

Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



Despite efforts, the government could not sign an agreement with the IMF: Qureshi

Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's address to the Tehreek-e-Insaf gathering One-point agenda of Tehreek-e-Insaf is immediate and transparent elections. (Details on Page 8)



Govt has failed to provide protection and relief to the people: Siraj-ul-Haq

Jl Emir Sirajul Haq has said the impression about the divide among the top court judges could be dissolved with the formation of the full court on the election suo motu. Talking to media after visiting the residence of Nizamuddin, 55, who died in stampede at a free flour distribution camp and offering condolence to the family of the victim, he said the division among and within the institutions was result of the polarization. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 7, Wednesday, March 29, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 353 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

NA Session

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf presiding the National Assembly Session while Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the Session of the national Assembly at Parliament House.



Photo: Online

PM asks legislators to decide if they side with 'law of jungle' or rule of law

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday asked the parliamentarians to categorically decide if they wanted to continue with the prevailing 'law of the jungle' in the country or legislate for upholding the rule of law.

"Today, the fight is between democracy and fascism... It is high time that we take a decision with collective wisdom," he said in his address on the floor of the National Assembly.

PM Sharif said the country was at the watershed of history and it was important for the parliament to legislate on "matters concerning the country".

He said the 1973 Constitution had defined the ambit of the State institutions and set a red line about their functioning.

"Today this Constitution has become a joke and the country is suffering from a serious situation," he said.

The prime minister said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman

Imran Khan was enjoying immunity from the rule of law despite his persistent blackmailing and abuse of the judiciary.

"We need a categorical decision if we want to give relief to the nation or the 'favoured one' who does not abide by the law," he said.

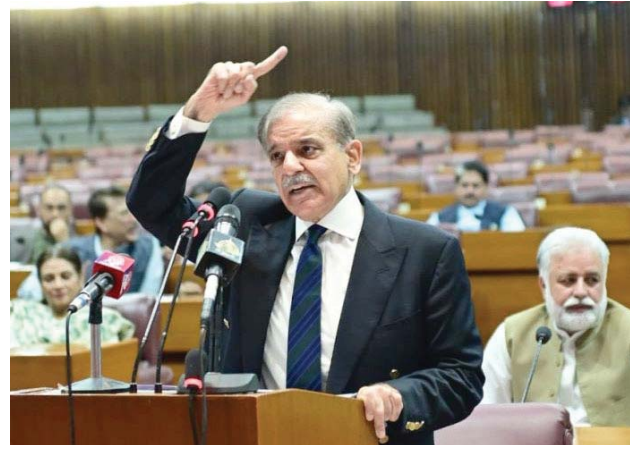
He pointed out that Khan, who was habitual of not appearing before courts and frequently mocked the judiciary, was still getting extensions in bail.

Sharif recalled that senior leadership of his party faced imprisonment for fake cases registered against them, however, no leniency was extended to them.

"On the other hand, he [Imran Khan] has got a long 'innings'. Every court in the country is granting him an extension. Is this the criteria of justice," he raised a question before the House.

He said the three pillars of the State, including legislature, judiciary, and executive, had to play their due role, otherwise, the time would be left with regrets only.

"We have to decide for the future



of the nation and take guidance from law and constitution," he said. The prime minister termed as a 'ray of hope' the 4-3 decision of judges in a suo motu case regarding elections that dismissed the proceedings contending that the chief justice of Pakistan does not have the power to restructure benches without the consent of the respective judges. PM Sharif felicitated the nation

50 years of the formulation of the 1973 Constitution and said the polity was a binding force among all federating units of the country.

The prime minister lambasted the tenure of Imran Khan which he said pushed the country to the brink of economic default.

He mentioned Khan's violation of the pledges with the International Monetary Fund led to a serious economic crisis with an

increase in foreign debt and inflation.

He said Imran Khan misguided the public through his so-called "regime change" narrative, however, later took a U-turn on his own stance.

"A liar and non-serious person incurred a big loss to the country. The biggest fraud of the country's history has deceived the public in the name of the State of Medina," he said.

He said the government was trying to mend the relations with friendly countries that suffered damage during the tenure of Imran Khan.

The prime minister said the hypocrisy was at its height as Imran Khan had now hired a U.S. lobbying firm besides holding meetings with diplomats.

"He has created a big divide among the nation and no one is questioning him," he said. "Law will take its course and this non-serious person would not be allowed to incur further damage to the country."

President calls for expansion of Pak-Tajikistan trade, economic ties



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for expansion of trade and economic relations with Tajikistan and said that steps should be taken to enhance trade and investment cooperation with Tajikistan for the mutual development of the two brotherly countries.

The president said this while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Tajikistan Muhammad Saeed Sarwar who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president mentioned that Pakistan had deep historical and cultural linkages with Tajikistan and Pakistan wanted

to build enhanced, result-oriented and sustainable engagements with all the Central Asian States under its "Vision Central Asia" policy.

He underscored that Pakistan remained committed to strengthening political, economic and energy connectivity with the Central Asia and that the CASA-1000 energy project was an important component of this strategy, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president asked the ambassador to work for improving Pakistan's image, besides expanding trade, energy, and commercial relations with the host country.

Elections to be held simultaneously across country: NA

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday unanimously approved the resolution demanding to hold general elections simultaneously in the assemblies across the country to ensure political stability.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb tabled the resolution stating that this house considered an unnecessary "intrusion of the judiciary as the reason of political instability".

She continued that the House also endorsed the decision of four judges of the apex court in the suo motu case relating to holding elections and supported their opinion whereas it hoped that the "Supreme Court would abstain from meddling into the political and administrative matters of the country".

She read out loud the motion before the house stating, "Election Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) is an independent institution and is bound to hold free and fair elections under Article 218 of the Constitution. No infringement to be made to the constitutional rights of the ECP and the Commission should be allowed to hold elections as per its prerogative under favourable conditions".

"This House also declared that political consistency is necessary to ensure economic stability. It also believes that in order to hold free and fair elections, Article 224 should be implemented in its true letter and spirit as per the Article 218 of the Constitution," she added. "Therefore, the general elections should be held simultaneously across the country so that real political stability can be further promoted."

The resolution also demanded that the constitutional matters that required collective wisdom, the Supreme Court's full bench will hold the proceedings on that matter", she concluded.

Two judges' opinion 'not relevant' in polls delay case, says CJP Bandial

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Tuesday observed that the opinion of two top court judges in the previous Supreme Court (SC) verdict over the Punjab and KP elections is not relevant in the case concerning the postponement of Punjab Assembly polls.

A five-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail is hearing the case.

The CJP remarks came after two Supreme Court judges Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail called for revisiting the "one-man show" powers enjoyed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial.

ECP grants final chance to Imran to appear in contempt case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday gave a final opportunity to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, and other party leaders to appear before it in the contempt case.

The case also involves PTI's Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry and Secretary General Asad Umar.

A three-member ECP bench, led by its Sindh member Nisar Durrani, heard the case but adjourned the hearing until April 18 due to the non-appearance of the PTI leaders.

Faisal Chaudhry, who represented the PTI chief and Chaudhry Fawad filed a plea to postpone the hearing and argued for the revocation of the ECP's order, direct-

ing Imran Khan to appear in person, until the Lahore High Court (LHC) announces its verdict.

However, the bench responded that today was the day for the PTI to present its arguments.

Advocate Anwar Mansoor, who represented Asad Umar, argued that his client had to appear before the anti-terrorism court (ATC) as "150 cases were filed against PTI leaders", making it difficult for them to appear before all the courts at once.

In response, Durrani remarked that a decision had to be taken on the points raised in the pleas. Whereas, the other member of the bench Shah Muhammad Jatoti held that if the PTI leaders did not appear before the commission, charges would be framed against them.

Govt contemplates legislation to limit CJP's suo motu powers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has contemplated legislation to bar the suo motu powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

The federal government decided to go for immediate legislation under judicial reforms which would bar the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) from solely exercising the suo motu powers.

Sources told ARY News that the new legislation will stop CJP from solely using the suo motu powers, moreover, it will also modify the law regarding appeals against the suo motu notices. It was learnt that the government is mulling to give powers to the full court for taking suo motu notice.

Sources added that the government is also considering to change law for the constitution of Supreme Court (SC) benches.

Federal Cabinet approves draft law to curtail CJP suo motu powers

ABC

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved the draft law to curtail suo motu powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

The federal cabinet's session was held under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today. The cabinet members approved the draft law related to the judicial reforms.

The draft bill will be presented to the National Assembly (NA) for its approval today.

Under the new legislation, the decision for suo motu notice will be taken by three senior judges of the Supreme Court (SC) and they will have to fix the appeal within 14 days.

The new legislation will end sole power of the chief justice to take the suo motu notice.

Earlier in the day, the feder-

al government contemplated legislation to limit the suo motu powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

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10th annual meeting

Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik having sideline meetings at UNDRR during 10th annual meeting of Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) from March 27-30 at Bangkok.



Photo: Online

China appreciates PM Shehbaz's remarks on Thar coal power project

Spokesman Report

BELJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tuesday appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks on the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project and said, "Just as the prime minister has stated, the project will turn the region of sand dunes into a source of power."

"China appreciates Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statement. Just as the prime minister has said, Thar Coal Block-I electricity integration project will turn the region of sand dunes to a source of power," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in response to a question.

On March 23, Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif formally inaugurated the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Shehbaz Sharif said that it was a moment of great delight for the whole of Pakistan.

"This was a desert region with the sand dunes only. Now it has been transformed and industrialized. This great project would provide a lot of boost to Pakistan's economy in the years to come," the PM added.

The spokesperson said the project would transmit electricity across Pakistan and



serve the interest of local economy and people's livelihood. "The project epitomizes the CPEC as a pilot project of Belt and Road cooperation."

Mao Ning remarked that CPEC had been in steady progress with fruitful outcomes in energy cooperation, and many job opportu-

nities locally, providing a positive contribution to improving the energy structure and improving energy security in Pakistan.

"China is ready to work with Pakistan to act on the consensus between the two leaders, promote high quality development of CPEC, inject impetus

to sustainable socio-economic development and contribute to the well-being of the two countries and to peoples," she added.

The plant, which was officially put into commercial operation in early February, has two 660-megawatt high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. It is capable of meeting the electricity demand of four million households in Pakistan.

The Thar Coal Block-I is likely to help Pakistan in reducing fuel imports, saving foreign exchange reserves, optimizing power supply structure and enhancing energy security.

Despite efforts, the government could not sign an agreement with the IMF: Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's address to the Tehreek-e-Insaf gathering One-point agenda of Tehreek-e-Insaf immediate and transparent elections.

In the current uncertain political situation, the democratic system may be derailed Tehreek-e-Insaf's demanding the supremacy of the constitution and immediate elections. The demand of 70% of the people of the country is immediate elections. PDM wants to escape from the election. PDM is seeing its defeat clearly. Imported rulers will

have to hold election even if they don't want to Crackdown on Tehreek-e-Insaf workers across Punjab Innocent and innocent workers were arrested from their homes The sanctity of the chador and four walls was violated But the morale of our workers did not drop. Shah Mehmood Qureshi was the first person to arrest me in the Jail Bharu movement. The morale of the workers rose.

We bear the oppression and harshness of the government with a smile Despite the obstacles, Tehreek-e-Insaf's meeting in Lahore was successful. They said The full participation of people in the meetings



has given the decision before the election. The coming time once again belongs to Imran Khan and Tehreek-e-Insaf. The government is taking retaliatory actions against Tehreek-e-Insaf. The government has left fascism behind in retaliation. Shah Mehmood Qureshi Imported rulers have overtaken dictatorships in reprisals. The government has actually

resorted to retaliatory measures to divert attention from its own incompetence and performance. Our struggle is for peace and prompt and transparent elections.

Our workers are fighting peacefully for the election under the leadership of Imran Khan. On this, we pay tribute to the workers who were arrested in the peace movement. I assure you that their sacrifice will not go in vain. Shah Mehmood Qureshi Tehreek-e-Insaf workers are our capital. The struggle and sacrifice of workers will be remembered. Shah Mehmood Qureshi The country is currently under

the most severe economic crisis. Shah Mehmood Qureshi The country is close to default. Despite efforts, the government could not sign an agreement with the IMF. No country is ready to trust them there is no such thing as governance in the country. No agenda to run the country. Shah Mehmood Qureshi added. The government has no policy. Those who came to power in the name of regime change have made the country worse. Pakistani nation is very worried at this time. The only solution to get the country out of crisis is immediate and transparent elections, Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Pakistan Bar Council demands full court in election delay case

ABC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bar Council has expressed concerns over division among the Supreme Court (SC) judges and demanded full court for hearing the case related to a delay in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) elections.

The Pakistan Bar Council spokesperson said in a statement that the full court should hear the election delay case to prevent the country from facing anarchy. The council also urged the political parties to refrain from character assassination of the judges.

It added that the verdict of the judges should be criticised instead of launching personal attacks.

Government has failed to provide protection and relief to the people: Siraj-ul-Haq

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has said the impression about the divide among the top court judges could be dissolved with the formation of the full court on the election suo motu.

Talking to media after visiting the residence of Nizamuddin, 55, who died in stampede at a free flour distribution camp and offering condolence to the family of the victim, he said the division among and within the institutions was result of the polarization which the PDM+PPP and the PTI had created in the society.

He said the parliamentary parties at the sides of the aisle

should start dialogue on the election agenda if they were interested in saving the already fragile democracy. Similarly, he suggested the national institutions particularly the judiciary, the military establishment and the election commission should stand neutral in the best interest of the nation and the country.

He said the unity government of the PDM failed to deliver and the national polls seemed to be the only solution to the prevailing crises. The people of Pakistan must be allowed to elect their representative in a free and fair manner, he added.

He said the poor people including women were dying and sustaining injuries in search of a bag of flour. The



ruling parties had brought the country full of natural resources and rich agricultural land to the level where thousands of people stood in queues for hours for flour. He said the government was incapable to the level that it could not make possible the easy delivery of flour to the people. The money, he said, could be sent in the accounts of the deserving people and also

there were dozens of welfare organizations with the help of those the delivery of flour could be managed in a proper way. But, he said, the rulers' interests were otherwise as they wanted to prove to the IMF that the nation was a beggar and the country desperately needed loans. He said the present and former governments had made the country a laughing stock in the entire world. He said the PDM, the PPP and the PTI were the protectors of the status quo and the people must get rid of them if they wanted to see the country as prosperous and developed. He said the PTI was the only party which could put the country on track if voted to power.

Imran assails govt over tabling bill aimed at curtailing CJP's powers

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan launched on Tuesday a broadside at the government for tabling the bill aimed at curtailing the power of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

Addressing a press conference via video, Mr Khan said the government had decided to do legislation in a bid to mount pressure on the judiciary. "Today, the nation has come to know, that the government is trying its all-out efforts to escape the elections."

Taking a swipe at his political opponents, Mr Khan said, "The cases against all the rulers who plundered the national income for the past 30 years have been ended."

Mr Khan slammed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), saying, "Even the books have been written on the corruption of these two political parties."

The deposed premier lambasted Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah,



saying, "A person who is a hooligan and has no understanding whatsoever has been appointed as the interior minister. Sanaullah has a background of killing. The entire world has listened to his statement."

Recalling that nowhere in the world there existed a situation like Pakistan, Mr Khan cited the example of France. "The people of France are staging anti-pension reform protests. But not even a single citizen has been arrested by the France police from houses".

ATC dismisses non-bailable arrest warrants for Rana Sanaullah

Bureau Report

GUJRANWALA: An anti-terrorism court on Tuesday in Gujranwala dismissed the non-bailable arrest warrants issued for Minister of Interior Rana Sanaullah. The court ordered the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader to submit bail bonds of Rs500,000.

The court hearing was regarding the non-bailable arrest warrants for Mr Sanaullah, who spoke to the media after the court appearance.

He criticized and accused former government for the current security crises in the country and accused PTI of allowing terrorists to enter the country.

The interior minister stated that

the law had not yet moved against Mr Khan and he was being awarded bails. However, Mr Khan should and would be held accountable, according to Mr Sanaullah.

He further added that Imran scam and democracy can't go together, and if the assembly elections are held separately, there would be anarchy in the country. The elections should be held across the country on October 8.

He denied threatening to kill anyone and stated that he referred to the political existence of Imran Khan.

Mr Sanaullah also claimed that so much ill would come out of PTI that only persecution would remain. He also denied asking anyone to come to the court and claimed that only lawyers went to the court.

Judiciary should interpret constitution not on individual's whims but in totality: Qamar

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar on Tuesday said all judges of the court should unite to interpret the Constitution not through the lens of an individual but the entire judiciary.

He was addressing the lower house of the parliament on the special motion moved by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbasi to debate on current political situation and political and legal coercion taking place due to it.

Qamar said the country was at the crossroads of its history.

"Unfortunately, we have seen historically there have been encroachments on the role of each institution on the other during the martial law regimes," he added.

The minister said it was the executive that acted above all and other institutions including judiciary served as subservient to it during the dictatorial rules.

He said the dictator and former president late General (R) Pervez Musharraf tried to amass all the powers of the legislature and tried to infringe the powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan but it were the political parties that stood against him.

He regretted that the courts had already started to take sides and forgot to stick to its role in letter and spirit as per the constitution. The suo moto power was also being abused time and again, he added.

"Once again, we are at the spot to decide either to let constitution crumpled or ensure national justice that is guarantee to nation's security," the minister noted.

Syed Naveed Qamar said by the time a decision was made the country would remain the same as it was today.

"The courts should make history by making decisions that are acceptable to the entire nation that will be written in golden words," he ended.

AJK Accountability Bureau chairman presents performance report to president

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: AJK Accountability Bureau Chairman Sardar Naeem Ahmed Shiraz called on Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry here on Tuesday and apprised him of the performance of his institution.

Barrister Sultan on the occasion said as a credible institution, the Accountability Bureau's role in the region was to create an enabling environment for ensuring a corruption-free society by engaging all stakeholders.

He said the Accountability Act was unanimously passed by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 2001 when he was



the prime minister.

He said the Bureau was rendered toothless by the subsequent governments, however, efforts were being made to restore it to its original state so that it could work properly. A cabinet committee was also working in that regard.

The AJK president said he believed in transparent and effective accountability of the government.

Free Flour Distribution:

Stampede killed 12 in Punjab Cities

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In various cities of Punjab, including South Punjab, the number of people who died due to stampede and suffocation due to the distribution of free Atta in the month of Ramadan by the government and the negligence of the administration was 12. Sahiwal was among the dead. 3 persons including 2 women, 2 people in Multan city, Alipore 2 Females, Muzaffargarh 1, Kot Addu 1, Dera Ghazi Khan 1, Layyah 1 and Faisalabad 1 people have died in the last 6 days. Punjab Emergency Service 11 22 officer has confirmed the death of the deceased.

3 people including two women were killed while 45 people were injured due to a stampede at the free flour distribution point at the Quaid-e-Azam Stadium in Sahiwal. After first aid, 19 women and men were shifted to DHQ Teaching Hospital



Sahiwal.

The condition of four of them is

said to be serious

More than 10 rescue vehicles took the injured and the dead to the hospital, while Divisional Commissioner Shoaib Iqbal Syed says that the Ata app was closed due to which the rush increased.

According to the eyewitnesses, the rush increased due to the closure of the app, and the police personnel started a stampede after throwing sticks to control the rush. After the tragic incident, ten to twelve rescue vehicles took part in the rescue operation.

The Sahiwal administration has stopped the delivery of flour to the said point today, but hundreds of women are present here and they say that they have reached here after walking several kilometers and will not return without taking flour.

A large number of police personnel are still present at the Flour free point at Sahiwal Stadium

The victims not yet received compensation for the damages

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The affected people of Wana Timber Market while talking to the media said that in 2020, a sudden fire broke out in the timber Market due to unknown reasons, due to which there was a loss worth crores of rupees, despite the government's promise, the victims are still deprived of compensation.

Rehmanullah Wazir, the victim, said that so far the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and the district administration have not helped one pie.

Which is not only regrettable but also a great shameful.

On the other hand, Pakistan Peoples Party South Waziristan Lower President Aman Ullah Wazir demanded from the caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Provincial Minister for Relief, that in 2020, take concrete measures on an emergency basis to compensate the losses caused by the people of the timber market so that there is no loss of rights

It should be noted that in the year 2020, a large-scale fire broke out in the Wana timber Market in the tribal district of South Waziristan Lower,

Due to which everything including the valuable timber lying in the timber market was destroyed, the entire Wana timber market was burnt and turned into a pile of ashes due to which people have lost crores of rupees, but till now there was no cure for it.

Opposition leaders presented adjournment motion against hijab

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD :Opposition leaders and members of the assembly have presented adjournment motion against hijab. Chaudhary Latif Akbar along with the members of the assembly kept presenting the Qur'anic verse that the body is the order of hijab as an argument, but the adjournment motion did not mention this verse. The Islamic Ideological Council also remained silent. This is equivalent to inviting Allah's punishment. The central leader of Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir, Dr. Sharaf Ali Khalji, has expressed these views while talking to the media. Did he say that Chaudhry Latif Akbar and the members of the assembly should stop this nefarious act and withdraw this illegal motion immediately? He further said that Chaudhry Latif Akbar University ground had insulted Azaan before. Latif Akbar has not only insulted the principles of Islam but also insulted the Constitution of Azad Kashmir. The Chief Election Commissioner of Azad Kashmir should immediately take action against the opposition using the powers of insulting religion and cancel the assembly membership, otherwise we will take to the streets. And to protest according to the constitution and the law. He demanded the President of the Islamic Ideological Council and the members to call a meeting of the council and explain the position in the light of the orders of Allah and the Messenger of Allah.

Sardar Attique approved the organization of Muzaffarabad district for the period 2023 to 2026

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, using the powers granted under the Constitution, approved the organization of Muzaffarabad district for the period 2023 to 2026.

According to the notification issued by the Secretary General of the Muslim Conference, Mrs. Mehrul-Nisaa, the officials approved by the President Muslim Conference for the organization of Muzaffarabad District for the next term are Syed Yasir Hussain Naqvi, Advocate, Lachhrat Circle, President, Chaudhry Basit Ali, Advocate, Union Council Chakpura, Senior Vice President, Raja Liaquat Ali Khan, Khawra Constituency, General Secretary, Mirr Zawar Rehman Advocate, Kotla Constituency, Organizer, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Dhani Dholain City, Vice President, Syed Junaid Haider Naqvi Advocate, Khawra Constituency, Vice President, Sajjad Khan Tanuli, Hattian Duptha Constituency, Additional General Secretary, Mahmud Al Hasan Awan, Kotla Constituency, Deputy General Secretary, Syed Zakir Hussain Shah, Constituency Hattian Duptha, Salar, Iftikhar Khan Tanuli, Mankpian Lachhrat, Deputy Organizer, Saqib Shafiq Abbasi, City Muzaffarabad, Secretary Information, Sheikh Muhammad Abrar, Mihajir Camp Mankpian, Secretary Finance and Mirza Abid Ali Baig, Plate Muzaffarabad.

Insecurity on CPEC route, commuters complain of no road safety measures

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The alarming proportion of traffic accidents are playing havoc with the lives of passengers travelling on the CPEC route leading from Attock Fateh Jang to Daud Khel for want of different road safety measures. The commuters on route while talking to the media here on Wednesday have complained that the ratio of vehicular collision with the construction machinery working on this route is going to increase which resulted serious loss of lives and vehicles. Responding to the questions of the media persons, they were told that the CPEC contractors did not install any kind of warning signs within the under construction limits where construction machinery was parked posing life threats to the over speed traffic besides claiming a large number of precious lives within the last one year. Even, iron fences were not erected along the both sides of the route trespassing through the motorcyclists, cattle and wild animals which are another threats for the vehicular traffic on route. On the other hand, taxes are being collected by the management of the toll plazas who never bothered to take any safety measures. Motorway police spokesman when contacted has clarified that the issues related to Motorway police will be resolved soon while some of the issues are related to NHA and will be forwarded to the concerned authorities.



The District Council of Gujarat conducted a grand operation in Sarai Alamgir and sealed City Housing Society, Grand City, Metro City and Barak Housing Society for making illegal constructions. None of the sites were built

Long queue

FAISALABAD: Deserving people stand in long queue and waiting for their turn to take free flour sack at Madina Town Hockey Stadium in City.



Photo: Online

Islamic conference to help end sectarianism: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: The message of Islam conference on April 10 will lead to the end of political and sectarian differences in societal norms and values.

By abandoning the process of political enmity, we will advance the democratic process and raise the prestige of Pakistan in the eyes of world in all respect. The honor of the military and security institutions will scale up the prestige of Pakistan stopping all out foreign conspiracies, this was expressed by the Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan, Central Deputy General Secretary,

Pakistan Ulema Council and Member of the Provincial Union of Muslims Committee, Punjab Government. He further expressed in his special statement that on April 10, the Message of Islam Conference organized by the Pakistan Ulema Council in Islamabad is a new political event. It will promote communal thinking, unity, faith and discipline. Ummah will surely lead to ascertain in ending of sectarianism & terrorism.

He further elaborated that, Under the chairmanship of Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, it will play an important vital role in reducing



political and sectarian hatred in the country. It the need of time to stand up in giving a message of tolerance and unity to the world so that it may provide true salvation

for everyone.

The purpose of the conference is to give a clear message of Islam to the whole world. Our leader Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah established a separate state for Muslims to prove ourselves practically as a model for the whole world. We have given a message of unity, solidarity and love, but unfortunately today Pakistan is being defamed all over the world by the process of political enmity. The sacrifices of the forces and security agencies will not go in vain by the political dramas.

He made it clear that, they are standing with the

honor and dignity of Pakistan & it is the duty that bounds us all in all respect that in the same way we want to respect and respect our forces of Pakistan and security institutions so that the dignity and honor of Pakistan would increase further. Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan further elaborated that only tranquility can keep us straight and Islam never compromise on calmness.

He further said that there is a dire need for the development of ethics in the society and peace and tranquility which is possible only through the study and practice of Islam.

Sightsavers Reaching out to Gilgit-Baltistan with School Eye Health Screening program

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sightsavers in its mission towards ensuring eye health and strengthening its commitment to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan is initiating the project of "School Eye Health Screening" in Gilgit Baltistan. In this regard, a Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been signed between the Government of Gilgit Baltistan and Sightsavers in Islamabad.

Under this project, Sightsavers will provide screening facilities to the school going children in Gilgit-Baltistan for common eye problems, provide free spectacles for the children with refractive error and also surgical treatment in partnership with department of health.

Sightsavers will also provide ophthalmic screening equipment for the screening team. Furthermore, Sightsavers has also penned down its commitment for the establishment of a Low Vision and



IT Resource Center in Special Education Complex, Gilgit Baltistan.

Chief secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan, Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani said that this project is addressing one of the most pressing challenges of eye health of school going children and unavailability of proper screening facilities. He appreciated

the role of Sightsavers and said that this project is materializing the Government's vision of making health facilities available for everyone at grassroot level.

Munazza Gillani, Country Director, Sightsavers said that Sightsavers is working to eradicate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people

with disabilities. This project will make a significant contribution to the effective scaling up of screening, refractive services and eyeglasses provision and will promote the integration of these approaches into government-led national programs.

Secretary Information, Ahmed Khan appreciated this initiative of Sightsavers. He said that such initiatives will help ensure good eye health in students and solve the associated issues of school dropouts and compromised learning outcomes.

Sightsavers is an International Development Organization working in 33 countries to eradicate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities. Sightsavers is in Pakistan since 1985 and has helped government and other partner hospitals to examine more than 80 million eye care patients and has supported more than 0.7 million cataract surgeries.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:38 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	4:39 pm
Maghrib	6:25 pm
Isha	7:49 pm

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Holy Family	9290322-7
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CDA	9208301-04

Senate body irked over vacant Pakistan's chairs abroad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD :The Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the vacant Pakistan chairs abroad since 2008.

The Committee which met here with Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui in the chair was apprised that a total of 14 Chairs had been vacant since 2008 under different nomenclatures such as the Quaid-i-Azam Chair and Allama Iqbal Chair, Chairs in Urdu and Pakistan Studies.

The Committee was informed that Chairs for Urdu and Pakistan Studies are currently vacant in China, Egypt, Germany, USA, UK, Turkey, Hong Kong, Iran, Jordan, Nepal and Kazakhstan.

The Committee stressed the need for stringent action against this negligence that has held back the softer side of the country. Deliberating over the matter, Chairman Committee Senator Irfanul Haque Siddiqui directed that the Ministry submit a comprehensive report regarding the issue in the next meeting.

Discussing the recent clashes between

student groups at Quaid-i-Azam University in light of the briefing by Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of the said university, the Committee stressed the need to investigate the matter in detail and ensure that the root cause be ascertained.

Chairman Committee Senator Irfanul Haque Siddiqui welcomed the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University and assured him of the Committee's all out support.

Deeming the need for the revival of Student Unions in Universities, Chairman Committee Senator Irfanul Haque Siddiqui was of the view that grouping must be based related to educational interests and on national heroes in place of ethnicity.

This he said would play an important role in diffusing ethnic fault lines and infusing in students a sense of national unity.

Chairman Committee Senator Irfanul Haque Siddiqui directed Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar to formulate a Commission and submit a detailed report to the Committee on the causes of the issue and recommendations of ways that it can be curbed.

While considering the private member

ills, the International Islamic University (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was approved with minor amendments.

The International Institute of Technology, Culture and Health Sciences Bill, 2022, introduced by Senator Kamran Murtaza and Senator Fawzia Arshad was pending due to further probe of the matter.

A visit of the facility will be conducted by a three-member committee comprising Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed

(Convener), Senator Fawzia Arshad and a senior member of HEC. A report regarding the matter will be submitted to the Committee within 10 days.

The meeting was attended by Senators including Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, Fawzia Arshad, Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Molvi Faiz Muhammad, Kamran Murtaza, Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and Senior officers of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and HEC.

Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and newly appointed Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar were present as well.

AMOU signed between the Information Technology Board and Tech Valley Social Enterprise



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD :A Memorandum of Understanding between the Information Technology Board and Tech Valley Social Enterprise was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan here on Tuesday. Advisor IT Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Secretary IT Shahid Ayub, DG IT Dr. Khalid Rafiq, Senior Additional Secretary Masood ur Rehman and representatives of Tech Valley were present on the occasion. The MoU was formally signed by IT secretary Shahid Ayub and CEO Tech Valley Umar Farooq. Under this arrangement, fifteen hundred Google scholarships will be awarded to students within the state (Azad Kashmir).

The online certification program offers learners the opportunity to gain in-demand technical skills across six areas including, data analytics, IT support, IT automation, project management, UX Design, digital marketing, and e-commerce. After signing of the agreement, 1500 Google Career Certificate scholarships would be provided to students in Azad Kashmir through local partners. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, while referring to the importance of information technology, said that today's world belongs to information technology. Stressing the need for promoting IT sector in Azad Kashmir, the PM said that, by virtue of the MoU, not only 1500 scholarships have been obtained for the AJK students, but also a platform has been provided to students whereby they can be able to gain in-demand technical skills.

In this regard, a ceremony was held at Kashmir House, Islamabad, wherein the MoU was formally signed in the presence of Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan. Secretary of Tourism and Archeology Ms. Mudhat Shahzad and President of Pakistan Paragliding Association Sajjad Shah signed the memorandum of understanding. Advisor IT Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Advisor Political Affairs Sardar Ifikhar Rashid, Senior Additional Secretary Masoodur Rehman and other senior officials and members of PHPA were present on the occasion.

Tamasha launches its first original series, 'Family Bizniss'



City Desk

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan's largest homegrown OTT platform, Tamasha, has launched its first-ever original series, "Family Bizniss", in collaboration with Big Bang Entertainment. The launch event was recently held at the Jazz Digital Headquarters attended by Kaan Terzioğlu, CEO of VEON Group; Aamir Ibrahim, CEO, Jazz; Aamer Ejaz, Chief Digital Officer, Jazz; and leading actor and producer of the series, Fahad Mustafa.

Family Bizniss will star one of the country's most renowned artists, Asim Azhar, which will be his acting debut for OTT alongside Mah-e-nur Haider, Saife Hasan, Salma Hasan, Bushra Habib, and Hussain Moshin. However, what truly sets this show apart is its comedic approach towards otherwise serious themes, such as socio-economic class differences and generation gaps, and this is something that appeals to youngsters as well as mature audiences.

"The global streaming platforms focus on larger market segments which is why they don't take Pakistan's multiethnic and multilingual demographic into account" said Aamer Ejaz, Chief Digital Officer of Jazz. "Cultivating a culture of pocket-friendly, local content that promotes digital inclusion, as shown in Family Bizniss, is what Tamasha plans on achieving."

Speaking about the web series, Fahad Mustafa, CEO of Big Bang Entertainment, said, "We as creators and viewers usually have a preconceived notion that a show can only be engaging if it presents the negative aspects of our society and that is the kind of stereotype 'Family Bizniss' is here to break".

In a nutshell, Family Bizniss is an eye-opening show that discusses issues embedded in Pakistani society. However, in contrast to the usual pessimistic approach to discussing these problems, Tamasha believes that it is more impactful to do so in a light-hearted and informative manner.

Profiteers setting new records of plunder in Ramadan

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said influential profiteers have set new records of looting with the arrival of Ramadan.

The prices of essential commodities were already skyrocketing, but with the advent of Ramadan, a new wave of inflation has come across the country, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the prices of flour, rice, pulses, and various types of vegetables have been increased and the price of fruits has been increased by two to four hundred percent taking a toll on the masses facing unprecedented inflation.

The continued increase in the price of necessities proves the weakness or collusion of the administration, he observed.

Despite the plunder of hoarders, no meaningful action is being taken against them which can provide some relief to the masses.

Worried by the worst inflation and insufficient income, people are forced to limit their purchases during Ramadan as it becomes impossible for them to meet their expenses, he observed.

Most of the responsibility for the increase in prices of necessities and other items lies with hoarders and big suppliers but common shopkeepers are targeted which is a fruitless exercise.

The decisions regarding price hikes are made by those who keep themselves behind the scenes and always escape an action because of their political connections.

If the government wants to control the prices it will have to bring hoarders and big brokers to the book, he remarked.

Careless

RAWALPINDI: People are walk on railway track, which may cause any incident at Mareer Chowk, in the City.



Photo: Online

IIUI placed among 51-100 universities globally in subject based QS rankings

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad has been named as one of the world's top universities and placed among 51-100 in the subjects of Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies and first time is placed at 351-400 in Mathematics across the world in the latest edition of the world's most consulted university rankings QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) by subject.

Earlier, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) was ranked on 241 position in QS Asia University Rankings 2023 as well as IIUI was placed at 48th position in QS Southern Asia University Rankings 2023 by QS.

The university leadership believes that upcoming ranking will be much more positive as new reforms and initiatives have entered into the mature stages through various steps taken such as implementation of the university's strategic plan and academic audits.

The university is now all set and in a better position to submit its accomplishments and achievements with an approach of quantifiable analysis that will lead to improved and realistic university rankings in future. The university leadership has appreciated the hard work of the team specially the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Development (QAD) for its untiring efforts to make it possible in a proper manner to this global ranking.

Pakistan can earn billions of dollars through export of pink salt - ICCI

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan is the only producer of pink salt in the world and the government should cooperate with the private sector in value addition of this salt that would enable the country to earn billions of dollars through its exports around the world. He said this while talking to a delegation of Miracle Salt of USA that visited ICCI led by its President Nadeem Ahmed.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the global market of pink salt is around US\$ 12 billion, but Pakistan's annual export of this salt is just around US\$ 70 million, which is far less than the actual potential of the country. He said that Pakistan is exporting 90 percent of pink salt in raw form @ of US\$ 60-80/ton and many other countries are earning much higher margins by value addition of



Pakistan's raw pink salt and exporting it to other markets. He stressed that the government should fix the minimum export price of pink salt and help the business community in its value addition to boost its export.

Speaking at the occasion, Nadeem Ahmed, President, Miracle Salt of USA said that they are interested to invest in Pakistan's pink salt to produce its valued

added products as this salt has great potential for exports in the global market. He said that the Government of Pakistan should announce a policy of pink salt and regulate its trade and exports that would attract more foreign investment to Pakistan.

Karim Aziz Malik, Muhammad Naseem, Mr. Martin and others were in the delegation.

JS Bank, GCF join hands to promote Climate Resilient Projects in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: JS Bank - one of the Pakistan's fastest growing banks - partnered with Green Climate Fund, the world's largest climate finance organization, to promote and undertake Climate Resilient projects in Pakistan.

In a meeting hosted by JS Bank in Islamabad, both parties discussed various aspects of the Pakistan Distributed Solar Project (PDSP) - the country's first private-sector renewable energy project - undertaken by JS Bank in partnership with GCF. They also talked about other sustainable and Green initiatives taken by the Bank, while exploring opportunities of collaboration for further green financing in Pakistan.

The GCF Delegation comprised of Carolina Fuentes - Director, Country



Programming; Anupa Lamichhane - Regional Manager Asia-Pacific; Hyejin Lee - Climate Investment Specialist; and Amgad Elmahdi - Water Sector Senior Specialist. Also present at the meeting were Bushra Gull from the

Ministry of Climate Change; Syed Jafar Raza - Group Head Investment & International Banking, JS Bank; Shezad Abdullah - Head of Investment Banking JS Bank, Haider Hussain - Chief of Staff to CEO, JS Bank and

Mohsin Ali Phulpoto from Sustainable Finance, JS Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Jafar Raza said, "We are delighted to work with GCF to promote climate resilient projects in Pakistan and are committed to supporting the country's transition towards achieving a greener future."

The GCF Delegation commended JS Bank's collaborative efforts with GCF and displayed confidence in the Bank's commitment and capacity towards implementing future projects.

The JS Bank-initiated PDSP aims to support access to distributed solar power all over Pakistan, across Consumer, SME, and Agriculture sectors. The initiative not only aims to develop climate resilient energy production, but also to increase capacity and awareness to adopt climate resilient methods of energy production.

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IS Amnesty International Report 2022

Financial crisis and human rights violations in South Asia-I

South Asia Response to deterioration of rights in the region exposes an international system unfit to deal with global crises

Amnesty International's Annual Report for 2022 highlights double standards throughout the world on human rights and the failure of the international community to unite around consistently applied human rights and universal values. Robust response to Ukrainian crisis in the West is in sharp contrast with a deplorable lack of meaningful action on plummeting rights in Afghanistan and intense crackdown on the right to protest in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, India and Nepal. Women's rights and freedom to protest are threatened as states fail to protect and respect rights at home. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75, Amnesty International insists that a rules-based international system must be founded on human rights and applied to everyone, everywhere.

The failure of global and regional institutions – hamstrung by the self-interest of their members – to respond adequately to global conflicts, climate change and global energy and food crises has disrupted an already weak multilateral system, Amnesty International said as it launched its annual assessment of human rights around the world.

Amnesty International Report 2022/23: The State of the World's Human Rights found that double standards on human rights abuses taking place around the world fuelled impunity and instability, including deplorable lack of meaningful action on the plummeting human rights record in Afghanistan, inadequate responses to a spiralling economic crisis in Sri Lanka and the refusal to confront the crackdown on dissent and persecution of minorities in multiple South Asian countries.

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created 75 years ago, recognizing the inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms of all people. Global economic dynamics and shifting power structures are unleashing chaos in which it is easy to lose sight of human rights.

As South Asia sits on the brink of a volatile and unpredictable future, it is important now, more than ever, to keep rights squarely in the centre of all negotiations and conversations,” said Deprose Muchena, Senior Director at Amnesty International.

Ruthless repression of dissent

People took to the streets across the region to protest against injustice, deprivation and discrimination, but in most countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka they were met with intense crackdowns and excessive, sometimes lethal, force.

In Sri Lanka, emergency powers were used to curtail mass protests. The police used live ammunition, tear gas and water cannon against largely peaceful crowds protesting against the spiralling economic crisis, causing deaths and injuries. Protesters in Sri Lanka were arrested, arbitrarily detained and charged with terror-related and other offences.

In Afghanistan, peaceful protesters faced arbitrary arrests, torture and enforced disappearance. Police in Bang-

ladesh used live and rubber bullets, sound grenades and tear gas to disperse protests by students and workers. In Pakistan, authorities forcibly broke up peaceful protests by activists and family members of victims of enforced disappearances. Protesting victims of loan sharks in Nepal were met with police baton charges and arbitrarily detained. In India, a 15-year-old boy and another protester were shot and killed by police during demonstrations in Jharkhand state.

Attacks on press freedom persisted in multiple countries. In Afghanistan, journalists faced arbitrary arrest and detention as well as torture and other ill-treatment for reporting that was critical

of the Taliban. In Bangladesh, where journalists experienced physical assaults, judicial harassment and other reprisals for their reporting, a draft data protection law threatened to further curtail freedom of expression. Media workers in Pakistan also came under increased pressure as journalists and others were arrested on spurious charges.

The Indian government likewise tried to prevent the human rights situation there from being discussed abroad by imposing international travel bans on human rights defenders and detention without trial. It also used money laundering laws and other pretexts to harass media organizations and NGOs. In Nepal, comedians were among those who faced prison sentences in relation to their performances. The Maldives parliament passed a law that could force journalists to reveal their sources. Encour-

ingly, the Maldives government was considering amending the law, but faced strong criticism.

“South Asian countries seem to apply human rights law on a selective basis in a staggering show of blatant hypocrisy and double standards. They only criticize human rights violations when it aligns with their global and regional politics but are mute spectators to similar abuses at their own doorstep just because their interests are at stake. It is unconscionable and undermines the entire fabric of universal human rights,” said Yamini Mishra, Regional Director for South Asia at Amnesty International.

In response to growing threats to the right to protest, Amnesty International launched a global campaign in 2022 to confront states’ intensifying efforts to erode the fundamental right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Women bear the brunt as states fail to protect and respect rights

In India the Supreme Court passed two progressive judgments upholding the right to dignity of sex workers and interpreting an existing law to expand abortion access to all women, notwithstanding their marital status.

Nevertheless, the reality for many women and girls in the region remained one of systemic discrimination.

In Afghanistan, women and girls were effectively erased from public life and spaces as new edicts further restricted their rights and freedoms which, in addition to banning them from working with NGOs, forbade them from travelling without a male chaperone, attending secondary school and university or going to public parks, among other restrictions.

To be Concluded

Gwadar Port handles 200000 MTs wheat in last 25 days

Despite many challenges, Gwadar port with fast-track processing has handled 200,000 metric tons of wheat import from Russia over the last 25 days, said a COPHC official.

The rest of the wheat, he said, to be administered at Gwadar Port is around 250000 MTs, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The official said that four vessels that include MV Lila Chennai, MV Rich, MV Veruda and MV Dorado out of a total of nine vessels bringing wheat to Gwadar port have arrived so far.

Gwadar port witnessed zero handling loss for the discharge and dispatch of wheat since March 2 when the first ship was anchored.

All loading, offloading and transportation, he mentioned, have been handled and administered with precision.

Eastbay Expressway which exclusively connects Gwadar Port with Makran Coastal Highway bypassing city roads is the sole route being used for the movement of wheat-loaded trucks.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research official told Gwadar Pro that for lifting the assigned quantity of million metric tons of wheat under G2G arrangements from Gwadar Port, NLC has been transporting wheat through the shortest and most feasible route to PASSCO storage centres.

Passco storages are located in 13 Zones and 16 Districts of the country. Its storage capacity comprises 29 silos (Storage Tower) and 335 godowns having a covered storage capacity of 572,482 MTs. The remaining stock is being stored in open Gunjees in scientific ways and procedures.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research official said that ECC in its meeting held on July 28, 2022, allowed the import of wheat through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and directed MNFS&R to submit a logistic plan of Passco for transportation of imported wheat for consideration of ECC.

Gwadar Port is processing the import of Russian wheat under an official agreement inked between the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and Gwadar International Terminal Limited (GITL).

Gwadar International Terminals Limited official said that as Gwadar port handled 200000 MTs of what successfully, processing of the rest of the 250000 MTs wheat will be administered accordingly.

He dubbed the import of wheat using Gwadar port a new milestone, saying wheat import will spur up trade activities in Gwadar. It will also boost employability as when bustling activities get underway, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled man forces are required to handle the entire scale of work, he added.

On the question of how Gwadar port surpassed other ports in Pakistan in handling and processing wheat consignments, All Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents Association (AGSCAA) members said that the facts are that the Gwadar Port is more economical than any other port like KPT and Qasim Ports.

Both the said ports are always congested and ships go to demurrage and the storage charges of KPT and Qasim Ports are very high. However, at the Gwadar Port, there are no demurrage and storage charges, along with the quickest stevedoring services. It can be checked by the previous record of TCP, he added.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

Mismanagement of admirable directives of the Federal Government

The current coalition government of PDM, no doubt, comprises of multiple political parties embracing every nook and corner of our beloved country. It is extensively represented at the national level which has lawfully and validly come in power by operation of provision of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Good governance is the desire and demand of every citizen. Leaving aside the political arena, whoever stands at the helm of affairs of the government must know that the civil service structure is a useful device, and efficient and efficacious tool to achieve the objective of implementation of public oriented directives which especially when aiming at the welfare of the downtrodden segment of our society. But when such beneficial decision face failure in the field the situation tarnishes the position of the government and defeats the sacred purpose. In such a phenomenon the concerned district authorities including the representatives of the public who happen to be the organ of ruling party should be held responsible and taken to task. Ramadan Package has to be conducted on war footing. Key to the ideal achievement are the golden principles of unity, faith and discipline. Violation of any of these cherished fundamentals could lead to a catastrophe and positive efforts of the federal government go waste.

The substantial issues confronting the nation are lack of foreign exchange due to less exports and less inflow of foreign remittances, extravagance in expenditure in all spheres of life. Reckless attitude of the affluent personalities of the country, shortcomings of the ruling leadership to motivate the public at large within and outside the country, lack and delayed decisions of austerity measures, absence of the feelings for voluntary donations of resources to the government to safeguard the honor of the nation, are some of the causes of financial difficulties. The eminent threat of the drought in 2025 as foreseen by the international experts on the subject also needs immediate attention of the government, for micro level reservoir

protocol. Observing such a difficulty for the police force once there was a political will in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the government of the time declare to have only five flags for the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, and both chief justices. It certainly spared the police force and improved their performance. Even today the crime rate in Azad Kashmir is much less as compared to provinces of Pakistan where there

is too much status mindedness in the bureaucracy resulting in their inaccessibility to the public. The Federal Government is often criticized for taking delayed decisions in urgent situations, and simultaneously their abrupt and unplanned decisions which face fate of failure. For example the government could not implement one holiday a week although it was a useful and economical, distribution of free flour to the poor and other disappointing feature and the supply of subsidised petrol without providing proper mechanism.

It is the talk of the town these days that Pakistan, although a nuclear power is being insulted and subjected to undue and unjustified terms by the IMF, and the instance of our enemies. There is always an opportunity in every difficulty. The state should take bold political decisions and get closer to China and Russia, the near and neighboring powers with easy access. Both the said countries are inclined to help Pakistan in the sphere of energy. We have already been subjected to discrimination in case of purchase of energy from Iran whereas India has been allowed to purchase fuel from Iran and Russia while for Pakistan it is tabooed. The IMF has deliberately caused irreparable financial and prestige loss in the comity of nations, besides, in creating instability in the country.

The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

ent sectors that nations face difficult times and we are also facing tough times, but the worst is behind us and we will prevail. General Asim repeatedly referred to Islamic teachings to assure his audience that Pakistan will successfully overcome the present testing times. The businessmen were told commitments had been secured from friendly countries for investments in agriculture, mining and IT. The government expects advanced

equity from these countries. It was said the civil and military leadership acted in tandem for securing these commitments. Recently, according to newspapers and their sources in the Ministry of Finance has also said that China has delayed the return of the \$2 billion safe deposit for one year. According to these sources, financing is also expected from Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. These sources in the Ministry of Finance said that Pakistan needs confirmation of external financing for the agreement from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to sources, another 300 million dollars have come to Pakistan from China in the same month, while foreign exchange reserves are expected to exceed 5 billion dollars in the same month.

Readers, no doubt we are facing the worst scenario but the need is to find workable and feasible solutions from our policy makers. Also there is a strong need for the whole nation and all stakeholders to show solidarity on the common national issues.

Concluded



Analysis **Ch Muhammad Latif**



Analysis **Abdul Basit Alvi**

We regained Lachin both on the battlefield and by political means: President Ilham Aliyev

BAKU: We regained Lachin both on the battlefield and by political means. During the Second Karabakh War, the liberation of Lachin district from occupation was one of the priority tasks. We actually liberated the southern part of Lachin district by fighting, on the battlefield, said President Ilham Aliyev as he received Masim Mammadov, Special Representative of the President in Lachin district, which is included in East Zangezur economic region.

"Gulabird and a number of other villages were liberated on the battlefield, and we accessed the Lachin-Khankendi road. This operation, as well as the liberation of the city of Shusha from the Armenian invaders, actually led to the capitulation of the Armenian state," the head of state emphasized. AZERTAC



Khalilzad doesn't speak for US government: State Department

News Desk

WASHINGTON: The former United States envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, does not represent U.S. policy, a State Department spokesperson has said, asserting that the Afghan-born diplomat speaks in his "personal capacity".

The spokesperson, Vedant Patel, was responding to a question from a Pakistani TV channel reporter about the perception that his recent tweets about the political situation in Pakistan reflect the views of the U.S. government.



"Mr. Khalilzad is a private citizen, and any social media activity or comments or tweets that you might reference, those are done in his private capacity, does not represent U.S. foreign policy, and he does not speak for

this administration," Patel told reporters at his daily news briefing, as he set the record straight.

Asked about the political crisis in Pakistan in which death threats were being held, the spokesperson urged

all sides to respect the rule of law and allow the people to democratically determine their country's leadership in accordance with the constitution and laws.

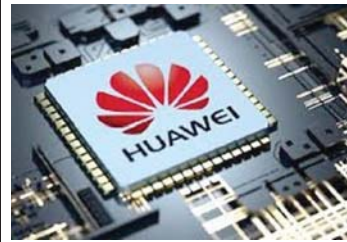
"So we have previously stated that any implication of violence, harassment, or intimidation has no place in politics, and as we do with our partners all around the world, we encourage all sides in Pakistan to respect the rule of law and allow the people of Pakistan to democratically determine their own country's leadership pursuant to their own constitution and laws," he added.

German envoy calls on foreign secretary



ISLAMABAD: Germany's Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Erik Kurzwil on Tuesday called on Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan here. The foreign secretary reiterated Pakistan's desire for a peaceful, prosperous, stable and connected Afghanistan, according to Foreign Office.

Huawei makes breakthrough in EDA design tools for 14nm chips



News Desk

BEIJING: Huawei has developed electronic design automation (EDA) tools for chips produced at and above 14-nanometer technology with domestic partners, marking a major breakthrough for China's semiconductor industry.

Nicknamed the "cradle" of integrated circuits, EDA is a widely used software in the sector and significant to the entire chip-designing process.

The Chinese tech giant has achieved localization of EDA tools above 14nm in the chip field and will complete comprehensive verification this year, Huawei confirmed on March 24, citing the remarks made by its rotating chairman Xu Zhijun on February 28, CGTN reported.

Xu also said the company had developed 78 tools related to chip hardware and software.

China has long relied on U.S. companies such as Cadence and Synopsys for high-end electronic design automation tools.

Chips produced at the 14nm level were first introduced in smartphones in the mid-2010s and are two to three generations behind leading-edge technology, but it still marks a breakthrough.

The progress is part of a broader push by Huawei to develop domestic development tools for hardware, software and chips amid U.S. governmental restrictions.

Xu further mentioned that although the company had achieved many breakthroughs in product development tools over the past three years, it still faces formidable challenges, thus Huawei would redouble its efforts to attract more global talents to achieve a strategic advancement in the area.

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to expand bilateral strategic partnership



Spokesman RReport

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Tuesday agreed to expand and strengthen bilateral strategic partnership and enhance multi-dimensional cooperation.

The bilateral ties were discussed during the Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) held between the two countries in Kuala Lumpur.

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to expand bilateral strategic partnership

The talks were co-chaired by Additional Foreign Secretary Mumtaz Zahra Baloch and Deputy Secretary General Dato Norman Bin Muhammad, a Foreign Office statement said.

Muhammad Jalil passes away

Arif Chodhry

LONDON: We cannot ignore the fact that every living thing has to taste the taste of death in any case. Mian Muhammad Jameel, who has a very kind, amiable and poor-loving personality, whose hometown Mian Chanu was, met his true creator in London after a short illness. Executive Mian Salim Tayyab was the uncle of Mian Waseem Tayyab Mian Aleem Tayyab. Friends, friends and relatives are deeply saddened and saddened by the sudden death of Mian Muhammad Jalil.

Members of British Parliament Afzal Khan-Tony Lloyd-Debbie Abraham Lord Wajid Khan Political Social Business Personalities Mian Muhammad Shafiq-Chaudhry Musrat-Rana Imtiaz Ahmed-Nabeel Javed Qureshi-Niaz Naseem-Zulfiqar Ali Chauhan-Mian Zahoor Ahmed Chaudhary Tanveer-Chaudhry Zahid-Chaudhry Naseer Sahwali-Police Officer Muhammad Qasim-Rana Abdul Sattar PTI UK President Malik Imran Khalil Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood Barrister Amjad Malik, prominent journalist Arif Chaudhry, Raja Sagheer Kakarvi, Javed Iqbal Advisor to Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Raja Marwat Hussain, Councilor Shahid Mushtaq, former Mayor Atiq Ur Rehman, Ghazala Rana, Deputy Mayor Zahid Chauhan, Raja Anjad Hussain, Naseem Khan, Maulana Abdul Shakoor Qadri, Councilors Muhammad Ilyas, Shoaib Akhtar, Raja Najabat Hussain, Urooj Shah and others expressed their heartfelt condolences and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the deceased Jannat al-Firdus. May I bless Hazrat Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with intercession and sighting with him (Amen, then Amen).

US court summons Indian Punjab officials over crackdown on Sikhs

News Desk

LONDON/NEW YORK: A US Federal Court in New York has summoned India Punjab's chief minister and two other officials after a violent crackdown was launched against Sikhs including a total ban on the internet in the state.

The New York Federal Court has issued summons on a writ filed by pro-Khalistan Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) at the court against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab governor Banwari Lal Purohit and Gaurav Yadav for arresting thousands of pro-Khalistan Sikhs and placing internet ban in Punjab to blackout the information about the violent crackdown on the pro Khalistan Sikh.

The Federal Court summons issued in the case 23-cv-02578 "SFJ v. Bhagwant Mann, Banwarilal Purohit, and Gaurav Yadav" states that "within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure".

The Sikhs For Justice 27th March complaint filed before the Federal Judge of the Southern District of New York alleges that "this action is brought in the wake of ongoing severe and violent 'Siege of Punjab' in India where thousands of Sikh families have been illegally detained, subjected to custodial torture while the whole state of Punjab has been cut and isolated from the rest of the world with shut down of internet to blackout the information about ongoing human rights abuses and to carry on the persecution of the Sikh population with impunity on account of their subscription to socio-religious campaign - 'Khalsa Vaheer' - run by the 'Waris Punjab De' (WPD) under the leadership of Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh and for their support to the political opinion 'Khalistan Referendum'.

China makes welcome return to Arabian Travel Market, Middle East

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Chinese exhibitors and travel professionals are making a welcome return to Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023 which is being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) for its 30th edition from 1-4 May, for the first time in three years.

China lifted its covid-related travel restrictions on 8th January 2023, allowing Chinese tourists to travel abroad, without having to quarantine upon their return. Bookings for overseas travel during Chinese New Year, soared by 540% compared with the same period in 2022, according to data from the Chinese travel site Trip.com.

Furthermore, in a CNN report, Steve Saxon, a partner at McKinsey, based in Shenzhen, predicted the Chinese outbound market would recover to around six million per month by the summer of 2023, driven in part by the pent-up demand especially from young, affluent

Chinese.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market commented, "China became the world's top source market in 2019, with 155 million tourists spending more than \$250 billion overseas. However, its isolation from the global market over the past three years has set the industry back by an estimated \$840 billion, equivalent to 16% of the \$1.7 trillion spent annually on global tourism, according to UNWTO."

Dubai received almost one million Chinese visitors in 2019, which was an increase of over 15% compared with 2018. And while the 154,000 Chinese visitors Dubai welcomed over the first 11 months of 2022 was down 83% compared to the same period prior to 2020, it was up 115% year-on-year, which bodes well not only for Dubai, but also for the wider Middle East tourism sector.

Popular destinations such as Dubai, Saudi's AlUla, Egypt and

Jordan, which have consistently marketed to Chinese outbound business-to-consumer and business-to-business, should be in a strong position to benefit from the predicted rebound of Chinese visitor numbers.

"We have noticed a considerable amount of enquiries recently from travel professionals in China. Although we would not expect the same volume of Chinese exhibitors and visitors we received in 2019, we are confident of healthy participation numbers this year," she added.

Considering the short notice, ATM 2023 has already confirmed the participation of key Chinese exhibitors such as FLIGHTROUTES24 Travel, Shenzhen GoodLuck Trip International and Travel World China, with many more bookings anticipated ahead of the show.

ATM is also organising a dedicated conference session on its Global Stage, entitled 'China is back on the map: Macro and

micro impacts', in partnership with Dragon Trail International.

An expert panel of speakers including Sienna Parulis-Cook, Director, Marketing and Communications for Dragon Trail International, Peggy Li, CEO & Chief Troubleshooter at sps:affinity and Winnie Chiu, President, Dorsett Hospitality International, will discuss the latest trends that are driving the recovery of Chinese tourism to the Middle East.

Business travel will be integral to the tourism revival. According to a recent survey by the Shanghai Institute of International Studies and PwC China, over 75% of Chinese businesses polled were looking to enter or expand their presence in the Middle East over the next three to five years, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia top destinations for investors.

"I am convinced that the Middle East will experience a surge in Chinese tourism, reminiscent of the rebound we witnessed from Europe and



India in late 2021 and early 2022," said Curtis.

Other highlights at ATM 2023 include exploring the future of sustainable travel in line with its theme of 'Working Towards Net Zero'. Having officially initiated its journey to net zero, the conference programme will explore how innovative

sustainable travel trends will likely evolve. It will enable delegates to identify growth strategies within key vertical sectors while providing a platform for regional experts to explore a sustainable future ahead of COP28, which will take place in November 2023 at Expo City Dubai.

The conference will also feature a sustainability category at its annual exhibitor awards for the first time. Exhibiting organisations will be recognised based on the extent to which they have considered the environmental impact of their stands and their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,082.37	40,000.37
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,203.84	40,000.37
Index Value	Change
2,769,766,650	+82.00
Percentage	Time
+0.2%	28 Mar, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,484.25	+12.48
Percentage	Time
+0.17%	28 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
32,442.17	+10.09
Percentage	Time
+0.031%	28 Mar, 12:56 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,518.25	+41.38
Percentage	Time
+0.15%	28 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188	190.4
Bahrain Dinar	754.37	762.37
Canadian Dollar	206	208.2
China Yuan	41.44	41.84
Danish Krone	41.07	41.47
Euro	305.5	308.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.92	36.27
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.11
Kuwaiti Dinar	925.52	934.52
Malaysian Ringgit	62.85	63.45
New Zealand \$	175.57	177.57
Norwegians Krone	26.33	26.63
Omani Riyal	736.76	744.76
Qatari Riyal	77.92	78.62
Saudi Riyal	76	76.7
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	309.5	312
Thai Bhat	8.3	8.45
U.A.E Dirham	77.2	78
UK Pound Sterling	347.5	351
US Dollar	284.3	287.1

Govt failed to incorporate agreed measures in finance bill 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), has categorically apprised that the federal government has failed to incorporate the measures to encourage & incentivize IT exports & exports of IT-enabled Services (ITeS) in the Finance Bill 2023.

Muhammad Zohaib Khan highlighted the fact that P@SHA and Ministry of IT & Telecom (MoITT) reached an agreement with FBR to implement amendments for the IT & ITeS industry in the Income Tax Ordinance (ITO) 2001; Sales Tax Ordinance (STO) 2001 and Sales Tax Act (STA) 1990 through the upcoming legislative opportunity; i.e. Finance Bill 2023.

The understanding was reached with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to insert the aforementioned amendments at the earliest possible opportunity in January 2023 in P@SHA's detailed presentation & consultative session with him, P@SHA Chief added.

Chairman P@SHA Muhammad Zohaib Khan mentioned that "it is deeply disappointing to see that despite the seriousness shown by the PM and Finance Minister, the amendments are not reflected in the bill". While the industry is

making the effort to achieve the export target given by the PM, the same commitment is not reciprocated from the government institutions."

He added that we are not being able to grow YoY IT exports performance. This is all because of lack of continuity in economic policies; lack of coherence among government institutions and not-incentivizing the IT industry.

Last month FBR started issuing notices to the IT companies on super tax that too with very short deadlines. Similarly, SBP announced facility for the IT industry with a timeline till of March 31, 2023. P@SHA has reiterated time and again

that the timeline is counterproductive to the spirit and purpose of the facility - and, increasing IT exports of Pakistan through building a conducive digital ecosystem.

It must be stressed that while Pakistan grapples with economic crisis, IT & ITeS is the only industry which can potentially stabilize Pakistan's economy and bridge the current account deficit (CAD) & trade deficits. The industry also offers a tangible increase in investments through FDI & JVs. In an environment which lacks support and facilitation for business operations despite assurances by the highest authorities, the export remittances are only going to decrease, let alone being stable or posting growth.

P@SHA

Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITeS

Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan Marks its First Anniversary

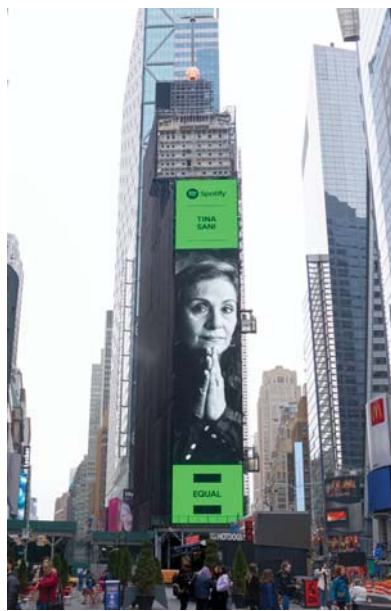
News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Marking its first anniversary, EQUAL Pakistan has honored the classical maestro, Tina Sani, as the Ambassador for the Month of March 2023. Celebrating a year of honoring both legendary and rising women musicians from the local space, EQUAL Pakistan has set a grand stage for artists and their astounding performances. Tina Sani has become the latest Pakistani idol to feature on a Spotify EQUAL's digital billboard at Times Square, NYC, with her mesmerizing track 'Dasht-e-Ianhai' being featured on Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan playlist.

On the occasion of EQUAL's first anniversary, Spotify is also launching a trend featuring the last twelve ambassadors, all of whom are inspirational personalities in their own rights, amplifying their voices further through an innovative digital campaign. The initiative brings together all of the previous women artists showcased by EQUAL Pakistan to emphasize the magnitude of power that the female segment holds once they are given the appropriate platform for it.

Since its launch in Pakistan, the EQUAL platform has transformed the conventional setting for women musicians in the country. According to the data revealed by Spotify on EQUAL Pakistan's 1 year Anniversary, within the first year of joining the program, EQUAL artists have received more than 2.2 million hours of editorial streams. On average, women artists featured by EQUAL have witnessed a 330% increase in streams over the past year. And, women artists receive about 68% more discoveries from being included on the EQUAL Pakistan playlist.

These numbers showcase the exponentially boosted reach that the music streaming service offers women artists access to



through its signature offering. Among the featured EQUAL Pakistan Ambassadors, Natasha Baig was the artist with the highest year-on-year increase in streams. Her listenership frequency increased by a staggering 430% over the year gone by. Natasha Humera Ejaz, who was featured as EQUAL Ambassador in February, 2023, was next on the list with a 274% increase in streams followed by Shae Gill, who saw her streams go up by 242%.

Tina Sani is a name synonymous with stunning ghazal 'gayaki' - the art of singing the ghazal in the Indian classical tradition. Trained in classical music by Ustad Nizamuddin Khan and the "Shahenshah-e-Ghazal" Mehdi Hassan himself, Tina has built such a profound presence that she has received not just the Pride of Performance

Award from the Government of Pakistan but also the Performance Recognition Award by the President of neighboring India in 2011.

Rutaba Yaqub, Spotify's Senior Editor for Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh further elaborated on the impact of EQUAL in Pakistan, stating; "Through increasing streams across 86 markets with various artists being added to 817 editorial playlists, the reach that women musicians are receiving through EQUAL is immense. In fact, their discoveries increase by 68% after being added to the program. The hidden gems of this country who would, until a few years ago remain relatively underappreciated, now have a platform to put their vocal prowess on display not just for local audiences but for a global listener base."

The amplification of women musicians through EQUAL was not limited to the artists selected as Ambassadors for the Month. Alycia Dias, for instance, a young and emerging playback singer saw her streams rise by an astounding 1084% since being added to the EQUAL Pakistan playlist. Shehar Gul Khan, the voice behind Bol Kaffara, was another artist who saw an exceptional 584% growth in streams since she was featured on the playlist. Nimra Gilani, and Yashal Shahid, both with 508% increase in streams were other notable additions on the list.

Pakistan, India, USA, UK and Canada were the top 5 nations where streams of EQUAL artists emerged, showcasing a global outreach for female musicians upholding the country's flag. With 93 EQUAL artists added to it, EQUAL Pakistan became the leading editorial playlist for this cohort of female musicians followed by Women of Pakistan which had 80 singers featured on it.

CEO FESCO issued more than thousands single phase meters for new connections

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: On the special directives of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Engr. Bashir Ahmad, General Manager Commercial and Customer Services (C&CS) Ghulam Farooq has issued more than 47 thousand single phase meters to all the five operation circles of FESCO region for installation of new electricity connections and replacement of damaged/burnt meters.

The Chief Executive has also issued orders to all the Superintending Engineers (SEs) for the speedy installation of these meters. Totally, more than 25,000 meters have been issued to all the five operation circles for new electricity connections, in which 5,209 meters have been issued to the first circle, 5,465 to the second circle, 4,341 to Jhang circle, 4,768 to Sargodha circle and 3,667



to Mianwali circle. Similarly, totally 24,000 meters have been issued for the replacement of damaged/burnt meters, in which 4486 meters have been issued to First Circle, 4349 meters to Second Circle, 5877 meters to Jhang Circle, 5790 meters to Sargodha Circle and 3498 meters to Mianwali Circle.

Due to non-availability of electricity meters, the connections of consumers were delayed, now with the arrival of new meters, the process of installation of connections and replacement of faulty meters will be accelerated.

ENGR. Qaiser Khan Promoted as Deputy Managing Director (P&E) NTDC



News Desk

LAHORE: The Board of Directors NTDC has promoted Engr. Qaiser Khan as Deputy Managing Director (Planning & Engineering) National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC). MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan handed over the promotion orders to Engr. Qaiser Khan who took over charge of the post, today.

Engr. Qaiser Khan completed his BSc and MSc in electrical engineering from University of Engineering & Technology, Peshawar.

He has extensive service experience of over 32 years in power sector, mainly in the field of Protection & Instrumentation (P&I) and has rendered services on different key posts including GM (HVDC) and GM (Design & Engineering).

Efficiency

LAHORE: A worker of WAPDA repairing an installed electric pole at outside Mayo Hospital, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

NdcTech modernizes the core banking platform for Samba Bank

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: NdcTech, a premium technology services firm transforming banks and financial institutions globally has successfully modernized the core banking system of Samba Bank onto the latest release of Temenos Transact.

Samba Bank Limited is a subsidiary of Saudi National Bank (SNB) KSA in Pakistan, offering personal and corporate banking services, including current and savings accounts, loans investments and a host of digital services. The bank serves a sizable customer base and has a branch network across 14 major cities in Pakistan.

Over the years, Samba Bank has

fostered a long-term partnership with NdcTech and Temenos to fulfill their vision of hyper-scaling the bank's presence through digitization rather than traditional channels. The bank needed to upgrade to a modern, flexible, and scalable core banking system that could support its business growth objectives.

Moving onto the latest release of Temenos Transact is a steppingstone for the bank to harmonize its IT infrastructure and speed up digitization. The flexible, modular, and scalable platform by Temenos is API driven making it capable to fulfil the complex needs of banks and financial institutions.

NdcTech' unique implementation methodology incorporating innova-

tive tools and techniques accelerated this transformation for the bank. The team successfully upgraded all modules for Samba bank including Core, Retail, Lending, Deposits, FCM, and Trade finance to the latest release of Temenos Transact. NdcTech combined the use of the latest version of Pakistan Model Bank to meet the local regulatory requirements, update tax changes, and modernize trade processes for the bank. NdcTech also incorporated Image-Based Cheque clearing system and low balance alert system for the bank to reap benefits of the modern functionalities for seamless banking operations.

On this occasion, Ahmad Tariq Azam, President & CEO (Acting),

Samba Bank Limited said: "We are pleased to announce that Samba Bank has successfully modernized its Core Banking Platform onto the latest release of Temenos Transact with NdcTech as the strategic partner. Working closely with NdcTech and Temenos over the years has enabled us to drive digital change and future proof the ongoing growth of Samba Bank. Samba Bank is now at the forefront of capability to deliver innovative and state of the art financial services to its customers and envisions to constantly innovate its processes and offerings to keep pace with the evolving digitization of banking industry."

Ammara Masood, CEO, NdcTech

said: "I would like to congratulate the Samba management and teams for their collaboration with us to modernize Core Banking and Financial Crime platform. NdcTech has been a trusted partner of Samba for almost a decade, and we take pride in consistently delivering value that has helped the bank achieve its digital vision and drive business growth. NdcTech has an established track record of successful upgrades delivered using our methodology, automated tools, and accelerators like Country Model Bank. We use implementation capabilities for building a future-ready bank, making us the ideal partner for banks and FIs like Samba Financial."

Pakistan has potential to revolutionize its online business with Chinese assistance: PCJCCI Chief

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan can bring a revolution in online business with the help of Chinese companies already working in the country, stated by Moazzam Ghurki, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce Industry (PCJCCI) during a think tank session held at PCJCCI Secretariat today.

President PCJCCI also said that those companies could also connect the Pakistani fintech industry with WeChat and Alipay. He said that WeChat has already revolutionized online business in China.



Fang Yulong, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that any Pakistani fintech company such as UBL Omni, Jazz Cash and EasyPaisa etc could be developed on the pattern of WeChat. "Currently, local fintech companies are moving in the opposite direction of international fintech firms. We need to coordinate and make it a unique and common platform, which is accessible to everyone. Pakistan has a good 4G system and it is also moving towards 5G. Pakistan should make its network capable of new technology."

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI added that we should engage the youth of Pakistan to develop human resources; we can also introduce training courses in collaboration with Chinese trainers for technological transfer.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI said that this is the best time to improve the skills of people. People have already the latest mobile phones, local machines and latest equipment so they just need to improve their skills.

Afridi praises Shadab, wishes him more success

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani Skipper, Shahid Afridi, was all praise for all-rounder Shadab Khan who broke his record of becoming the leading wicket-taker for Pakistan in T20 Internationals and wished him more success in the future to come.

Shadab Khan sent Ibrahim Zadran to the pavilion in the third T20I against Afghanistan making his 99th wicket in T20Is, and exceeding Shahid Afridi's record of 98 wickets.

"Mubarak @76Shadabkhan aap ne mera record tor dia. You have been a great performer for Pakistan and I wish you more success. Good win for Pakistan last night, glad that Saim and Ihsanullah showed their talent. We need to continue to back our young-



sters," Afridi tweeted on Shahdab's achievement.

Shadab Khan, who was named Skipper in the series against Afghanistan, has also become the first Pakistan bowler to take 100 wickets in T20Is. Meanwhile, Saeed Ajmal and Umar Gul were next in line with 85 wickets, followed by Haris Rauf in the list with 72 wickets.

Pakistan won the last T20I against Afghanistan but lost the three-match series by 2-1. It may be mentioned that Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Fakhar Zaman and Haris Rauf were rested from Pakistan's squad in the series against Afghanistan in Sharjah.

While Imad Wasim was recalled in the squad, and star PSL 2023 performers Saim Ayub and Ihsanullah received call-ups to the national team for the first time.

Wahab Riaz and Tariq Qureshi visited cricket stadiums of Gaushala

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi visited cricket stadiums of Gaushala and Karol Ghati on Tuesday.

Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Tariq Khanzada, District Sports Officer Tanveer Shah and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi inspected pitches, pavilions and different parts of both cricket grounds during their visits.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi gave a detailed briefing and informed that Karol Ghati and Gaushala cricket grounds are equipped with all facilities and these



venues can play a key role in the promotion of sports passion among the younger generation.

Talking on this occasion, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz directed the officials concerned that no effort should be spared in providing modern sports facilities to the players. "Without modern facilities, the dream of development of sports cannot be fulfilled. Provision of modern facilities will play a significant role in tracing fresh talent-

ed players," he added.

He said that these sports facilities will help Pakistan in producing several world class sports stars and athletes in future. "Our country has plenty of potential in every field including sports. It just needs proper grooming and international level facilities and training and Sports Board Punjab is doing exactly the same thing to make the future of Pakistan sports bright," he further said.

Earlier, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab

Riaz accompanied by Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi inspected different sports venues and facilities at Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi gave a thorough briefing to Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz about multiple features and details of valuable sports facilities in Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz was quite impressed with modern sports venues and facilities built in Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, on this occasion, said that Sports Board Punjab is providing best facilities to the players to express their abilities. "The cricket academy is playing an important role in grooming new cricket talent," he said.

IPL must wait as Proteas name full-strength squad against Netherlands



Sports Desk

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa on Monday named a full-strength squad for two must-win one-day internationals against the Netherlands on Friday and Sunday.

The matches in Benoni and Johannesburg are South Africa's last games in the World Cup Super League - and they must win both if they are to stay in contention to qualify automatically for the Cricket World Cup in India in October and November.

Coach Rob Walter said, "We have named our strongest possible squad given the importance of these matches in the context of qualifying for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. We have a job to do and I am confident that with this group of players we can get the job done."

Netherlands would not normally be expected to provide stiff competition for South Africa - but they beat the Proteas in the T20 World Cup in Australia last November, ending South Africa's hopes of playing in the semi-finals.

Only eight teams qualify automatically. South Africa are currently in ninth place.

Two wins would put them in a strong position, ahead of West Indies and with Sri Lanka unable to catch them unless they win both their remaining matches in a current series against New Zealand - and South Africa suffer a penalty for slow over rates.

If Ireland win all three matches in a series against Bangladesh in May they could finish level on points with South Africa if South Africa win both matches against the Netherlands.

Cricket South Africa insisted that players contracted to the Indian Premier League, including fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje, must put their country first. This will mean them missing the start of the IPL on Friday.

Squad: Temba Bavuma (capt), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Sisanda Magala, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen.

Christchurch washout hits Sri Lanka World Cup hopes

Sports Desk

CHRISTCHURCH: Sri Lanka's hopes of securing automatic qualification for the World Cup took a major blow on Tuesday when heavy rain and gusting winds forced the second one-day international against New Zealand to be abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Steady rain meant the covers stayed on all day at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch, with organisers calling the match off at 1630 local time (0330 GMT) with more showers forecast.

As a result the two teams split the points which further damages Sri Lanka's designs on a place in the top eight of the Super League, who automatically qualify for the World Cup in India in October and November.

Having also lost the first ODI in the three-match series, Sri Lanka are now ninth in the table with 82 points, six points behind West Indies.

To make the top eight, Sri Lanka must win the third ODI against New Zealand in three days' time and pray that South Africa lose at least once



in their upcoming series against the Netherlands, and that Ireland fail to beat Bangladesh 3-0 when they meet in May.

The teams missing out on the top eight will go into a repechage 10-team tournament in Zimbabwe in June and July from which the final two teams will emerge.

New Zealand have already qualified for the World Cup and are now guaranteed to finish as Super League table-toppers even if they lose the third ODI in Hamilton on Friday.

Sri Lanka has lost all three tour games played so far in New Zealand, including a 2-0 whitewash in the Test series.

Pakistan might play World Cup matches on neutral venue: Wasim Khan

By A Sports -

SHARJAH: The General Manager of Cricket for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Wasim Khan asserted that Pakistan may play their matches of the upcoming ODI World Cup at a neutral venue.

The upcoming edition of the Asia Cup and Pakistan's participation in the Men's ODI World Cup has been in jeopardy after the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) refused to tour Pakistan for the aforementioned tournament on political grounds.

The BCCI maintained their stance of not touring Pakistan for the Asia Cup, while the PCB was adamant that if they do not,

then Pakistan might not travel to India for the World Cup in October-November.

In the latest development, however, reported by ESPN Cricinfo, PCB and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are gradually moving towards a compromise after an initial standoff over the hosting of the Asian event.

The news reports claimed that two boards have nearly agreed to host India matches outside Pakistan while the rest of the matches will be played in the country.

Meanwhile, former CEO of the PCB Wasim shared his prediction regarding how this deadlock will unfold in an exclusive interview with



ARY News on the sidelines of the recently-concluded T20I series between Pakistan and Afghanistan here and claimed that Pakistan might also play their world cup matches on a



neutral venue. "I don't know if it would take place here on in a different country but a neutral venue is highly likely," responded Wasim in a question regarding the like-

ly neutral venue for India's Asia Cup fixtures.

"I don't think that Pakistan will play their matches in India. I think their matches will also be held at a neutral venue just like India's Asia Cup matches," Wasim concluded.

It may be noted here that the uncertainty around the 2023 Asia Cup began in October last year when the ACC president, and BCCI secretary, Jay Shah refused to send the Indian team to Pakistan and has since been trying to shift the tournament to a neutral venue.

An emergency meeting of the Asian Cricket Council was held in this regard in Bahrain last month but failed to reach a breakthrough.

Naya Nazimabad Bankers Cup Ramadan Cricket Tournament

AYA NAZIMABAD BANKERS CUP 20



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Kent Warriors and AZ Real Estate Islamabad teams have qualified for the quarter finals in the Naya Nazimabad Bankers Cup Ramadan Cricket Tournament. Two more matches were decided in the event.

Umar Associates outclassed Attock Sports by ninety-three runs at Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana. Umar Associates, batting first, scored 168 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the allotted overs. Imad Alam played a brilliant innings of eighty-three runs off sixty balls. Khan Muhammad Nafee and Danish Aziz stood out for twenty-four runs. Nader Shah dismissed four players and Shahid Mirani dismissed two players. In response, the Attock Sports team was bowled out for just seventy-five runs in the sixteenth over. Fawad Alam was the top scorer by scoring twenty five runs. Hassan Khan took three wickets while Muhammad Asghar and Ghulam Mudassar took two wickets each.

In the second match, the team of AZ Real Estate Islamabad defeated Humanity Door Foundation by eighty-four runs in a one-sided match. Batting first, AZ Real Estate Islamabad scored 166 runs for the loss of six wickets. Ali Imam Zaidi scored 46 runs and Owais Zia scored 37 runs. Zakir Malik took two wickets. In pursuit of the target, the team of Humanity Door Foundation piled up for eighty-two runs. Zubair Dilawar scored thirty five runs. Abdullah Amin dismissed four players while Mohammad Azan and Farmanullah dismissed two players each.

The last two matches of the league will be played today in the tournament. In the first match, Passion Cricket Club will face Rehman Healthcare at 7:30 PM. Omar Associates and Hella Dos teams will compete at 11:15 PM.

Hasan Ali upbeat to join Warwickshire for County Championship 2023



By A Sports -

KARACHI: Pakistan's experienced right-arm pacer Hasan Ali's "excitement on top" to join Warwickshire for the upcoming season of the County Cricket Championship.

The Warwickshire Cricket County Club on Tuesday announced that Hasan will be joining them on April 1 to partake in this year's edition.

"Want some good news? Hasan Ali arrives on Saturday," Warwickshire wrote on Twitter.

Hasan quoted the tweet and expressed his excitement, stating, "Excitement on top."

Notably, Hasan's contract with Warwickshire means that the right-arm pacer will feature in both T20 Blast and the County Championship until the end of July.

In the previous edition, Hasan represented Lancashire for the first six matches.

Shadab Khan receives UAE Golden Visa



Sports Desk

DUBAI: All-rounder Shadab Khan, who captained Pakistan's fresh-look side in the recently-concluded T20I series against Afghanistan in Sharjah, received United Arab Emirates (UAE) Golden Visa on Tuesday.

Taking to Instagram, Shadab shared the news of receiving the UAE Golden Visa.

"Outside Pakistan, the most time I have spent is in the UAE. It always feels at home. Honored to have received the Golden Visa," he wrote.

Shadab, who has been Pakistan's T20I vice-captain for the last two years, took the leadership role in the absence of Babar Azam amid the recently-concluded T20I series against Afghanistan.

The all-rounder, however, failed to draw the desired results from the series as Pakistan lost with Afghanistan dominating the first two matches.

Pakistan, however, recovered from the first two defeats and came back roaring in the third and final fixture of the series as an all-round performance powered them to thump Afghanistan by 66 runs in avoid the whitewash.

Shadab played a pivotal role in his side's consolation triumph as he played a crucial 28-run knock before following it up with magnificent bowling figures of 3/13.

With his second scalp, Shadab also became the first Pakistan bowler to take 100 wickets in Men's T20Is while seasoned all-rounder Nida Dar was the first to achieve the landmark in Women's T20Is.