Court found Major Avtar Singh to be the person who killed Jalil Andrabi, the High Court ordered his arrest in 1997. The judge who did so was punished by immediately being transferred from Kashmir to India. In addition, because Indian army personnel have full immunity in Kashmir, the government of India arranged a passport despite the court order for his arrest and facilitated his exit from India to save him from any legal proceedings. Travesty of justice.

*Dr. Fai is the Chairman of Washington-based World Forum for Peace & Justice. He can be reached at [gfnai2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gfnai2003@yahoo.com)*

## Chinese grass emerging as super food for animals in Gwadar

**‘K**ing Grass” pioneered by Chinese Technology is emerging as super food for animals with impactful features of cash crop and land fertility in Gwadar as well as Pakistan.

After its successful growth in the length and breadth of the Free Zone area of Gwadar Port, local enterprises are motivated to seek the assistance of Chinese JUNCAO technology to grow King Grass to boost their business profitability.

As per the pilot project, it was grown and used to raise livestock in a cattle farm established in Gwadar Port more than two years ago.

Throughout the time span, 80 per cent of proceeds had been utilized as food for all breeds of goats.

Not only animals turned fattened but also stayed fit without suffering from any lethal disease, Free Zone official said.

Goats, he said, love to eat King Grass with zeal due to its lush green colour, palatability, fragrance, inbuilt properties and quality, CEN reported.

This grass provides many of the nutrition requirements for cattle. It has fibre, protein and good energy content. It can replace expensive feeds in the ration and therefore reduce feeding costs while maintaining good nutrition, he mentioned.

Pakistan Farmer Association President Mian Mansha Syed said, it is a particular breed of grass discovered by Chinese scientists which is an economical and environment-friendly substitute for timber.

So far, more than 500 counties across China have participated in planting Juncao or King grass. The grass significantly lowered farming costs, and reduced annual tree clearing by 20 million cubic meters in the country, he added.

Gwadar area, by virtue of its arid climate, land degradation, saline or alkali soil and various other ecological challenges, was a litmus test for King grass.

Gwadar Port Operator COPHC initiated a project with the assistance of the Chinese Embassy and experts from Chinese Universities. In the early stage of 2020, King Grass was planted on 5 acres of land in Gwadar Port.

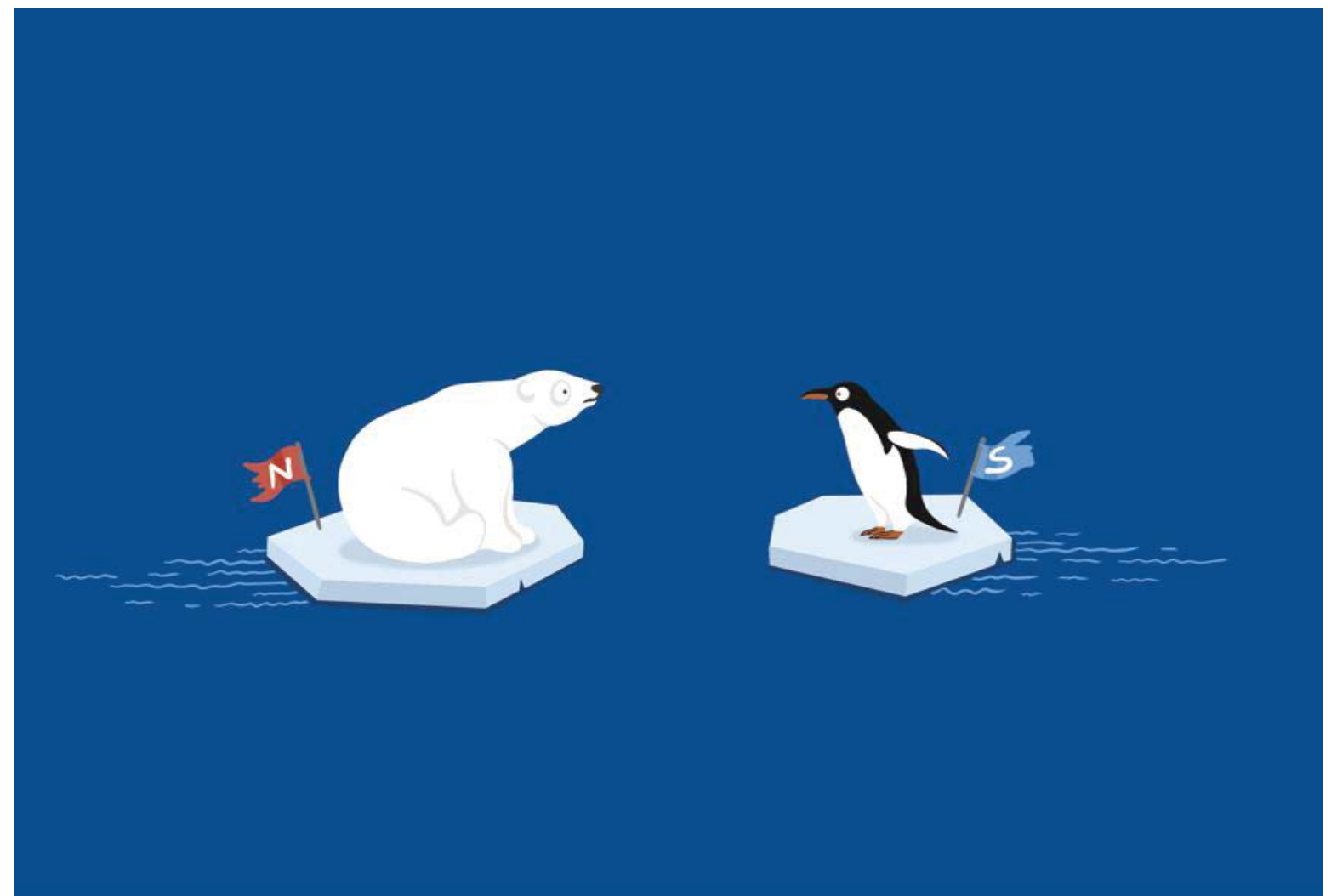
Results, eventually proved that it is survivable and commercially feasible. Its yield is 120,000 per acre, according to official documents.

In order to proliferate it in other part of Balochistan and Sindh, COPHC official said, seeds were donated to farmers and companies in Dasht area near Milini dam as well as Karachi. The activity generated tremendous outcome and farmer companies are in a mood to grow it further to be beneficiary of advantages of King Grass, he added.

Pak-Green NGO director Muhammad Fakhar said that Gwadar port King Grass is strong footprint of Chinese public good initiatives that aim to empower people to stamp out poverty, to earn better and boost afforestation.

In China, he said, King Grass has made milestone achievements in uprooting poverty. Thousands of people grew King Grass and used its stock for raising their animals in their cattle farms.

Owing to its low-cost growth and more than 20 years survivability, Chinese farmers income multiplied with minimum hassles as compared to other crops, he added.



## Inflation, Rupee depreciation and assurances from civil & military leadership-I

**I**nflation and price hike has affected everyone badly. High prices of each and every thing have made it very difficult for poor and middle class to survive and feed their families. Our Ruling and upper class has nothing to do with the issues of common people. They are enjoying all facilities of their lives without thinking about the poor. Our Channels and media houses are giving more coverage to upper and ruling class. Non issues are addressed and discussed more while common and basic issues of general public are ignored and not taken seriously. Politics and interests of ruling class are focused and given more attention while general public’s issues like unemployment, inflation, terrorism, lack of basic necessities etc are not given much attention.

If we look at the figures and numbers given by government, everything seems fine but ground realities are entirely different. Poor is becoming poorer day by day. People don’t have earning power. Job market is very poor and majority of educated, skilled and talented youth don’t have jobs. Situation is getting worst and problems for the poor are rising day by day. People have nothing to do with the figures and numbers. They look at the ground realities which are quite miserable.

If we look at the developed and welfare countries, we come to know that they have excellent and people friendly system and conditions for poor in general. They collect tax and then use the tax money for the welfare of people. They do their best to make the lives of common people easy and comfortable. Their prices mostly remain same or raised once a year. With raise in

the prices they increase the rates of minimum wages as well. Prices hike doesn’t affect them as government provides them as much relief as possible. While our situation is entirely opposite. Tax is stolen by powerful and the amount collected anyhow either goes in the corrupt hands or is used to facilitate the upper and privileged class.

Readers, we are an oil dependant country and unfortunately prices of our all items depend mostly on the rates of oil. We are failed to promote and use the alternate sources for fuel. We didn’t worked effectively on solar, wind, sold waste, coal and just relied on petrol and diesel etc. We are far behind in innovation, research and development. We are using traditional means of getting energy and are not using modern techniques and tools. We should work on this important sector as well and should reduce our dependency on petrol and diesel.

All prices go up with increase in the fuel prices. Local vendors and investors raise the prices themselves. We don’t have a proper monitoring and control system for prices at government level. We really need an effective and powerful price control and regulatory authority. People tax money should also be used to provide them the subsidy and burden of prices hike and inflation should be shared by government as well.

Now come to the issue of Rupee Depreciation. There are several reasons and

also there are some good signs behind it as well. Dr. Farrukh Saleem gave some very interesting facts and details in his YouTube channel’s current affair program Common Ground. He said there is no need to panic on this issue. He gave some solid reasons behind his suggestion. He said we need dollars for importing items while Pak rupees for the items which we produce within the country. He gave very interesting details about what we have in the country. According to him if we look at flour, in a country of 23 Crore population every person in Pakistan uses flour around 115kg per capita/annually. Pakistan Produces around 2.5 Crore Ton Wheat so we have almost enough flour for ourselves while we need to import just around 3-4 lac ton Flour for which we need dollars. So we should consider that almost our flour is secured and we are the eighth largest producer of wheat. Then

Dr Farukh said that on an average every Pakistani eats 80 eggs per Capita/Annually. 2 Crore eggs we produce ourselves in Pakistan so here is the situation that we have more supply and less demand for eggs in the country so eggs are also secured. About Milk he said that

on an average each Pakistani uses 119 litre of milk per capita/ annually. We need 26 billion liters milk which is also available in Pakistan. Then he added that every Pakistani eats around 13 kg of rice per capita/annually so we need around 30 Lac Ton rice. Pakistan produces 45 Lac Ton rice so a huge amount is in surplus which we export. He said that our Flour, Rice, Eggs, milk and sugar etc are secured so there is no need to be Panic.

Dr. Farukh further said that no doubt the Rupee has depreciated very quickly and we have to look at the reasons behind its depreciation. He said that during the first eight months of the year 21-22 our trade deficit was 32 Billion Dollars while in the first eight months of the next year this deficit was only 21 Billion Dollar so there was 45% improvement in Trade deficit. The rupee should have been strengthening due to this improvement but ground reality is totally opposite and Rupee depreciated very quickly. The matter of concern should be that why it’s happening and what are reasons behind this depreciation. He highlighted some reasons. He said that the Faith of investors on our economic policy and its makers is reducing or losing and this is the reason behind quack depreciation of Pak Rupee. Then he gave reason number two that may be our economic policy makers don’t have a roadmap and if they have any roadmap then that has not been shared with the public. We have to go from point A to Point B and we need to know about the strategies or a roadmap from our economic policy makers that how they can take us to our goal.

*To be concluded*

### Letter to the Editor

## Human Rights violations!

**T**he Constitution of Pakistan has enumerated twenty-five fundamental human rights. In general, these have consisted of social, civil, political and economic rights. Nevertheless, these rights have not been observed by the common folks. Pakistani populace has been the victim of human rights violations.

Women are marginalized and victims of early marriages, sexual abuse and so on.

Whease children, journalists, and civil society members have also watched the government’s wrath.

In this regard; recently, the Human Rights Watch has issued its World Report 2023. This report has brought forth the government’s malpractices and the abuse of might. The report has highlighted the government’s control over the media. Throughout the previous year, the officials had stifled dissent and harassed journalists and civil society members who spoke again the government. The authorities had blocked cable operators and tightened their surveillance over the NGOs.

Moreover, the report also watched abuses against girls and women. More than 1000 women have been killed in honour killing-related cases; however, 18.9 million girls marry before the threshold of 18 years; in addition,

4.6 million before 15. Women faced forced marriages, and early and closely spaced pregnancies.

Furthermore, children’s rights have also been suppressed. Pakistan has already the highest number of out-of-school children in the world. In addition, last year’s devastating deluges many have lost homes and schools. According to UNICEF, 3.4 million children need urgent humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, children faced sexual abuse, an average of twelve cases of child sexual abuse had been reported in the first six months of 2022. The statistics are perhaps beyond this one because myriad cases are unreported.

Besides, the populace has also witnessed extra judicial law enforcement abuses including forced disappearance and killing. Likewise, transgender persons also became targeted. In KPK, seven transgenders were slain, in addition, the transgender rights bill 2018 was heavily trolled on the internet.

As every dark cloud has a silver lining, one should be hopeful for a good feature. The government and the National Commission for Human Rights should ensure rights to the populace. If these basic rights were not ensured, Pakistan would not materialize its ambition of being a true Islamic Republic.

*Nasir Hussain, Shahadadkot, Sindh*



**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,000.37	39,942.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,066.73	39,845.06
Index Value	Change
2,198,260,887	+58.32
Percentage	Time
+0.15%	27 Mar, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,471.77	+66.32
Percentage	Time
+0.90%	27 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,427.84	+190.31
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	27 Mar, 11:52 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,476.87	+91.62
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	27 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.5	189.9
Bahrain Dinar	753.18	761.18
Canadian Dollar	205.5	207.7
China Yuan	41.44	41.84
Danish Krone	41.31	41.71
Euro	304.5	307.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.92	36.27
Indian Rupee	3.41	3.52
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	924.09	933.09
Malaysian Ringgit	62.85	63.45
New Zealand \$	178	180
Norwegians Krone	26.33	26.63
Omani Riyal	735.91	743
Qatari Riyal	77.43	78.13
Saudi Riyal	76	76.7
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	308.97	311.47
Thai Bhat	8.3	8.45
U.A.E Dirham	77.3	78.1
UK Pound Sterling	345.5	349
US Dollar	284.2	287

# Everything except nuclear assets has been pledged: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said Pakistan has placed too much trust in international institutions and friendly countries as a result of which the economy and people are suffering.

The IMF wants Pakistan to take loan guarantees from friendly countries and present a plan for economic reforms to complete the ninth review, after which the staff-level agreement can be finalized, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that politicians should put aside their bickering and come up with a consensus on the Charter of Economy or



an alternative plan otherwise economic reforms would not become a reality.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that everything except the nuclear program has already been pledged. The country's economy is constantly deteriorating and it has become difficult for the people to manage food.

In this situation, the charter of the economy or alternative plan has become indispensable which should not be delayed.

The business leader said that people who were considered prosperous a few years ago have now become miserable, while middle-class families have reached the brink.

He observed that the arrival of Ramadan has increased inflation due to which the people are suffering more.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the conditions of the country's economy are getting worse, the rupee is weakening day by day while the value

of the dollar is increasing.

The country can go bankrupt at any time, but some politicians are making the situation worse by playing politics of hatred and anarchy even in these situations.

The situation is continuously deteriorating due to the increasing political disturbances, which international institutions and friendly countries are also watching silently.

If the politicians still don't show their senses, the country's economy will continue to sink further into the quagmire.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that it is difficult to rein in the elite under these circumstances. Efforts should be made to bring stolen funds back to the country so that the debts can be paid and the people can get some relief, whose purchasing power is decreasing with each passing day.

## Zonergy High-performance Products displayed in Key Energy 2023 Exhibition of Italy

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Zonergy Corporation, along with its distributors WIBY and Desasolar, exhibited high-performance Smart energy products in Key Energy 2023 Rimini, the International Expo on Energy and Sustainable Mobility, which was held from 22 to 24 March 2023 at the Rimini Exhibition Centre of Italy that grabbed visitors' attention.

Zonergy's Panda residential energy storage product, Apollo three-phase PV inverter, Mercury single-phase PV inverter, Baldr portable AC power supply, and Scopio industrial and commercial energy storage system were on the display and favored by visitors. The Scopio system allows PV access, battery energy storage, grid-tied and off-grid output, and meets the needs of the European market.

It features a multi-stage modular design and parallel use and enables 30kW-150kW capacity and 100kWh-1000kWh power. In addition to supporting a three-phase unbalanced load, grid-tied and off-grid applications, it also applies to different load types including three-phase and single-phase load, and thus meets the needs of distributed energy in various scenarios.

Panda household energy storage product is modular-designed at 5kWh and available for flexible expansion from 5kWh up to 30kWh. Its stable performance and auto-



matic isolation of the faulty battery module secures smooth system operation. The built-in Smart Grid Management module also enables power grid dispatching.

The rising electricity costs in some countries lead to more urgent local needs for renewable energy such as solar energy. As a world-renowned smart micro-grid integrated solution provider, Zonergy answers the end-customer needs in the European PV storage market by launching a variety of high-performance products for the local market and building a Europe-centered

quick response network from product sales, after-sales service to maintenance.

The joint exhibition with the contracted distributors WIBY and Desasolar fully demonstrates Zonergy's determination to develop the European market. In the future, Zonergy will redouble its efforts to develop a more efficient, safe, and intelligent PV + storage power generation system through business expansion and R&D, and make its technological and service contributions to the net zero target and carbon neutrality in Europe!

## Ufone 4G launches WhatsApp Service for hassle-free customer experience



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ufone 4G, the leading mobile company of Pakistan, is proud to unveil its WhatsApp Chatbot to enhance interactions with millions of customers, powered by leading Cloud communication platform E.Ocean.

Customers can now avail various telecom services instantly and enjoy a superior digital experience by simply sending a message via WhatsApp on 03311333100.

With the launch of high-powered WhatsApp chatbot, customers have the flexibility to choose their preferred language menu in Urdu or English, making it effortless for them to access a wide range of services round the clock.

From managing post-paid bill payments, requesting new Ufone SIMs, topping up accounts via debit or credit card, renewing balances, subscribing to super cards, internet bundles & VAS bundles, monitoring account status, accessing customer support, getting tax certificates and subscribing to roaming bundles, this service has got you covered.

Commenting on the launch, Syed Atif Raza, Chief Marketing Officer, Ufone 4G, said "Our foremost priority is convenience for our customers; hence, we are always exploring new opportunities to adopt latest technology that will not only help in digitalization of our process but also make lives

of our customers hassle-free.

The successful launch of our WhatsApp service will provide seamless services to our customers and enable them to get timely response on their queries and complaints.

Customers will have a more streamlined experience that will be engaging and convenient. Ufone 4G prides itself on being a customer-centric organization that places great emphasis on meeting the ever-changing needs of its valued customers."

Syed Aamir Jafri, CEO, Eocean, added "It is essential for companies to accelerate digital transformation to remain competitive and enhance customer experience.

By launching WhatsApp chatbot services for its subscribers, Ufone is not only improving organization's efficiency, but also setting latest trends in customer communication. It's an honor to partner with Ufone 4G on this exciting initiative and I'm confident that this will have a positive impact on your business. Thank you for your continued partnership and trust in Eocean."

Ufone 4G is focused on customer satisfaction, cementing its position as a leading player in the telecom industry. The unwavering efforts of Ufone 4G is central to its ethos, and the company will continue to innovate and invest in technologies and services that enhance customer experience.

## Soft launching of 3rd International Solar Clean Energy Conference

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI : Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori, has performed at the Governor House the soft launching of the 3rd International Solar Clean Energy Conference & Exhibition-2023 to be held to further Pakistan's drive to maximize the production of renewable electricity.

The Governor appreciated the organizer of the conference, the Energy Update, for constantly hosting this event for the past three years to promote solar power as a viable alternative green energy option in the country.

Tessori said that he would give full support to the upcoming event that was in line with his vision to keep Karachi clean and green by reducing the use of polluting fossil fuels.

He assured the organizers of the event that he would make sure that all the relevant government authorities should duly



consider the recommendations of the conference for implementing them for the promotion of environment-friendly energy production sources in Pakistan.

Naem Qureshi, Chairman of the organizing committee of the event, briefed the Governor that Solar Clean Energy Conference & Exhibition would be held at expo center in Karachi in June 2023.

He said the conference was being organized at a critical

juncture when the country had no choice but to reduce its fuel import bill by promoting green energy options due to fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves.

He told the Governor that the conference would be attended by representatives of all the concerned stakeholders of the solar industry from within and outside Pakistan including importers, investors, bankers, consumers, vendors, contrac-

tors, suppliers, etc.

Qureshi hoped that the conference would come up with a clear way forward for the government to promote and adoption of the solar energy option in the country for the protection of the national economy and environment.

This event is supported by Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), Pakistan Solar Association (PSA), SETUP and REAP.

## Wheat crop damage due to recent rain spell in South Punjab

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Due to recent rains and hail-storm, the wheat standing on 16 thousand acres in Leh was partially damaged, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab.

Wheat crop has entered the important phase of bearing, field formations are always present in the field to guide the farmers Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil visited different areas of Layyah to assess the effects of recent rains, wind and hail on various crops and vegetables including wheat. On this occasion, Agriculture Secretary Saqib Ali Attil said that wheat crop has been cultivated on an area of 6 lakh 71 thousand acres in Layyah district.

Due to the recent rains and hailstorm, there has been partial damage to the wheat standing on 16,000 acres. He added that the wheat crop has now entered the critical stage of bearing, so field formations should be present in the field all the time to guide the farmers. He said that sowing of other kharif crops including cotton and mango orchards in South Punjab have entered the most important phase of maintenance.

## ICCI for focusing on Tajikistan to promote exports with Central Asia

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD :Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said that Tajikistan is a gateway for Pakistan in Central Asia and Pakistan can significantly improve its business relations with these countries by establishing close relations with Tajikistan. He urged that Pakistan's embassy should cooperate with the private sector in promoting trade and exports with Tajikistan. He said this while talking to the Muhammad Saeed Sarwar, Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Tajikistan during his visit to ICCI.

Speaking at the occasion, Mohammad Saeed Sarwar, Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Tajikistan, said that

the business community is playing an important role in promoting the country's trade and exports, and assured that he would try to explore new opportunities for Pakistan's export to Tajikistan. He said that a transit trade agreement has been signed between Pakistan and Tajikistan, and its implementation would improve trade relations between the two countries. He said that the government is focusing on exports and the Pakistani foreign missions would cooperate in this mission.

Faaz Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the Chamber has established a facilitation desk for the Central Asian Countries to facilitate the business community in finding new opportunities for doing business with these countries.

ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik said that the role of embassies in promoting Pakistan's business interests in the international market is very important and hoped that Pakistan's embassy in Tajikistan would play an active role in this regard.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said that the direct air links of Pakistan with Central Asia, including Tajikistan, are very important for Pakistan, as they will strengthen people to people contacts, increase exports, and promote tourism. He said that the embassy of Pakistan in Tajikistan should play a direct flight between Istanbul, Islamabad and Dushanbe.

Rizwan Chheena, Sheikh Ejaz, Ameer Hamza, Muhammad Shabbir, Khalid Chaudhry, Munizah Majid and others also spoke at the occasion



and shared useful ideas to improve trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

# Mickey Arthur wants Pakistani youngsters to be given more opportunities

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan head coach, Mickey Arthur, believes the young talent of the Pakistan cricket team must be groomed and given more opportunities to gain experience.

Arthur was concerned about the young talented players of the national team, particularly the top order currently participating in the ongoing three-match T20I series against Afghanistan at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Given the amount of experience that Mickey has, he took to Twitter and dropped in some suggestions for Saim Ayub, Muhammad Haris, and Abdullah Shafique.

"Saim, Abdullah, and Haris have loads of talent, but finding out that International cricket brings different pressures and responsibilities to franchise cricket....groom them, give them time, and allow them opportunities to bat with experienced players, and they will come through," he said as quoted



by cricketpakistan.com.pk.

Afghanistan won the second T20I match against Pakistan and bagged the series for the very first time with a margin of 2-0 with one game remaining.

Meanwhile, Former Pakistani Skip-

per Shahid Afridi also reacted to Pakistan's defeat in the T20 series. He took to Twitter to share his thoughts on the matter as the team suffered back-to-back losses against the Rashid Khan-led Afghan team in the T20 matches. He also congratulated the Afghan

team on their victory, saying they played the best cricket. He specifically praised Rashid Khan, who was as brilliant, for his excellent performance throughout the series.

The 46-year-old also commended the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for giving opportunities to new players. However, he suggested that instead of benching senior players, they should have played alongside the young players.

"Well played Afghanistan congrats on the win, and Rashid Khan you were amazing as always. Good move by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to believe in the upcoming talent but they should have been accompanied by senior players to transfer on-field experience and not sit on the bench," he said.

Afghanistan has taken a 2-0 unsailable lead in the three-match T20I series. This was Afghanistan's first-ever series win over Pakistan in any format. The third and final match of the series would be played today at the same venue.

## Indore pitch rating changed to 'below average'



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The rating of the pitch used for the third Test of the ICC World Test Championship series between India and Australia at the Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore from March 1 to 3 has been changed from "poor" to "below average."

Following an appeal by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) pursuant to the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process, the rating of the pitch used for the third Test has been changed from "poor" to "below average."

Having reviewed footage of the Test match, the ICC appeal panel, consisting of Wasim Khan, ICC General Manager - Cricket, and Roger Harper, ICC Men's Cricket Committee Member, were of the opinion that, while the guidelines had been followed by the Match Referee in accordance with Appendix A of the Pitch Monitoring Process, it was deemed that there was not enough excessive variable bounce to warrant the "poor" rating. Instead, the appeal panel concluded that the pitch should be rated as "below average."

Consequently, 1 demerit point has been awarded to the venue for the "below average" rating.

## Afghanistan invite Pakistan to bat first in third T20I

**By A Sports**

SHARJAH: Afghanistan have won the toss and elected to field first in the third T20I of the ongoing three-match series against Pakistan on Monday.

**PLAYING XI'S**

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan make two changes each to their lineups in the final T20I of the series.

Pakistan: Mohammad Haris (wk), Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan (c), Mohammad Nawaz, Iftikhar Ahmed, Abdullah Shafique, Tayyab Tahir, Imad Wasim, Ihsanullah, Mohammad Wasim, Zaman Khan.

Afghanistan: Usman Ghani, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Karim Janat, Rashid Khan (c), Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Faisalhaq Farooqi, Farid Ahmad Malik.

**Head To Head**

Matches 5, Pakistan 3, Afghanistan 2

## Saka shines as England dismiss Ukraine in Euro qualifier



**Sports Desk**

LONDON: Gareth Southgate hailed "ruthless" Bukayo Saka as the England forward's breathtaking goal inspired a 2-0 win against Ukraine that maintained his side's perfect start to their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign on Sunday.

Southgate's team followed an impressive victory against Italy in their Group C opener with another composed display highlighted by Saka's brilliance and the latest example of Harry Kane's predatory instincts.

Saka has been one of the standout performers in Arsenal's climb to the top of the Premier League this season and the forward was at his very best once again at Wembley.

It was Saka's pin-point cross that allowed Kane to give England the lead in the first half as the Three Lions captain extended his record tally for his country.

Kane wrote himself into the record books against Italy, scoring his 54th international goal to surpass Wayne Rooney as England's all-time leading goalscorer.

Surrounded by his wife and children, the Tottenham striker was presented with a golden boot before kick-off, but quickly got back down to business with goal number 55.

Kane had been more instrumental than most in England's progress to major tournaments in his career, scoring 34 times in just 29 qualifying group matches.

## Country's top athletes called on Wahab Riaz

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Country's top athletes called on Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz under Elite Players Meet up initiative at National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

The important meeting was convened to provide top athletes of the country an opportunity to share their issues including training, nutrition, funding and participation in international sports events. Wahab Riaz asked the players about their problems and assured them that all possible measures will be taken to resolve their issues.

DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi and Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan were also present in the meeting.

World Cup winning



kabaddi star Shafiq Chishti, Olympian Arshad Nadeem, Paralympic gold medallist Haider Ali, World Snooker Champion Ahsan Ramzan, World Beach Wrestling Champion Inam Butt, athlete Shajar Abbas, wrestler Shareef Tahir, national junior cyclist Fatima Tahir and Aqib Shah also participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Adviser to CM Punjab on Sports said that the top athletes of the country will be provided all necessary facilities for modern training,

nutrition, conditioning etc. The services of top foreign coaches will be hired for the coaching of top national athletes, he added.

The sports facilities in Punjab will be developed on modern lines. "The doors of my office are open all the time for all players. They can share their issues and any kind of problems with me," he added.

Tariq Qureshi on this occasion said that a sports endowment fund of Rs 2 billion is ready and it will be implemented soon. "Under sports endowment fund, Sports

Board Punjab will provide scholarships and stipends to players. Besides this, the top players will also be extended financial support for their participation in international sports events," he added.

He further said that a wrestling academy is being established in Gujranwala and we are planning to build a wrestling academy in Lahore. "Javelin throw track will be built in Olympian Arshad Nadeem's city Mian Channu while a Kabaddi stadium will be constructed in Sahiwal".

## Abdullah Shafique breaks unwanted streak of ducks in T20Is



**By A Sports -**

SHARJAH: Pakistan's young right-handed batter Abdullah Shafique had a sigh of relief as he broke the unwanted streak of ducks in T20Is.

Abdullah, who became the first player to bag four consecutive ducks in T20Is on Sunday, finally scored his first runs after four successive failures.

The right-handed batter pushed a tossed-up delivery by Mohammad Nabi to wide long-on to score a much-needed run and avoided another duck.

Notably, the right-handed batter had bagged the worst record in his brief five-match T20I career as he went out for a duck in four successive matches.

Abdullah, who scored 41 not out on his T20I debut against Zimbabwe, was yet to score a run since then as he bagged two ducks each against New Zealand and Afghanistan.

The young batting prodigy, however, came out roaring in the third and final T20I of the ongoing series as he scored a brisk 13-ball 23 before Rashid Khan castled him in the eighth over. He smashed a boundary and two sixes amid his brief knock.

It is pertinent to mention that Afghanistan held their nerves calm to edge Pakistan in the second T20I by seven wickets and wrapped up the series victory with a game to spare.

The ongoing T20I series between Pakistan and Afghanistan is the first-ever bilateral series between the two cricketing nations as they only faced each other in ICC events and Asia Cups before.

## Ronaldo 'very important' for Portugal, says Martinez

**Sports Desk**

LUXEMBOURG: Cristiano Ronaldo remains a "very important" player for Portugal, coach Roberto Martinez said on Sunday after the veteran striker scored a second successive brace in Euro 2024 qualifying against Luxembourg.

The 38-year-old opened the scoring for the Euro 2016 winners by turning in Nuno Mendes' header and slotted home another in the 31st minute as Portugal won 6-0.

Ronaldo, who also netted twice against Liechtenstein on Thursday, increased his records of most men's international appearances and goals to 198 and 122 respectively.

"Cristiano is a unique player in the world, with the highest number of international caps," said Martinez, who has restored Ronaldo to the starting line-up after he was dropped during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.



"The experience he has for the dressing room is very important.

"All players have an important role. The younger ones due to their willingness to play and players like Cristiano Ronaldo, Rui Patricio and Bernardo Silva bring experience. "It's important to have a complete dressing room."

Martinez joined Portugal after the

World Cup, replacing Fernando Santos who had been in charge since 2014.

The Spaniard has enjoyed a fine start, with his team already two points clear at the top of Group J having scored 10 goals without reply.

Joao Felix, Bernardo Silva, Otavio and Rafael Leao were all also on the score-sheet in Luxembourg.

## Saim-inspired Pakistan set Afghanistan to chase 183 in third T20I

**By A Sports -**

SHARJAH: Young left-handed opener Saim Ayub's sensible 49-run knock and collective contributions by the batters helped Pakistan to post a massive total of 182/7 in the third T20I against Afghanistan.

Put into bat first in the third T20I of the three-match series, led by Afghanistan 2-0, Pakistan batters put on an all-round performance to pile a commendable total on the scoreboard with young Saim leading the way with a gritty 49-run knock.

Earlier, the green shirts were once again off to a dismal start to their innings as wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Haris (1) perished cheaply in the second over with just one run on the board.

Promoted to bat at number

three, Tayyab Tahir, joined Saim in the middle and launched a brief counterattack on the Afghan bowlers.

The right-handed batter was looking to dominate the bowlers, having smashed two boundaries early on, but failed to stretch his knock as he fell after scoring 10 off nine in the fourth over.

Abdullah Shafique, who was going through a rough patch in T20Is, came out roaring in the third T20I as he scored a brisk 13-ball 23 before Rashid Khan castled him in the eighth over. He smashed a boundary and two sixes amid his brief knock.

Following Shafique's dismissal, Iftikhar Ahmed joined Saim in the middle and stitched a vital partnership for the fourth wicket.

The pair added 45 runs amid their important partnership and took Pakistan past the 100-run

mark in the 12th over with Saim closing in on his maiden half-century.

The young left-handed batter, however, came just one run short of his maiden fifty as Mujeeb Ur Rahman took a blinder off Karim Janat's bowling to cease Saim's brilliant knock. Saim top-scored for Pakistan with 49 off 40 deliveries, laced up with four boundaries and two sixes.

Pakistan then endured another major setback in the next over as in-form all-rounder Imad Wasim failed to score big and fell victim to Mujeeb after scoring a quick seven-ball 13.

With half of the side back in the pavilion, skipper Shadab Khan joined Iftikhar in the middle and scripted a crucial sixth-wicket partnership; adding 38 runs in just 21 deliveries before the latter perished in the



19th over.

Iftikhar remained the notable run-getter for Pakistan with 31 off 25 balls and hit two sixes.