

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
حضرت عائشہ فرماتی ہیں کہ: ایک شخص نبی کریم ﷺ کی خدمت میں حاضر ہوا اس کے ساتھ ایک بوڑھے بزرگ بھی تھے، آپ ﷺ نے اس سے پوچھا کہ تمہارے ساتھ ان کا کیا مشورہ ہے؟ اس نے کہا میرے والد ہیں، آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا: بہت خوب، لیکن برنوردار! ادیب کا تقاضا ہے کہ قرآن سے آگے آگے نہ چلو، جیسے میں ان سے پہلے نہ کروں اور ان کو ان کے سامنے پچھڑا کر دوں اور کوئی ایسا کام نہ کرو جس سے لوگ تمہیں کالی دیکھیں۔
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

President eyes 'crises resolution role' in current situation

President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed that he had always played a role for the resolution of national issues and was now ready to make such efforts with a 'crises resolution role' in the current situation. In an interview with Geo News, the president, to a query regarding approval of the judicial reforms bill, replied that it could have been tabled in the Parliament.....(Details on Page 8)



Saudi-Iran relations to usher in new era of peace, prosperity in region: Dr. Qibla

Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Dr. Qibla Ayaz on Wednesday said that the recent diplomatic development in Saudi Arabia and Iran relations would usher in a new era of peace and prosperity in the region. In an exclusive talk with APP, he said it was a good omen that both the brotherly countries had resumed their diplomatic relations and agreed to reopen their embassies after a seven-year of estrangement. (Details on Page 8)

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MQM delegations call on PM

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM Pakistan comprising Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Federal Minister for IT, Syed Amin ul Haque calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM hails removal of Pakistan from EU's High Risk Countries list

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday hailed the removal of Pakistan from the European Union's list of "High-Risk Third Countries", saying it would facilitate the country's businesses, individuals and entities.

"De-listing of Pakistan from EU's updated list of high-risk third-countries is a major development which would facilitate our businesses, individuals and entities," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister said it was a reflection of the government's unwavering resolve to further strengthen anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing regime.

The European Union (EU) authorities removed Pakistan from the list of 'High-Risk Third Countries' that had



strategic deficiencies in the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime and posed a serious threat to their financial system.

According to the Delegated Regulation, following the measures implemented to address the action plans agreed with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Nicaragua, Pakistan and Zimbabwe remedied the strategic deficiencies in their respective AML/CFT regimes and no longer pose a significant AML/CFT threat to the international financial system.

Imran Khan responsible for economic crisis, wave of terrorism: Bilawal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday slammed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan for his policies and said he was responsible for current economic crises and wave of terrorism in the country.

Speaking in the National Assembly he said, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and his team were responsible for the prevailing economic crisis.

He said it was unfortunate that the terrorism eliminated due to sacrifices of the Pakistan army, police and common masses had been revived by Imran Khan.

He said Imran Khan had brought back thousands of terrorists and extremists living in Afghanistan and settled them in the merged tribal areas.

The foreign minister said that the people of the merged areas of erstwhile FATA had given unmatched sacrifices for eliminating terrorism and restoration



of peace across the country.

He said that non-political actors were responsible for bringing Imran Khan into power.

He said that democracy in the country had been restored by the sacrifices of the political workers and their leadership.

Bilawal Bhutto said that keeping in view the interest of the country and for the strengthen-

ing of democracy, two main political parties had signed the Charter of Democracy (CoD).

After this, he said, the country was moving to progress, prosperity and development.

He said that the constitution of 1973 was restored to its original shape and the 18th amendment approved with consensus to bring harmony in the provinces.

He said that after the signing of the 18th amendment, National Finance Commission (NFC) had been given to provinces and gave the identification to people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that non-political forces started hybrid war against the political forces after the signing of the CoD.

He said that through media

character assassination of the political leadership was started by the non-political forces.

The foreign minister said that Imran Khan's government was changed through constitutional ways.

He asked the Prime Minister to take action and file the cases against the person who had violated the constitution and law of the land.

Bilawal said that the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 was introduced to strengthen the judicial system in the country.

He suggested the name of the bill to be made 'justices of empower legislation'.

He said that this legislation was part of the PPP manifesto. He was of the view that today's legislation would be remembered in the history of the country.

The foreign minister said that consultation and negotiation among the political parties was necessary to bring the country out from the crises.

Parliament not usurping powers of SC: Kh Asif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday said the Parliament was not usurping the powers of the Supreme Court but rather this house had been legislating as per its constitutional right.

Participating in the debate on the legislative proposal related to judicial reforms, the defence minister said a bill resembling Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 was drafted 15 years ago but it was resisted by a bench of the apex court.

Khawaja Asif said the Bill was not adding any parliamentarians but included judges from the Supreme Court. "We are diluting the powers of one individual and dividing it among three judges that need to be understood," he added.

The Minister noted that the Parliament was making this process transparent and taking the initiative empowered by the constitution. "We are the architect of the constitution and all other institutions are extensions of it."

Khawaja Asif said the law relating to the disqualification of former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gillani should be also



reviewed. He said that ex-Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was disqualified while words of the Sicilian mafia were used without any right to appeal.

He underlined that the constitution gave us the right to amend laws and the public mandate gave us this power, adding, this House had the mandate of the people who are the center of power.

The Minister emphasized that the tone of the House should not be apologetic as all requirements were fulfilled for this legislation. "Our actions are being scrutinized by the judiciary. They had the right to do so but cannot enact legislation," he maintained.

The Minister said the Parliament was not trespassing on any other's rights, adding, "We are giving the right to appeal. The institution of the judiciary should have some democracy in it. The law is nourishing now after this process."

Imran Khan's non-bailable arrest warrant issued in judge threatening case

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court has issued a non-bailable arrest warrant of PTI chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan in female judge threatening case.

As per details, the Judicial Magistrate Malik Aman heard Khan's exemption plea in the judge threatening case and announced the reserved verdict.

The court rejected PTI chief Imran Khan's exemption plea and ordered him to appear before the court in female judge threatening case on April 18. Earlier, a local court in Islamabad suspended Imran's non-bailable arrest warrants in the female judge threatening case till March 20.

Elections held even during 20 years of terrorism in country: CJP Bandial

ABC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday resumed hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) petition against delay in general elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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 plea.

Ahead of the hearing, the SC Registrar's Office accepted the separate pleas of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) to become parties in the case.

Today's hearing

As the proceedings commenced, PPP lawyer Farooq H. Naek requested the court to become respondent in the case.

"You want to present your stance ... is your application on behalf of the

PDM (Pakistan Democratic Movement)" the CJP asked. Naek replied that PPP was not a part of the PDM.

"The court will first hear arguments from ECP's lawyer," Justice Bandial then said.

During the hearing, Justice Mandokhail stated the verdict of the four judges in the suo motu case was the 'order of the court' to date," he said.

"If an order has not been issued, how can the president give a date for elections? How can the ECP issue the election schedule?" he asked.

At this, the CJP noted that Justice Mandokhail had given his explanation.

At one point, Naek demanded that a full court bench be constituted to hear the case.

To which, Justice Mandokhail said, "Why full court? The same seven-member bench should hear the case."

Akhtar asked the ECP lawyer Sajel Swati whether it was mentioned in the March 1 order that it was a 4-3 verdict.

Justice Akhtar further stated that five judges had heard the case in open court and signed the decision.

At this, Justice Mandokhail said the dissenting note clearly stated that justices Yahya Afridi and Athar Minallah agreed with the decision.

Moreover, the ECP's lawyer informed the top court that it would take six months to complete operations in Punjab's kacha.

At this, CJP Bandial remarked that the issue of terrorism was genuine but the elections had been conducted in the country despite this issue being present for the last 20 years.

"Polls had been conducted when sectarianism and terrorism was at its peak in 90s decade," he added.

CJP seeks assurance from PTI, government

At one point, the ECP lawyer told the apex court that the commission

IMF rejects Pakistan's initial proposal on fuel subsidy

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rejected Pakistan's initial proposal for subsidy on petroleum.

"The lending institution has demanded the complete plan of the petroleum subsidy from the government," sources said.

"The IMF has demanded a comprehensive plan of per litre 50 rupees subsidy on petroleum," sources said.

The govt had proposed subsidy on fuel for motorcycles and small 800 CC vehicle owners," according to sources.

NA passes judicial reforms bill to clip CJP's suo motu powers

ABC

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Wednesday approved the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The bill was presented by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar.

Earlier, the National Assembly's standing committee for law and justice on Wednesday approved the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 with an amendment.

Law Minister said that Article 184 was exercised unrestrained. The suo motu powers were used by Ifthikhar Chaudhry without constraints, while Saqib Nisar crossed the limits.

"Earlier, there was not right to appeal in suo motu, which is against the fundamental rights and Sharia," Tarar said. "A bench will be comprised of at least five judges in cases of legal

and constitutional matters," law minister said. "The lawyer could now be changed in suo motu cases, which was not allowed earlier," he further said.

The bill

Under the new legislation, the decision for suo motu notice will be taken by three senior judges of the SC.

Moreover, the bill also includes a clause regarding the right to appeal against the decision, which could be filed within 30 days and will then be fixed for a hearing in two weeks' time.

It added that the party will be allowed to change its lawyer in a suo motu case. Under Article 184, the matter will be presented before a judges committee. The committee will review the case and later it will form a five-member committee for any kind of constitutional interpretation.

The act will be taken into effect on all verdict of the high courts and the Supreme Court (SC).

Dua

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Senators offering Fateha on the sad demise of the mother of Secretary General (IPC), Former Senator Sitara Ayaz at her residence on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

President eyes 'crises resolution role' in current situation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed that he had always played a role for the resolution of national issues and was now ready to make such efforts with a 'crises resolution role' in the current situation.

In an interview with Geo News, the president, to a query regarding approval of the judicial reforms bill, replied that it could have been tabled in the Parliament at an appropriate time, considering the ongoing situation.

He said he had heard different analysis, opinions and discussions related to the judicial reforms and opined that it might be addressed after taking the judiciary into confidence as well.

Responding to another question, he said he would take the right decision over the said bill after receiving the final document.

The president observed that the use of force could give rise to issues and in democratic countries, issues were being addressed through the development of consensus.

He said the pressure on institutions led to cracks and



stressed that the Constitution should not be disfigured.

The president regretted that in the past, the 1973 Constitution was wrapped after four years of its enforcement.

He observed that in the current situation, division of thinking was apparent whether it was within the political parties, parliament or judiciary and underlined that they all should strive to save Pakistan and the Constitution.

Regarding a question about the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to set a new date for polls in Punjab, the president said the Supreme Court was seized of the issue and it would decide it.

But after listening and reading media reports, he wondered if the holding of the election depended upon the issues. The nation wanted a responsible outcome, he added.

The president, to a query, replied that if polls were not held within 90 days, the institutions concerned should accept the responsibility for the delay.

In the tussle between the democratic forces, there might be opportunities for the democratic forces, he added.

About the prime minister's letter in response to his earlier letter, the president maintained that due to the respon-

sibility of his office, he could not remain 'deaf and dumb' regarding the recent human rights incidents as highlighted by the media.

He said during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, he had talked to the then minister for human rights over such issues as he could not ignore them.

He agreed that the rights issue during 2021 was not good and it grew in the succeeding year.

The president to another question said the difference of opinion in the judiciary was possible as witnessed in the United States and the United Kingdom, but he stressed, personality-based differences were not good.

Talking about his audio leak, he trashed it as irrelevant and said he had been advocating for respecting people's privacy and encroaching on individuals' privacy as unethical, immoral and illegal as it fell into 'Gheebat'.

The president said the polarization in society was too dangerous and he wanted to reduce it.

Referring to his past role in diffusing political tensions, the president said he could not

succeed in his efforts.

President Alvi said the present chief of army staff's statement regarding the military's role provided a window for the politicians to work collectively for the democratic system.

Expressing his concerns, the president said the federal and provincial governments could not announce awards for any individual under relevant constitutional provisions, as it was a prerogative of the president.

He said he had raised the issue during the PTI's tenure.

Citing the unanimous adoption of the 1973 Constitution, the president said it reflected the 'brilliance of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto'.

To a comment, he agreed that the disqualification of politicians or political parties was no solution to the issues.

He said he always credited former president Asif Ali Zardari for raising the slogan of 'Pakistan Khappay' after the assassination of Benazir Bhutto as nothing could save the country from another serious crisis at that time.

He further observed that the lives of all politicians were precious and they should be provided protection.

FO welcomes EU's decision to remove Pakistan from high-risk list

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office spokesperson on Wednesday said that they welcomed the decision by the European Union to remove Pakistan from the list of high-risk countries, thus recognizing Pakistan's performance in overcoming technical issues in its anti-money laundering /countering financing of terrorism.

This followed UK's decision to remove Pakistan from a similar list

in November 2022, the spokesperson said in a press release.

"The removal from the list will ease financial transactions between entities of Pakistan and the European Union. Pakistan looks forward to building on this development for mutually beneficial economic cooperation with the European Union and sharing its experience in the up-gradation of AML/CFT regimes with partner countries," it was further added.

Justice Musarrat Hilali to become first female CJ of PHC on Apr 1



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Justice Musarrat Hilali would become the first female Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on April 1 after the retirement of current Chief Justice Qaiser Rasheed.

She would be the second female who would become CJ of a high court after Justice Tahira Saifdar, the CJ of Balochistan High Court.

Justice Musarrat Hilali was among the senior-most judges of PHC and would serve as CJ till her retirement.

Born in Peshawar on August 08, 1961, she received Law Degree

from Khyber Law College Peshawar University and enrolled as an Advocate of District Courts in 1983, as an Advocate of the High Court in 1988 and as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2006.

Being a female she had several achievements in her career including being the first female elected office bear on the post of Secretary at the bar from 1988-1989, vice president at the bar (twice) from 1992 to 1994, General Secretary 1997-1998, first female twice elected as an executive member of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) from 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

APHC urges UN, Int'l Criminal Court to prosecute India for committing war crimes in IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, has urged the United Nations and International Criminal Court to prosecute India for war crimes, in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Shabbir Ahmad Shah in a message from New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail drew the attention of the international community to ruthless killings, arbitrary arrests, fake encounters and eviction of local people from their houses and demolition of their properties in the territory.

IIOJK's Grand Mufti Nasir-ud-Islam in a statement issued after a meeting of the religious scholars in Srinagar, today, called for the release of senior APHC leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Maulana Abdur Rashid Dawoodi, and other religious scholars.



Meanwhile, Indian paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force and police provided special weapon training to more than 300 terrorists raised in the name of Village Defence Guards by the Modi regime across Jammu region in the last few weeks.

In Geneva, Zaffar Qureshi, Chairman of Kashmir Campaign Global, addressing the 52nd session of UN Human Rights Council said people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir urgently need the attention of the World Body to attain their basic right to self-determination.

Canadian political party urges Trudeau to boycott G20 events in Kashmir, Chandigarh

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The New Democratic Party (NDP) of Canada has called on the Canadian government to boycott the G20 events in Kashmir and Chandigarh, Punjab, and ban Bharatiya Janata Party leaders and officials from traveling to Canada for abusing minorities and hurling threats against Canadian lawmakers.

The demand was supported by the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO), according to media reports.

Boycott G20 Events in Kashmir, Chandigarh



The NDP leader Jagmeet Singh posted a message on his Instagram profile calling for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberal government to boycott G20 summit in Kashmir and Chandigarh.

He also called for safety of Cana-

dian nationals in and outside Canada in view of the BJP threats.

The NDP's demand for boycott of the G20 summit has been supported by the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO).

In light of ongoing human rights abuses against minorities in India and threats to elected representatives in Canada, WSO's letter written by its President Tejinder Singh Sidhu, said, "...since 2014, under the BJP government, India has seen a shocking rise in the number of attacks on minority communities,

including Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Dalits and others."

The letter adds: "Journalists in India have faced increasing pressure to self-censor due to the threat of legal action, smear campaigns and threats on social media, and even threats of physical attacks. Human rights groups have repeatedly drawn attention to the continually deteriorating human rights situation in India including groups like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, which has been forced to halt its operations in India."

Hardcore terrorist arrested from Charsadda



News Desk

PESHAWAR: The police in Sardheri area of Charsadda district on Wednesday foiled a terror bid by arresting a terrorist and recovering explosives from his possession, said DSP Sardheri, Sanobar Khan.

The arrested terrorist was identified as Sher Ghani alias Ibrahim, Olaswal, son of Ghani Gul is a resident of Shama Korona, Nisatta district Charsadda. The terrorist belonged to the banned outfit Tehrik e Taliban

Pakistan (TTP).

DSP Sardheri, Sanobar Khan said the terrorist was hiding near the Azizabad Post to damage the government property. The accused was wanted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Mardan in various cases.

The DSP further informed that two hand-grenades, a rocket launcher and 60 feet prima cord were also recovered from the terrorist. He added that the terrorist has been shifted to the police station for further interrogation.

Azhar Mashwani disappearance:

PTI announces nationwide protest



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has announced nationwide protests against the disappearance of the Focal Person on Digital Media to PTI chief Imran Khan.

The PTI spokesperson said in a statement that nationwide protests will be staged against the disappearance of PTI social media activist Azhar Mashwani. The protests will be organised at 3: 00 pm on Friday across the country.

It is important to mention here that Mashwani went missing on March 23,

whereas, his wife wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial to take notice. In her letter, Mashwani's wife demanded the SC's human rights cell take notice of the activist's disappearance. It stated that the activist was missing for five days after he came out of Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence last Friday.

The former PM and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan also condemned the 'abduction' of the party's social media head Azhar Mashwani, castigating Islamabad and Punjab police for 'breaking all the laws with impunity'.

Saudi-Iran relations to usher in new era of peace, prosperity in region: Dr. Qibla

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Dr. Qibla Ayaz on Wednesday said that the recent diplomatic development in Saudi Arabia and Iran relations would usher in a new era of peace and prosperity in the region.

In an exclusive talk with APP, he said it was a good omen that both the brotherly countries had resumed their diplomatic relations and agreed to reopen their embassies after a seven-year of estrangement.

Dr. Qibla appreciated the unwavering efforts of Chinese President Xi Jinping's in bridging the gap and building an enabling environment for brokering a rapprochement deal between Riyadh and Tehran.

He said that this positive move was warmly welcomed by the entire Muslim Ummah at every nook and cranny of the world including Pakistan as it would help unite and strengthen



Muslim countries and, resolve issues of common interests with mutual understanding in near future.

He said that the fraternal ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran would also help normalize the circumstances in Yemen and at the later stage in Syria.

"Both the brotherly countries were in dire need of ceasing the hostilities and healing the wounds," he said expressing the hope that the recent diplomatic development in Saudi-Iran relations would have positive impact on Pakistan as well and Pakistani break-up of the society along with ethnic lines would definitely become better.

Punjab government must provide flour to poor people: Mohsin Naqvi

Asim Tanveer

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi made a surprise visit to flour distribution centers in Dera Ghazi Khan

Monitored free flour supply program, Mohsin Naqvi made a surprise visit to the free flour distribution centers established at Government Post Graduate College of Commerce and Ramadal Bazar. Mohsin Naqvi listened to the complaints of men and women at the centers and gave instructions to improve the arrangements. Mohsin Naqvi's expression of indignation at the decrease in center facilities and arrangements in terms of the number of men and women.

Action by Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on rush and disorder at centers, order to immediately change Deputy Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan.



Mohsin Naqvi's order to increase the facilities and arrangements at the centers according to the number of citizens. Mohsin Naqvi distributed flour among women and men under his supervision. Mohsin Naqvi appealed

to the women to form a queue. Flour will be provided to all men and women at the centers.

Mohsin Naqvi also reviewed the flour distribution process and asked the citizens about the facilities at the centers.

The women explained to Mohsin Naqvi the problems regarding taking center zipper dough. Mohsin Naqvi noted the problems and gave instructions to the concerned authorities for their immediate solution. Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the arrangements made for the distribution of flour at the centers. Mohsin Naqvi also checked the quality and weight of flour. Supply of flour is being further improved. Mohsin Naqvi's conversation with the media centers will address the identified issues. Mohsin Naqvi

10.10 lakhs will be given to the families of those whose loved ones died due to the stampede. Mohsin Naqvi Crops and crops were damaged due to floods, we are ordering fruits from Iran. Mohsin Naqvi Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan, RPO Dera Ghazi Khan and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Multan clean program continues

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir's order for special cleaning in inner city areas. Waste Management Company's early morning scraping and cleaning in Different Union Councils. Multan Cleaning crews cleaned the piles of garbage in the narrow streets using hand trucks and washed the mosques and taraweeh places in the inner city and sprinkled lime.

Chief Executive Officer Waste Management Multan Shahid Yaqub inspected the staff through online attendance system. All urban union councils will be cleaned once in the month of Ramazan. The company won a prominent position across Punjab in the Safai Nisf Iman campaign. By Eid-ul-Fitr, large piles of garbage and dirt depots will be cleared from all over the city. Shahid Yaqub.

Caretaker minister reviews arrangements for free flour scheme in Faisalabad

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Caretaker Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce / In-charge of Free Flour Scheme Faisalabad Division SM Tanveer visited Faisalabad and reviewed the arrangements and procedures for distributing flour to beneficiaries by visiting various flour points. The Commissioner Ms. Silwat Saeed, RPO Dr. Abid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamar, CPO Ali Nasir Rizvi, Additional Commissioner Coordination Musawar Khan Niazi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Kashif Raza Awan and other officers were also present on this occasion.



The caretaker provincial minister expressed his satisfaction over the seating arrangements for men and women at the Free Flour Center at Iqbal Stadium, Hockey Stadium, Kaleem Shaheed Colony and Model Bazar Jhang road and the scanning of the National Identity Card of registered people of Benazir Income Support Program the counters and after checking the eligibility, he checked the complete process of distribution three bags of flour step by step.

He said that thanks to the revolutionary initiative of caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, 100 million people of the province will benefit from the free flour scheme of Punjab and for the first time in the history of Punjab, a big Ramazan relief package of 53 billion rupees has been given to deserving family. He said that no deserving person will be deprived of the facility of free flour scheme while the provincial government has included all the citizens above 18 years of age in the free flour scheme. He said that having CNIC men and women can get a bag of 10 kg flour free will be necessary to show the identity card to obtain free flour. The provincial minister also discussed the problems with the men and women on the occasion and found them satisfied regarding the availability of flour.

Pakistan is surrounded by internal and external conspiracies: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

GUJRANWALA: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan is surrounded by internal and external conspiracies, the fabric of conspiracies is connected with local and international forces, the entire system of the country has been disrupted. The talk of the end of each other's existence in politics is very sad, in every

country of the world there are problems, some forces play a role in fixing it, here they are playing their role in all the problems, in a world where revenge is in politics. All the elements were harmed, this war is a personal war, the interests of the country should be established, it does not appear from the actions of any one party that they are talking about the interests of Pakistan, all the institutions. Individuals have become weak, the judiciary, politics, parliament are weak and the establishment is in a defensive position, the overall situation of Pakistan affects Azad Kashmir, they should step back from their position and make peace for the country, all the forces and Stakeholders should reconsider their position. He expressed these views in Gujranwala prominent Kashmiri Leader Gujranwala Bar Association Member Former Nazim People's Colony Waheed ul Haq Hashmi younger brother of Advocate Naveed Haque Hashmi while talking to the media after condolence at his residence.

Stampede in Multan Due to Poor Arrangement

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Rescue Control Room received a panic call during the free flour distribution center near Jamia-ul-Uloom near Madani Chowk. According to the caller, more than three people were injured due to the stampede.

The Rescue Command Control immediately alerted the motorbike staff present at the spot and dispatched more rescue ambulances, motorbikes from the nearest station. The Rescue 1122 personnel immediately started providing emergency medical care to the patients. According to the rescue personnel, so far more than 10 patients have been given first aid on the spot and two patients are being shifted to Nishtar Hospital after immediate medical aid. Rescue 1122 Multan reported the incident to the police on 15 Minutes.

Lassi

RAWALPINDI: A vender wearing traditional dress making the "Lassi" for customers at his shop in famous Kartar Pura food street during Sehri time in the holy month of Ramazan in the City.



Photo: Online

PTI workers great struggle and efforts for democracy. Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that under the leadership of Imran Khan, Tehreek-e-Insaf is struggling to save the country. We pay tribute to the workers who endured the hardships of imprisonment for the sake of the party in this struggle. Tehreek-e-Insaf is the only party whose workers are ideologically bound to one ideology. Bhutto's ideology has been buried by Zardari. PPP and PML-N, the two ruling parties in the country for a long time, have become regional parties. PPP-N-League is doing politics of interests and personalities. They have no roots in the people. Thanks to the corruption of the leadership of both the parties, the people have hated them.

Tehreek-e-Insaf is the only party which has a federal unit and whose roots are spread in every corner of the country.

Tehreek-e-Insaf workers are the capital of the party. Workers who sacrificed for the party will be remembered. Jails, arrests, violence, obstacles cannot keep workers away from Imran Khan. We were with Imran Khan yesterday and we are still with Imran Khan today. And will be with Imran Khan tomorrow too. He expressed these views while addressing the reception given by him at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Secretariat Multan after the release of Tehreek-e-Insaf workers from prison. 'Wasim Khan Baduzzi' Malik Adnan Dogar'

Chaudhry Khalid Javed Waraich and Dr. Rubina Akhtar, Rao Asif, Hasan Khan Alizai, Shahbaz Qureshi, Ashraf Nasir Khan, Mukhtiar Zaidi, Makhdoom Shoaib Akmal Hashmi and a large number of PTI workers were present on this occasion. He said that Tehreek-e-Insaf workers were arrested unjustly. Tehreek-e-Insaf is fighting peacefully to

save the country under the leadership of Imran Khan. This struggle is not being digested by the fascist rulers. They are unsuccessfully trying to change their loyalties to Imran Khan by arresting and torturing Tehreek-e-Insaf workers. The loyalties of Tehreek-e-Insaf workers cannot be changed by jails, handcuffs, violence and revenge.

This is a war between truth and falsehood, truth will win and falsehood will be destroyed. He said that the imported government want to run away from the election, but we will not let them run away from the election. In 2018, Tehreek-e-Insaf won across the country due to the power of public votes and the hard work of PTI workers. Today is the election season again. The imported government is afraid of the popularity of Tehreek-e-Insaf and do not want to hold elections. We will not let them run away from the election. They will be fully contested in

the legal and political field. As Vice Chairman, I tell the workers of Tehreek-e-Insaf that elections will be held soon. Prepare for the elections.

Deliver Imran Khan's message and Tehreek-e-Insaf's manifesto door to door. We have to achieve great success once again in the coming elections with the hard work of the workers. And it is to prove that today every worker of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is standing by the side of their leader. He said that Imran Khan is not fighting for personal and interests but for the better future of our coming generations. They are at war with anyone who looted the country. Imran Khan will once again come to power and make those who looted the national treasury accountable. Later, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi congratulated and paid tribute to the released PTI workers by garlanding them.

32nd annual general meeting of the Bank of Punjab

LAHORE: The 32nd Annual General Meeting of the members of The Bank of Punjab was held at Avari Hotel, Shahr-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Lahore on Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at 09:30 a.m.

The meeting was attended by members of the Board of Directors, Bank's Senior Management and a large number of shareholders. During the Annual General Meeting, a brief presentation on Bank's financial performance was given to the shareholders. The participants were apprised that during the year 2022, Bank's Balance Sheet grew by 24% and reached the level of Rs. 1.48 Trillion. As on December 31, 2022, Bank's deposits stood at the level of Rs. 1.23 Trillion showing a commendable growth of 22%. With prudent management of resources, aggressive business expansion and introduction of new products & services, the Bank has been able to post before tax profit of Rs. 18.51 billion during year 2022. The Effective Tax

Rate increased by 10% over the corresponding period vide Finance Act 2022. Accordingly, the Bank posted After Tax Profit of Rs. 10.83 Billion. Earnings per Share (EPS) for year 2022 remained at Rs. 3.64 per share against Rs. 4.18 per share during year 2021.

During the year 2022, Net Interest Margin (NIM) improved to Rs. 30.76 billion as against Rs. 29.88 billion during year 2021. Non-Markup/Interest Income (excluding gains on securities) increased to Rs. 10.23 billion as against Rs. 6.12 billion showing a substantial increase of 67%. During the year, Bank's NPLs reduced to Rs. 51.56 billion on account of recovery/regularization with net recoveries/reversal of Rs. 0.47 billion during the year.

Investments and Gross Advances were recorded at Rs. 638.26 billion and Rs. 634.38 billion, respectively. Book Value per share (excluding surplus on assets) improved to Rs. 22.65 as against Rs. 21.26 as on December 31, 2021. As

on December 31, 2022, Bank's Equity improved to Rs. 65.05 billion as against Rs. 54.83 billion as on December 31, 2021. The Bank, during the year, managed to improve its risk profile despite the economy being besieged by severe challenges. In addition, BOP was also able to raise Tier 1 capital via TFC issue of Rs. 8.02 billion exhibiting the faith the market has in BOP's financial strength. Bank's CAR and LR stood at 13.11% and 3.46% respectively as of December 31, 2022.

The shareholders were apprised that keeping in view Bank's Strategic Business Plan envisaging aggressive business growth and further CAPEX commitment in the areas of Information Technology & Digitalization, requiring strong capital base, the Board announced and recommended a Stock Dividend of 10% for Shareholders for the year 2022 as against 12.50% Stock Dividend announced for the year 2021. The shareholders were also informed



that in recognition of Bank's strong financial position, The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained Bank's long term entity rating at "AA+" with short term rating being already at the highest rank of "A1+". The Bank currently has a country-wide network of 780 online branches, including 140 Taqwa Islamic Banking Branches. Further, the Bank is providing 24/7 banking services to the customers through its vast network of 706 ATMs and other Digital Banking Services. During the year 2022 the bank expanded its branch network by

116 branches and is targeting further expansion of network with increased emphasis on Islamic branches.

The shareholders were apprised that BOP has been awarded with 11 prestigious domestic and international awards and accreditations during one year which is unprecedented and exceptional in the industry, including; the Corporate Finance House of the Year 2021 - Fixed Income award from the CFA society of Pakistan, and PBA's Best Bank for Small & Medium Enterprises 2022 Award.

Thereafter, a question answer

session was also held and all queries of the shareholders were satisfactorily responded by the Board and the Senior Management. The shareholders were highly appreciative of Bank's good financial performance. In the end, the shareholders approved financial statements of the Bank for the year 2022 along with a Stock Dividend of 10.00% for shareholders. Further, appointment of M/s A.F. Ferguson, Chartered Accountants, as Bank's Statutory Auditors for the year 2023 was also approved by the shareholders along with other agenda items.

Islamabad
15° – 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:36 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	4:40 pm
Maghrib	6:26 pm
Isha	7:50 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864

ZEM builders recognize outstanding business partners

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: ZEM Builders, one of the leading players in the construction and real estate industry, held a delightful event for its business partners, featuring a gift ceremony, dinner, and a joyful Qawali night by Shahbaz Fayyaz.

The event was held at one of the most premium malls in Islamabad, ZEM Mall, Bahria Enclave. As a leading company in the real estate industry, ZEM Builders recognizes the importance of healthy business relationships and partnerships. They proudly acknowledged and expressed gratitude to their outstanding business partners who have consistently demonstrated excellence in their services and contributed to the growth and success of our organization.

Acknowledgement gifts for their valuable business partners who have been instrumental in the company's success included cars, iPhones, and a trip to Dubai and Turkey. A lavish dinner was served afterwards with a wide variety of cuisines and beverages.



The highlight of the event was the Qawali night by Shahbaz Fayyaz, a renowned group, known for its soulful and engaging performance.

The guests enjoyed the group's performance and the ambience was filled with energy and enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mohsin Siddique, Senior GM of Sales, and Mr

Khawaja Kamran, GM of Marketing expressed their gratitude to the business partners for their trust and support towards the company.

Keeping up with tradition and an effort to create every moment that matters, ZEM Builders organized a memorable event that will have a lasting impression on its business partners.

ATTA Distribution

RAWALPINDI: Deserving people holding flour bags are on their way at Double Road after receiving from Prime Minister's Free Flour Distribution Scheme for the deserving people during the holy month of Ramazan, in the city.



Photo: Online

CS inspects arrangements for flour distribution in Cities

News Desk

LAHORE: The Chief Secretary Punjab on Wednesday visited Gujranwala, Gujrat and Mandi Bahaudin and reviewed the arrangements at the points set up for provision of free flour to deserving people under the Ramzan Package.

The Chief Secretary said that distribution of free flour under the Ramzan package is a big initiative of the government. He directed the officers to make special arrangements to maintain discipline at the flour points and complete the process of flour distribution in minimum possible time to avoid rush. He appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the district administration. He also issued orders to increase the number of flour distribution staff at the trucking points.

The Chief Secretary said that flour is being provided to the citizens at the centers with respect, adding that special attention should be paid to the convenience of the elderly. He said that distribution of free flour would continue for the whole month of Ramzan, and people could easily get three bags of flour anytime during this period. He said that one lac and 30 thousand bags of flour were distributed among the deserving people in Mandi Bahaudin on Wednesday. He mentioned that there would be no compromise on the quality and weight of flour.

Meezan Bank enters into a Strategic Collaboration with PaySa to expand Point of Sale Payment Services

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank and PaySa, a fintech startup specializing in digital payments, have partnered to enable Point of Sale (POS) payment services to tap into the country's booming digital payment ecosystem. According to this agreement, PaySa will deploy POS terminals and grow the Bank's merchant and retailer network as an independent sales organization.

In combination with PaySa's next generation business solutions, the Bank will empower the country's commerce by not



only simplifying payments for merchants but also enabling real-time transactions.

Mr. Shariq Mubeen - Chief Digital Officer, Meezan Bank said, "Fintechs have immense potential in growing the digital acceptance especially with

small merchants in Pakistan and Meezan Bank is delighted to collaborate with PaySa in this space. We are confident that this alliance will help us in accelerating the deployment of POS network while also delivering excellent services to all

our customers Insha'Allah."

Mr. Ali Adnan, CFA - CEO & Co-Founder, PaySa said "The strategic partnership between Meezan Bank and PaySa is expected to create synergies that will benefit the whole financial ecosystem of Pakistan. By combining their respective strengths, Meezan Bank and PaySa can offer innovative and seamless digital payment solutions that are fully compliant with Islamic banking principles, expand the digital payment ecosystem in Pakistan, reduce the reliance on cash transactions, and promote financial inclusion in the country."

OGDCL launches program to distribute 100 ambulances across Pakistan

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) is the largest exploration & production company in Pakistan working across the nation. The company has an impressive track record of carrying out social work in areas where it operates for welfare of local communities. OGDCL has always exceeded its CSR obligations and spent more on welfare projects for the communities nearby its operational areas.

Most of the places where company operates are remote with limited health facilities for the locals. OGDCL provides health facilities at its locations to the locals, however in cases where emergency care is required, people face difficulty for moving the patients to hospitals. Keeping this



hardship to account, OGDCL has devised a program to distribute fully equipped 100 ambulances worth Rs. 200 million to District Headquarter (DHQ), Tehsil Headquarter (THQ) hospitals and Basic Health Units

(BHU) across the country.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO, OGDCL, highlighted the importance of the program in the country's health sector and emphasized

that the initiative would help improve people's access to health services. He further added that as a responsible corporate citizen, OGDCL has not only launched several initiatives in health sector but also in education, water supply, sports, and infrastructure development. Zia Salahuddin, Executive Director (Services), OGDCL, provided a comprehensive introduction to the program, outlining the salient features of the ambulances and the modalities for their distribution.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Secretary of Petroleum Division Capt (R) Muhammad Mahmood emphasized the importance of the CSR program. He commended OGDCL for taking such an initiative to ensure health facilities for masses across the country.

Dr. Zulfiqar receives the 2023 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, distinguished university professor and founding director of the Institute for Global Health and Development and the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at the Aga Khan University, has been awarded the prestigious Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research for his contributions to global child health.

The Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research is a prestigious award that recognizes outstanding contributions to health research. Established in 2005 by the Friends of Canadian Institutes of Health Research (FCIHR), the prize is awarded annually to a researcher who has made a significant impact on health research globally. Nominees are evaluated based on the impact and quality of their research, as well as their contributions to the broader health research community.

A prominent name in the circles of public health research and global health advocacy, Dr. Bhutta has made outstanding contributions to the field of child health and development, with a focus on improving maternal and child health in developing countries. This is evident from his impressive academic background, his association with leading global health institutions, and the list of various honors conferred on him. As a Distinguished National Professor of the Government of Pakistan, Dr. Bhutta chairs the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Health, Pakistan. He has also served as co-Chair of the Maternal and Child Health oversight committee of the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) and as a technical member of the high-level UN Health and Human Rights committee.

Dr. Bhutta is a leading member of major Lancet series advocating for evidence-based interventions in global health. He leads large research groups based in Pakistan, Canada, and Central Asia, with a special interest in research synthesis, scaling up evidence-based interventions in community settings, and implementation research in fragile health systems. Recently, he led the Lancet series on optimizing child and adolescent health (2022), which provides a blueprint for post-COVID-19 recovery for children globally. Till date, he has published over 1,275 indexed publications, including ten books and over 150 book chapters. He is one of the most highly cited academics in global health.

Professor Bhutta is one of the earliest members of AKU's faculty. Having begun his career at AKU in 1986, the University provided a foundation for his illustrious career in which he built research programmes on maternal and child health and nutrition with national and global impact. At AKU, he holds the title of Distinguished University Professor - the highest faculty rank the University can confer - as well as an Award of Distinction and Award of Excellence in Research.

As the recipient of the Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research, Dr. Bhutta will deliver public talks in 2023 in conjunction with the Friesen Prize Program.

Minister for C&W inspects free flour centers

News Desk

LAHORE: The provision of free flour to the citizens under the historic Ramazan package of the Punjab government continues. It was said by the provincial Minister for Communications and Excise Bilal Afzal while visiting the free flour points of Khaniwal and Jahaniyan on Wednesday. The provincial minister reviewed the supply of free flour and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. He inquired about the issues regarding supply of free flour from the citizens present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu and DPO Rana Umar Farooq were also with him on this occasion.

Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal while addressing the media said that Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had given a historic Ramazan package to the people of the province. He said that for the convenience of the people, the hours of free flour supply had been initiated since 6 am daily. He said, "the Punjab government will deliver the fruits of the Ramazan package to the citizens in any case while the number of counters would be increased in case of heavy rush. It is the right of the citizens and our responsibility to provide them with free flour in a dignified manner" Commissioner Multan Divisional Amir Khattak said that he was monitoring the supply of free flour in the entire division himself where the divisional and district administrations of all four districts were busy to serve the people.

He said that the best arrangements for the people was their first priority. The Deputy Commissioner said while giving a briefing that more than 4 lakh bags of free flour had been distributed in the district so far. "The number of counters has been increased at the centers where there is a more rush". The DPO told the minister that foolproof security arrangements had been made by the police.

Peshawar's rising crime rate exposes caretaker government's failure

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The escalating incidence of criminal activities in the Peshawar stands as a glaring indictment of the ineffectiveness of the present caretaker government. Following the tragic loss of 150 police personnel in the bomb explosion at Police Line Peshawar, no PSP officer of the Peshawar Police was relieved of their duties. Despite high expectations for reform under the leadership of the IGP, Akhtar Hayat, the envisioned changes in the structure of the Peshawar Police remain elusive.

Many had hoped that a distinguished CCPO would be appointed to take charge of the Peshawar Police, yet this aspiration too proved elusive. Allegedly, IGP Akhtar Hayat has been partial to the incumbent Peshawar Police Chief, Ijaz Khan, who has appointed several officers from their native district of Charsada to prominent and lucrative positions within the Peshawar Police. Unfortunately, a number of these individuals were implicated in corrupt practices and have since been suspended.

Moreover, PSP officers hailing from the provinces of Punjab and Sindh have been assigned to key roles within the Counter Terrorism Police and Special Branch police, commuting to their respective home districts every weekend. According to reliable sources within the police, had officers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa been entrusted with these critical responsibilities, their wealth of experience would have yielded a more efficacious outcome. Tragically, the current escalation of crime within the province is believed to be linked to the ongoing conflict between the governor and caretaker chief minister of the region.

NA climate body takes serious notice of illegal housing societies in Capital

ISLAMABAD, MAR 29 (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change on Wednesday took serious notice and expressed its concerns over illegal housing societies causing serious damage to the environment of the federal capital.

The 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee on Climate Change was chaired by MNA Nuzhat Pathan.

The Committee directed that in order to protect the environment, the Ministry of Climate Change should adopt more crystal clear criteria for giving approval to these housing societies.

The Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) briefed the Committee about the illegal societies, water sewerage and outsourcing of waste management.

The Committee appreciated the efforts of Chairman CDA for taking measures on this very sensitive issue and demand for expediting the efforts in a more disciplined manner. The Committee also recommended installing water consumption meters to save water resources.

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IS Amnesty International Report 2022

Financial crisis and human rights violations in South Asia-II

In Nepal, women continued to be denied equal citizenship rights and, although the statute of limitations for rape was extended, the excessively short period for filing complaints remained a significant barrier to effective remedy for survivors.

Violence against women also remained prevalent in the region. There were calls on the Maldivian authorities by UN experts to address rising gender-based violence there. In Bangladesh, hundreds of incidents of rape or murder of women by their husbands or other family members were recorded and impunity for such crimes remained widespread. In Pakistan, several high-profile murders of women by their partners or family members were reported, yet the National Assembly failed to adopt legislation on domestic violence, pending since 2021. In India, violence against Dalit and Adivasi women, among other caste-based hate crimes, was committed with impunity. Girls were also banned from wearing the hijab in public schools in Karnataka.

"Women have been at the forefront of protests in the region, often challenging patriarchal control over their bodies, lives, choices and sexuality on behalf of the state, society and family. The failure of States and institutions to uphold gender justice leaves a terrible legacy of suppression, violence and stunted potential," said Yamini Mishra.

Global action against threats to humanity woefully inadequate

Economic crises fuelled by pandemic-related recession, economic mismanagement and climate change induced disasters within and beyond the region severely affected economic and social rights, including in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, where food, healthcare and

an adequate standard of living became increasingly inaccessible.

In Afghanistan, the spiralling economic crisis plunged 97% of the population into poverty, while in Sri Lanka, inflation exceeded 73% in September 2022 with the poorest and most marginalized suffering the greatest consequences.

The devastating costs of the unchecked climate crisis were made abundantly clear in 2022. Specifically in Pakistan where heatwaves, droughts and then devastating floods had a catastrophic impact on lives and livelihoods of nearly 750,000 people. Against this backdrop, it was particularly disappointing to note that the global community failed to act in the best interests of humanity and address fossil fuel dependency, the main driver pushing us toward the biggest threat to life as we know it. This collective failure was another stark example of the weakness of current multilateral systems.

Dysfunctional international institutions need fixing

In Afghanistan, the space for independent human rights monitoring and reporting had all but disappeared. War crimes were also committed as the Taliban continued its campaign of reprisal killings against members of the former administration and security forces or those who oppose them. The Taliban's version of a justice system lacked any credibility while the resumption of executions in Afghanistan represented a major regression. In India, authorities unlawfully demolished mainly Muslim-owned property in several states, raising

concerns that this was a form of collective punishment for alleged involvement in intercommunal clashes. In Nepal, efforts toward securing truth, justice and reparation for crimes under international law and other human rights violations committed during the 1996-2006 conflict remained grossly inadequate.

Refugees and asylum seekers remained highly marginalized and at risk of refoulement. Ensuring the human rights of

which have been traditionally ignored, especially in the global south.

Shameless double standards pave way for further abuse

The Russia-Ukraine war diverted resources and attention away from the climate crisis, other long-standing conflicts and human suffering the world over and in South Asia in particular. The West's double standards only embolden and enable countries to evade, ignore and deflect criticism of their human rights record.

"There is no denying that an effective and consistently applied rules-based international order is the need of the hour. The Russian war of aggression in Ukraine demonstrated that some of the richest countries in the world were more than capable of receiving large numbers of people seeking safety and giving them access to health, education and accommodation. However, the West did not offer the same treatment to the Afghans and Rohingya escaping war and repression. This shameless double standard must be challenged and countries must step up their efforts for a renewed rules-based order," said Deprose Muchena.

"The double standards of wealthy nations are as evident in their sickening COVID-19 vaccine nationalism as it is in their large contribution to climate change. As South Asia increasingly becomes ground zero for many climate emergencies, it further highlights the need for reparations for loss and damage in these nations with greater investment in global reduction in dependency on fossil fuels. We also need countries, including in South Asia, that have so far failed to take a stand against human rights abuses in the world to speak up now before it is too late for everyone, everywhere."



Analysis

Kiran Asim

Despite concerns from the international community and human rights groups, the Bangladeshi government persisted in its plans to relocate Rohingya refugees to the remote and flood-prone Bhasan Char island bringing the total number to 30,079 according to official figures.

Afghans fleeing persecution at home faced pushbacks from neighbouring countries, such as Iran, and other countries along the route, such as Turkey.

Impunity was compounded by the inability of the UN Human Rights Council to effectively address many of these serious concerns. It is vital that international institutions and systems that are meant to protect our rights are strengthened rather than undermined.

Amnesty International is also calling for the UN's key decision-making body, the Security Council, to be reformed to give a voice to countries and situations

Annual Meeting of Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik and Mr. Idrees Mahsud, Member Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are attending the 10th annual meeting of Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) from 27-30 March 2023 in Bangkok, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC). Federal Minister for Planning & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is leading the Pakistani delegation for the event. The theme for ongoing APFSD's meeting is "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific". Chairman highlighted the role of the legislative assembly in facilitating the implementation of the SDGs, and Pakistan's plan to craft indigenous National Development Goals (NDGs) in line with global protocols.

He emphasized on representatives of governments, civil society and experts of organizations to work with interoperable cooperation for achieving SDGs. Chairman NDMA also outlined the importance of the first goal, which focuses on eradicating poverty and lays the foundation for achieving all SDGs. He discussed the urgent need for food and energy security and put forth his views on how this can be achieved by unshackling access to these necessities from manipulation by geopolitical interests. He recommended setting up a global Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) financing fund, aimed at providing support to countries affected by security threats and instability, such as Syria and Afghanistan, which are among the most vulnerable yet the most ignored by global humanitarian aid.

Chairman NDMA underscored the critical importance of investment protection through robust resilience and stable insurance, as well as the risks associated with non-participating think tanks that may pose a threat to strategic infrastructure development. He emphasized that greater attention to poverty needs during disaster relief efforts is crucial and this should not be confused with assistance calculations. Chairman NDMA also called for tangible action plans to make SDGs sustainable, ensuring that populations have equal access to wealth and opportunities. He noted that DRR is a key step towards the safety of all members of society.

He highlighted that benchmarking of revised SDGs on yearly updated plans, with country-specific and attainable goals designed to achieve clean and green energy access, which was seen as a driver of all enablers. Overall, the participants emphasized the importance of greater cooperation and collaboration to achieve SDGs and pledged to keep working together toward a more sustainable future.



Amjad Rasmi

Pakistan vs. other countries, Visa on arrival facility

Many countries of the world are providing visa-on-arrival facility to the citizens of other countries, which is a better and easier procedure for travelers nowadays. Visitors from foreign countries are granted visa on arrival. That is, they do not need to obtain a visa before traveling from their country. Countries that provide visa-on-arrival facilities are indicated. When the list of these countries passes in front of the eyes, some sensitive people among the citizens of the country are worried that the name of Pakistan is not included in the list, what is the reason? Many countries do not include the name of their own country Pakistan in the lists. The mind is forced to think and many questions arise. Why is the name of Pakistan not included in the list of these facilitating countries? Why are Pakistani citizens not getting a chance to use this facility? Why are the citizens of Pakistan deprived of this right compared to the citizens of other countries? What are the reasons for not including them in the ranks of these countries? If some countries have reservations, why are they not removed? Our country is an Islamic country and despite the fact that Islamic countries are also issuing visas on arrival. Why is this attitude towards Pakistan not removed?

It is important to note that countries' visa policies can often be influenced by various factors. As already discussed such considerations include bilateral relations between countries, security concerns and diplomatic issues. Furthermore, the economic, political and social stability of a country can also play a role in visa policies that affect its citizens. Pakistan is not included in the list of countries

that offer visa-on-arrival programs due to several reasons including security concerns, political issues and economic factors. Some countries have concerns about terrorism or political instability in Pakistan. This leads to security concerns and difficulties in providing visa-on-arrival facilities. Many countries may require a more extensive visa application process for Pakistani nationals. Countries' economic conditions, immigration concerns or concerns about illegal immigration are complications that can affect visa policies.

If Pakistan does not offer visa on arrival nor has strict visa policies, then Pakistan cannot be included in the list of countries that provide visa on arrival. It is also worth noting that visa policies and requirements may change over time. Therefore, Pakistan's visa-on-arrival status may change in the future based on factors such as improved security conditions or changes in diplomatic relations. It is therefore important that the country's rulers play their part in addressing these concerns. Countries where visa on arrival is available in specific countries however, the availability of visa on arrival for Pakistani citizens varies from country to country. And it is can change at any time based on our future bilateral agreements and political relations between countries that can be benefited by our efforts.

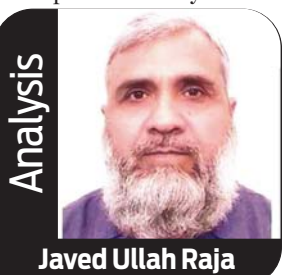
It is a fact that Pakistan has been in the grip of security challenges including internal and external disturbances, terrorism and political instability for many years. Many countries of the world consider Pakistan as a

high risk country, so be more careful in issuing visas. Some countries may have strict immigration policies that require visitors to obtain a visa before traveling. It is also seen that visa policies can be used to control the flow of people into the country and to ensure that those entering belong to which countries. Visa policies are often influenced by bilateral agreements between countries. If there is no agreement between Pakistan and a particular country then visa on arrival may not be available. Visa policies are set by individual countries based on their

own standards and interests. May be, in the past number of Pakistani citizens who have overstayed illegally and lack of mutual agreement between Pakistan and the countries in question are also included. In this context, some countries may only offer visa-on-arrival services to countries that follow the same policy. If Pakistan does not offer visa-on-arrival services to the citizens of some countries, then the same attitude is adopted with Pakistan in return. Countries may base their visa policies on their diplomatic relations with other countries. If Pakistan has strained relations with a particular country, it may also effect.

Citizens of Pakistan who are facing difficulties in the countries of the world, if we discuss these reasons, then we are all equal participants. Where the responsibility lies with the rulers, it is more on the citizens of the country. We are represented in the United Nations by our rulers. If there is any shortage seen by the citizens of the country

in other countries, then the rulers of that country have the responsibility to play their role in removing it. Raise their voice for the rights of their citizens. On the other hand, citizens also have a responsibility to use the travel for the purpose for which they intend to travel to foreign countries, because if a citizen also travels to a country in the world, then he is an ambassador of that country. His behavior affects the country. In any country, it is not said that such and such a person has done this. Rather, it is said. It is known that this work was done by a Pakistani. Or it is said that the person who did it is a Pakistani. Not only the entire Pakistan is defamed by one person, but also the rights of other citizens are violated, which is a precursor to our own mistakes. Our individual mistake is a collective concept. This is the main reason why the countries of the world do not include the name of Pakistan in providing facilities. Still, if a citizen of a country believes they have been discriminated against or their rights have been violated because of a country's immigration policies or procedures. So they can seek help from local or international organizations, such as human rights organizations. The conditions of the country have been bad for years. Political instability has added to many more problems. The value of Pakistani Rupee has fallen so much that people from every section of the country prefer to go abroad. Even today our literate and highly educated class is serving in other countries. Professionals are moving to foreign countries on a daily basis. Considering the problems of the citizens of Pakistan and other poor countries of the world, International Organizations should also think about this.



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

Pakistan's economic crisis and real estate

Waqas Asmat, Islamabad

There are two reasons for Pakistan's economic crisis, one is the internal economic crisis and the other is the national political crisis. As we know that the national economy and national politics are equally in turmoil. On top of that international economic pinning is an added disadvantage. But we are unable to see that there are still potential opportunities available that are not being utilized optimally. One of them is the real estate of Pakistan which we are not taking advantage of.

Pakistan's real estate sector is estimated at 1 trillion dollars which means that it is worth three times more than the total GDP of Pakistan. Overseas Pakistanis invest in real estate and thus a lot of remittances and foreign direct investments are also part of the real estate business. This is why there is an investment in real estate when the rupee depreciates. Moreover, there is more investment in Pakistani real estate when the economy faces a crisis abroad or suffered a global pandemic like Covid-19.

Real estate is also a stable and growing source of income that

offers high returns on investment and growing appreciation rates over the years. Another fact is that national economic growth is profitable to the real estate sector, as the value of real estate inclines with the increase in GDP. The contribution of real estate to Pakistan's economy has been more than 9 percent consistently.

Pakistan has a lot of potential to use the real estate sector since our national gap in the housing sector is around 300,000 units per year. Companies such as AAA Associates have got a lot of possibilities in order to provide their services to fulfill that gap. It has provided premium living conditions and safeguarded gated communities as well as commercial areas to fit international brands as well.

The real estate sector will continue to remain an integral part of the economic ecosystem, despite the fact that there exists a less-than-logical economic rationale for it. Pakistan has got more than 20,000 companies in real estate that can contribute a lot to its economy. It will continue to attract retail investors in large numbers and real estate investment trusts will keep on forming. Pakistan's real estate sector has got unusual drivers of investment besides domestic housing and commercial needs. This is why the sector is able to sustain and refuel itself despite the worsening economic conditions.

Ambassador of UAE called on Finance Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Mr. Ishaq Dar and H.E. Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates shared the deep rooted brotherly relations between the two countries and discussed avenues of furthering and strengthening economic and financial ties between the UAE and Pakistan.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar stated that Pakistan and the UAE are engaged in various areas including energy, refinery, petroleum and trade, however, still a lot of potential is unexplored. In this regard, the Finance Minister highlighted various avenues in which both countries can enhance their existing trade and investment relations.

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates appreciated development-oriented economic policies of Pakistan initiated by the present government and expressed the interest of the UAE in augmenting and furthering investment in various sectors of the economy of Pakistan.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar welcomed the investment proposals of the UAE in Pakistan and extended full support and cooperation by the



In conclusion, the Finance Minister shared sentiments of gratitude for good will and cooperation of his Excellency and hoped to enhance the bilateral relations further in the future.

Turkmenistan announces successful elections of Mejlis deputies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On March 27, 2023, the head of the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan held a briefing during which it was announced that the elections of deputies of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, members of the Halk Maslahaty and Gengeshes, which had taken place the day before, had been successful.

The event was attended by representatives of local and foreign media, as well as international observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization of Turkic States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Orga-



nization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

During the briefing, the active participation of the citizens of Turkmenistan in voting within the country, as well as abroad was discussed. Thus, over 91 percent of those included in the lists of voters took part in the elections. In total, 2,644 polling stations operated

throughout the country, including 42 at the diplomatic missions and consulates of Turkmenistan abroad.

On the same day, briefings of the Observer Missions from the CIS, SCO and OTS took place. Thanking the Turkmen side for the invitation to participate in this important social and political event in the life of the

state, international observers agreed that the elections were successful and organized, on a broad alternative basis, were open and democratic.

It was especially noted that representatives of all parties, as well as candidates from groups of citizens, participated in the current elections.

Members of the Missions emphasized the role of domestic media in the information coverage of the election campaign.

Improvements in the national electoral legislation in recent years were also stressed.

In this regard, the elections on March 26, 2023 were held in accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Code of Turkmenistan and universally recognized standards.

Pakistan and Turkiye two souls and one heart: Ambassador

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci on Wednesday lauded the humanitarian assistance of the government of Pakistan and Pakistani organizations in the wake of the deadly earthquake in Turkiye.

He commended the relief and rescue operation by several Turkish NGOs which helped tens of thousands of victims across the country.

Mehmet Pacaci said this while talking to a delegation comprising Dr. Sohail Majid Sheikh, Country Head of Nisar Fatima Amin Foundation (NFA), Malik Sohail Hussain, Secretary General US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce and Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association, and Dr. Syed Yawar Abbas Qazi.

The ambassador said that Pakistan has sent truckloads of supplies to their Turkish brethren in their time of need



for which we are thankful.

He also thanked the Pakistani business community for their continued support and Nisar Fatima Amin Foundation which is working in Turkiye for the last five years to serve the needy humanity.

Mehmet Pacaci was informed that

11000 pieces of garments, 1000 units of blankets and 500 tents are ready at Karachi which should be shipped to Turkiye for earthquake victims.

The ambassador was very glad to know about the relief items are ready to be dispatched to Turkiye and promised its fastest embarkation to the affectees.

He also praised the efforts of Mr. Sheesh Ahmed Hashmi, Chief Operating Officer, Nisar Fatima Amin Foundation, the key source person working on ground in Turkiye.

At the occasion, Dr. Sohail Majid and Malik Sohail said that Turkiye is a brotherly Muslim Country that has always helped Pakistan on international forums and fought for our cause.

Pakistan and Turkiye were like two souls and one heart and the people of both countries will always walk the extra mile to help each other with huge generosity, they added.

Be it the earthquake of 2005, the super floods of 2010, and recent floods, Turkiye has always come forward to help Pakistanis, they said, adding that the friendly country is not only involved in rescue and relief operations in Pakistan but also helping the rehabilitation of the flood victims across the country.

2nd round of Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral political consultations

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Second Round of Pakistan-Malaysia Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 28 March 2023. The talks were co-chaired by Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific), Mumtaz Zahra Baloch and Dato' Norman Bin Muhamad, Deputy Secretary General (Bilateral Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and renewed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral strategic partnership. Pakistan and Malaysia will enhance engagement and dialogue at all levels, revitalize existing bilateral mechanisms and establish new areas of engagement.

The two countries will increase cooperation across multiple domains including bilateral trade and investment, defence and security, agriculture and food security, energy, health, education, and science and technology. Parliamentary exchanges and people-to-people contacts will be encouraged, including hiring of additional Pakistani manpower to Malaysia.

There was a convergence of views on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest, including regional peace and security, islamophobia and climate change. The two sides reiterated their interest in close cooperation at multilateral platforms including in OIC and the UN. Pakistan also expressed a desire for enhanced engagement with ASEAN, leading to a full-dialogue partnership.

Additional Foreign Secretary conveyed the gratitude to Malaysia for its generous support and humanitarian assistance for flood affectees in Pakistan.

Japan funded project for solar panels at school in Swabi, KP inaugurated



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A grassroots grant assistance project for installation of solar panels at school in Village Shewa, District Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, funded by the Government of Japan, was inaugurated on March 29, 2023. The Government of Japan had provided a USD 58,928 grant (equivalent to around PKR 16.7 million) to Shewa Educated Social Workers Association (SESWA), a local NGO working in the field of education, infrastructure, and environment, for implementing this project.

This is the third time for SESWA to receive financial assistance from the Government of Japan. This time, SESWA utilized the grant to install solar panels at the school that was constructed and expanded by the past two financial supports from the Government of Japan in order to overcome the problem of frequent power outages across the whole of Pakistan in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way. Thanks to this project, children can now learn in classrooms with a proper illumination level as well as running fans during the hot season.

At the inauguration ceremony, Mr. ITO Takeshi, Chargé d'Affaires of Japan to Pakistan congratulated the representatives of the NGO and the community members for the successful completion of this project. He also showed the expectation that children would get the chance to carve out their bright future and also this project would strengthen the existing friendly relationships between the people of Japan and Pakistan.

The Government of Japan will continue to provide flexible and timely support to improve the social well-being of the people of Pakistan at the grassroots level in cooperation with local organizations.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan will be visiting New York on 30 March

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Ms. Mahri Bashimova, will be visiting the United Nations headquarters in New York on March 30, 2023. Deputy Minister will be taking part in the UNGA High-level Meeting on zero waste, initiated by Turkiye to consolidate efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting, devoted to the International Day of Zero Waste, will be co-hosted by the United Nations Environment Program and UN-Habitat to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including innovative projects and programmes such as local and national zero-waste initiatives to foster the environmentally sound management of waste in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the New Urban Agenda and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

During the event, the presentation of the new modern city of Arkadag, which widely uses non-waste technologies, smart city systems and modern environmental solutions, will take place.

Third CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum successfully concluded in Tashkent – Uzbekistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD / DUBAI: CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum was successfully concluded at Hyatt Regency, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The aim of the forum was to discuss the potential of Islamic finance in CIS countries, financial inclusion through FinTech, Sukuk, Takaful and Islamic capital markets by gathering stakeholders under one roof. Distinguished Speakers and industry experts from well serving organizations related to Islamic banking and finance, Islamic insurance (Takaful), and banking industry participated in the event. The forum was organized by AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics in association with Uzbekistan Banking Association and Leasing Association of Uzbekistan and in support of Fintech association Uzbekistan, National Association of Microfinance Institutions, and The Banking and Finance Academy.

The event sponsors were Alif Moliya, Avati Consulting Solutions (P) LTD and InvoiceMate and event media partners were MufeedMoliya, Azon.uz, Islom Moliyasi, Islamic Finance Weekly, Global Halal, MicroCapital. AlHuda arranged an impressive lineup of speakers from different countries with the revealing sessions on the subject matter to explore more options for Islamic finance industry.

H.E. Dr. TiloKlinner Ambassador, Embassy of Germany, Uzbekistan the guest of honor inaugurated the forum by saying that Islamic finance is the need of the time and Central Asia needs to keep an eye on the potential of Islamic Banking & Finance and what value it can bring to the current system of International Banking & Finance. Investing in Islamic banking and finance will definitely lead to greater foreign investments promising enhanced global connectivity, improved job creation, socio-economic devel-

opment and poverty alleviation.

Guest of honors including H.E. Mr. Md Zahangir Alam Ambassador, Embassy of Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Mr. Zafar B. Mustafaev Chairman, Leasing Association of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan, Mr. BakhtiyarKhamidov Chairman, Uzbekistan Banking Association, Uzbekistan, Mr. NuriddinLafizov Chief Executive Officer, AlifMoliya, Uzbekistan, and H.E. Mr. Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary General, Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions, Bahrain also expressed about the Islamic finance potentials and opportunities in CIS countries and possible ways to achieve the milestone by enhancing the financial inclusion in the region.

Addressing the audience, the organizer of CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum, Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive Officer, AlHuda CIBE said that Islamic banking and finance total volume has

crossed \$3 trillion globally. He said, the total Muslim population of CIS countries is estimated at 75 million which is good news for the growing Islamic banking and finance industry. CIS countries' list consist of 10 countries which includes Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia etc. The most important factor of the growth of Islamic banking and finance industry in CIS countries is the Islamic Development Bank's projects whereas, ICD also has huge investment for Islamic banking and Islamic leasing avenues in CIS countries which includes Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan etc. He further added that AlHuda CIBE has started putting its research, advisory, consultancy and capacity building services in CIS countries for Islamic banking and finance industry from 2006.

In the forum, delegates from Sarakhsi International



Research Academy for Islamic Finance, International Business Association NAHDA ISLAMIC FINANCE, Shari'ah Adviser M Bulak, Member AAOIFI, Member Central Bank of KR, CJSC MDO "HUMO" – Tajikistan IMAN – Uzbekistan, Avati Consulting Solutions (P) Ltd, India, AlifMoliya LLC, Uzbekistan Islamic Finance, Centil Law Firm – Uzbekistan, Bank-waqf International Malaysia, IFAAS (Islamic Finance Advi-

sory & Assurance Services), United Kingdom INCEIF University, Malaysia, M Bulak Microcredit Company LLC, Kyrgyzstan, Hamkorbank, Sug'urtaJSC Insurance Company, Uzbekistan JSC Apex Life Insurance, APEX OILA Takaful – Uzbekistan, AAOIFI Financial, Accounting Council Centil Law Firm – Uzbekistan Ansar Financial and Development Corporation ("AFDC"), Canada Aman for Microfinances, Egypt, and many

other delegates from 15+ countries participated in it.

In the forum Financial Inclusion, Financial Technologies, Sukuk, Shariah Structuring for the development of Islamic finance, Takaful, Sustainability, and Islamic Capital Markets were discussed in the broader perspective. At the end, an Award Distribution ceremony was held to encourage and recognize the industry participants for further promotion.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Current	Prev. Close
39,879.89	40,082.37
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,186.11	39,866.25
Index Value	Change
2,348,221,699	-202.48
Percentage	Time
-0.51%	29 Mar, 2023 5: 00 pm

Index Value	Change
7,564.27	+80.02
Percentage	Time
+1.07%	29 Mar, 4: 35 pm GMT+1

Index Value	Change
32,627.81	+233.56
Percentage	Time
+0.72%	29 Mar, 12: 56 pm GMT-4

Index Value	Change
27,883.78	+365.53
Percentage	Time
+1.33%	29 Mar, 3: 15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.5	189.9
Bahrain Dinar	753.99	761.99
Canadian Dollar	206	208.2
China Yuan	41.25	41.65
Danish Krone	41.26	41.66
Euro	305.5	308.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.11	36.46
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	925.67	934.67
Malaysian Ringgit	62.85	63.45
NewZealand \$	175.57	177.57
Norwegians Krone	26.33	26.63
Omani Riyal	736.34	744.34
Qatari Riyal	77.92	78.62
Saudi Riyal	75.5	76.3
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	308.25	310.75
Thai Bhat	8.28	8.43
U.A.E Dirham	77	77.7
UK Pound Sterling	348	351.5
US Dollar	283.7	286.5

Pakistan has no solution but to be self-sufficient: Mian Zahid Hussain

✉ Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said due to the bankruptcy of the US the global financial system is under threat.

The possibility of bankruptcy of dozens of other banks will deal a serious blow to the global economy and the global growth rate may shrink further, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that turmoil in the markets trade and industry can suffer in the majority of the countries.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the crisis started with the interest rate hike in the US and has now also engulfed Europe.



In the current situation, the demand could further depress global growth as the collapse

of Swiss bank Credit Suisse has shaken the foundations of the country's financial stability.

He said that in the rapidly changing global financial situation, Pakistani policymakers have to be alert to deal with any emergency.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that global growth has shrunk to 3 percent due to the Ukraine war, financial constraints, uncertainty, and pandemic fears, while risks of economic instability are rising.

High levels of debt and rapidly rising interest rates are weakening the global financial system. Many countries, including Russia and China, are getting rid of the US dollar and adopting other means of trade, which is increasing anxiety in the markets, he added.

Now there is increasing global economic instability due to threats to the banking system in America and Europe which will have a negative impact on Pakistan's economic

recovery and our economy may suffer further as our coffers are already empty.

The business leader said that the Western countries are under pressure and on the other hand China's economic recovery is supporting the global economy.

In the current situation, the economic decline continues in Pakistan. The growth rate has decreased by four percent, the value of the dollar is increasing and the value of the rupee is continuously depreciating. Inflation continues to rise, life has become hard for the people and political instability is halting businesses.

The government is trying to provide temporary relief to the people but lasting relief is not possible without economic, economic, and agricultural reforms and now Pakistan has to become self-sufficient as there is no other option.

Energy giants sign MoU to pursue green hydrogen projects in Pakistan and beyond

✉ Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Leading exploration and production (E&P) companies Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pak-Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL), and Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore and pursue green hydrogen opportunities within and outside Pakistan. The collaboration aims to drive the energy transition towards a more sustainable future, leveraging each company's expertise and resources.

The MoU was signed by Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO OGDCL; Shahid Mahmood Khan, MD PARCO; Imran Abbasy, MD/CEO PPL; Fahim Haider, MD/CEO MPCL; and Masood Nabi, MD GHPL on behalf of their respective companies. Federal Secretary of Petroleum Division, Capt (R) Muhammad Mahmood, witnessed the MoU signing ceremony held here on Wednesday at the OGDCL Head Office, Islamabad.

Under the MoU, OGDCL, PARCO, PPL, MPCL, and GHPL will consider joint venture projects and areas of mutu-



al cooperation for green energy initiatives. Companies will also establish a joint fund to raise equity for hydrogen projects. As a first step, feasibility will be conducted to formally initiate the project.

"This collaboration is a significant step towards building a more sustainable future for Pakistan and beyond," said Capt (R) Muhammad Mahmood, Federal Secretary Petroleum Division. "We are confident that by leveraging our collective expertise

and resources, we can accelerate the energy transition and create a greener, cleaner, and more prosperous future," remarked Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO of OGDCL.

The MoU will be initially effective for two years from the date of signing, with the option to extend by mutual agreement. The energy giants will lead the pursuit of green hydrogen projects, engaging consultants and advisors subject to the agreement of the other parties.

Banks of Azad Kashmir offering attractive loan schemes to boost economic growth

✉ Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is playing a positive role in the socio-economic development of the state by providing loans to customers on 18 attractive schemes at the lowest markup rate in the market, on very convenient terms and is offering profitable and saving services to customers under 6 deposit and savings accounts while a large number of needy people are benefiting from the provision of loans under the fastest processing.

The spokesperson of the bank while releasing the details of loan schemes, deposit and savings accounts today said that under consumer finance schemes, the bank providing loan facility to customers to avail advance salary scheme, house finance, gold loan, personal loan, car finance, motorcycle finance, student loan, home appliances finance etc. Besides, a large number of customers are benefiting from commercial and SME schemes like running finance, auto finance, demand finance, construction finance, health-care services finance, promo-

tion of tourism finance. The Bank has introduced schemes like Agriculture Production Loan and Agriculture Development Loan to promote agriculture. Microfinance schemes have been added for small loans.

Among them Micro Enterprise Loan and Desi Poultry Loan are noteworthy. The easy access of customers to these loan schemes of the bank and prompt payment of the bank is accelerating the economic development of the region. The spokesperson said that customers can get maximum savings and profits by opening an account with Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the deposit accounts of the bank are Current Account, PLS Savings Account, Special Deposit Account, Bemisaal Monthly Savings Account while term deposits include Bemisaal Term Deposit, PLS Term Deposit. It is worth mentioning here that under the supervision and leadership of President/CEO Khawar Saeed, the Bank is surpassing all business targets including profitability, deposits, assets, domestic remittances with the efforts of staff, team work, customer support.

Saeed Alhebsi visits FPCCI

✉ Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saeed Alhebsi Advisor Ministry of Human Resource and Emiratization United Arab visited FPCCI, Capital Office, Islamabad for meeting with Mr. Amin Ullah Baig Vice President FPCCI & Incharge Capital Office, Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI, Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office, & others members of FPCCI. Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla Acting President FPCCI, Eng MA Jabbar & Haji Muhammad Yaqoob Vice Presidents FPCCI joined the meeting via video link.

In his welcome address Acting President FPCCI Muhammad Suleman Chawla told that with \$ 1170 million, UAE is the sixth (6th) largest export destination of Pakistani products, however, in total trade of \$ 8545 million, Pakistan faces a trade deficit of US \$ 6204 million with UAE.

Mr. Chawla said that the overall trend in bilateral trade is showing an increase which is encouraging for both countries. Pakistan is a country of more than 220.7 million people with vibrant youth, a strong middle class and a proficient workforce.

Muhammad Suleman Chawla further said that Pakistan is the world's largest producer of salt, Halal meat and other Halal Products, the largest user of cotton, the largest producer and also exporter of Fruits and Vegetable, 5th in the reserves of copper, 5th largest producer of milk, rice producer and offering tremendous opportunities for joint ventures and investment. The investment in the Pakistani agriculture sector will ensure food security in the UAE.

Mr. Amin Ullah Baig Vice President of FPCCI said that Pakistan is an investment-friendly nation in South Asia and has excellent infrastructure with liberalized investment policies offering a high rate of returns. Foreign investment is fully protected under, Investment Promotion and Protection Act 1976, and also secured under the Protection of Economic Reform Act 1992. Equal treatment to local and foreign investors, all sectors are open to FDI, Foreign Equity up to 100%, Remittance of Royalty, Fees, and Profits, and Borrowing Facilities from Foreign and Local Bank.

Attraction

ISLAMABAD: A vender is arranging fruit at his road side setup to attract customers at I-8 Markaz to sell and earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online

MMBL signs agreement with Careem

✉ Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has entered into a new partnership with Careem, Pakistan's largest ride-hailing service, to provide discounted and subsidized intra as well as inter-city travel services for its employees. The initiative is designed to bring ease and convenience for MMBL employees and their families, enabling them to commute safely and affordably with Careem across Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by President and CEO MMBL, Ghazanfar Azzam and General Manager Careem, Muhammad Imran Saleem at MMBL Headquarters in Islamabad, alongside senior officials from both organizations including Chief Operating Officer (COO) MMBL, Sardar Mohammad



Abubakr and Acting Chief People Officer, Muhammad Haroon Khan. The purpose of the signing is to bring relief to the bank staff, especially in light of the current economic downturn that has triggered a significant surge in the costs of fuel and car maintenance. Additionally, the lack of reliable public transportation in major cities has made commuting a major challenge for many, especially female employees who often face safety concerns, which are expected to be alleviated by the new arrangement.

"Our latest agreement with Careem is focused on the well-being of our people- our most valuable asset," said Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO of MMBL. "As the MMBL family continues to grow, so do our efforts for creating ease for them. We realize that many of our employees face challenges while commuting and this initiative will provide them with a hassle-free, comfortable, and safe mode of transportation, in addition to the already offered fuel and transport allowance. We hope that this partnership not only enhances the employee experience at MMBL but also reinforces our commitment to promot-

ing greater empowerment for all team members."

Speaking at the partnership, Muhammad Imran Saleem, General Manager Careem Pakistan stated, "We are honoured to extend our corporate services to MMBL. Careem for Business is an exclusive solution designed to meet the changing mobility needs of companies.

In addition to individual services, the subsidized inter-city travel services will cover various destinations across Pakistan, including Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, Jhelum, Abbottabad, Nathia Gali, Bhurban, Peshawar, Sialkot, Multan, Gujranwala, and Hyderabad, for corporate business engagements as well as airport pick & drop facility. MMBL employees can also book a half-day/full-day vehicle for themselves and their families at discounted rates.

UAE company keen to promote financial inclusion of SMEs in Pakistan



✉ Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of UAE-based company InvoiceMate visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to introduce their invoice management system on blockchain for promoting financial inclusion of SMEs in Pakistan. Muhammad Salman Anjum Founder & CEO, Saeed Alhebsi Co-Founder of InvoiceMate and Advisor on Artificial Intelligence to the Ministry of Human Resource & Emiratization of UAE, Rafiq Shulz Founder BlockchainPunk Labs of Germany, Muhammad Zeeshan Abid Co-Founder & Product Design Lead at InvoiceMate were in the delegation. Ms. Rashida Bajwa, Assistant Director (ME-I), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan accompanied the delegation.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) welcomed the UAE delegation and assured them of full support in rolling out the blockchain powered financial inclusion enabler InvoiceMate for SMEs in Pakistan. He lauded the efforts of

InvoiceMate for revolutionizing invoice financing by enabling financial inclusion of SMEs and informal businesses. He said that the financial inclusion of SME is very important to accelerate the economic growth in Pakistan. He said that SMEs get only around 6% credit of the total private sector credit in Pakistan, which is less than 1% of GDP and is a major hurdle in their growth and stressed that the government should increase credit to SMEs to at least 20 percent that would boost business activities and put Pakistan on the path of sustainable growth.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Salman Anjum Founder & CEO, Saeed Alhebsi Co-Founder of InvoiceMate said that they are keen to create sustainable financial inclusion opportunities in the Pakistani market. They gave a detailed briefing to the business community about all the aspects of the world's first blockchain-powered invoice management and financing solution that enables invoice automation. It comes with function specific features that provide efficient results, while saving money & resources.

PCB announces details of triangular stages of U13 and U16 Inter-Region Tournaments

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board today announced details of the triangular stages of Inter-Region U13 and Inter-Region U16 One-Day tournaments 2022-23. Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar regions will compete in a 30-over-a-side U13 tournament triangular stage, which will commence from 29 April.

In the 50-over U16 tournament, FATA, Karachi and Lahore regions will compete in the triangular stage starting from 30 April.

The top two teams from the triangular stage in U13 and U16 tournaments will compete in the final on 5 and 6 May, respectively.

In the triangular stage of the Inter-Region U13 One-Day Tournament, Lahore Region will take on Peshawar Region on 29 April. On 1 May, Karachi Region will go against Peshawar Region, while on 3 May, Karachi Region will compete against Lahore Region. All matches including the final between the top two sides are scheduled to take place at Divisional Public School in Faisalabad.

Furthermore, in the triangular stage of the Inter-Region U16 One-Day Tournament, Lahore Region will feature against FATA Region on 30 April. On 2 May, FATA Region will take on Karachi Region, while the last match of the triangular stage will be played between Karachi Region and

Lahore Region on 4 May. All matches including the final of the tournament will be held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad.

The Inter-Region U13 Tournament 2023 was commenced from 12 March in Faisalabad and Karachi. 16 regions namely Abbottabad, AJK, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, FATA, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Larkana, Multan, D.M. Jamali, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sialkot featured and were divided into three groups.

In the five-team Pool 'A', Karachi Region topped the group with four wins from as many matches and bagged eight points. In the five-team Pool 'B', Lahore Region kept their 100 per cent winning record and topped the table with eight points from four outings. In six-team Pool 'C', Peshawar Region and Rawalpindi Region won four matches each and were tied on eight points, but Peshawar Region topped the pool on better net run-rate.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Region U16 Tournament 2023 also began on 12 March, where 16 regions were part of the competition. The pool matches were played in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Sheikhpura. Karachi Region topped Pool 'A' with seven points from four outings, Lahore Region topped Pool 'B' with eight points and FATA Region topped Pool 'C' with eight points from five matches in the tournament.

Inter-Region U13 Tournament Points table after pool matches:

Pool A						
Teams	P	W	L	Points	NRR	
Karachi Region	4	4	0	8	2.741	
D.M. Jamali Region	4	3	1	6	-0.025	
Hyderabad Region	4	2	2	4	-0.816	
Quetta Region	4	1	3	2	-0.555	
Larkana Region	4	0	4	0	-0.893	

Pool B						
Teams	P	W	L	Abd.	Points	NRR
Lahore Region	4	4	0	0	8	1.712
Sialkot Region	4	3	1	0	6	0.226
Faisalabad Region	4	2	2	0	4	0.126
Bahawalpur Region	4	0	3	1	1	-1.175
Multan Region	4	0	3	1	1	-1.249

Pool C						
Teams	P	W	L	Points	NRR	
Peshawar Region	5	4	1	8	1.442	
Rawalpindi Region	5	4	1	8	1.369	
FATA Region	5	3	2	6	0.355	
AJK Region	5	2	3	4	-0.597	
Abbottabad Region	5	2	3	4	-1.070	
Islamabad Region	5	0	5	0	-1.629	

Inter-Region U16 Tournament Points table after pool matches:

Pool A						
Teams	P	W	L	Abd.	Points	NRR
Karachi Region	4	3	0	1	7	2.851
Hyderabad Region	4	2	1	1	5	0.422
Larkana Region	4	2	2	0	4	-0.665
Quetta Region	4	1	3	0	2	-0.584
D.M. Jamali Region	4	1	3	0	2	-1.565

Pool B						
Teams	P	W	L	Abd.	Points	NRR
Lahore Region	4	4	0	0	8	3.220
Sialkot Region	4	2	1	1	5	-0.693
Multan Region	4	2	2	0	4	-0.094
Bahawalpur Region	4	1	3	0	2	-1.633
Faisalabad Region	4	0	3	1	1	-1.386

Pool C						
Teams	P	W	L	Abd.	Points	NRR
FATA Region	5	3	0	2	8	2.128
Rawalpindi Region	5	2	1	2	6	1.007
Islamabad Region	5	2	1	2	6	-0.108
Abbottabad Region	5	1	1	2	4	0.790
Peshawar Region	5	0	2	3	3	-2.207
AJK Region	5	0	3	2	2	-2.570

Pakistan might play World Cup 2023 matches in Bangladesh: report

By A Sports -

The idea to host Pakistan's World Cup 2023 matches in Bangladesh has been discussed at the ICC meetings last week, reported a renowned cricket website on Wednesday.

According to ESPN Cricinfo, in informal discussions on the sidelines of the board meetings in Dubai, PCB insisted to apply the same hybrid Asia Cup model for the World Cup as well.

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 Asian event 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.

Reportedly, PCB and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are gradually moving towards a compromise and have nearly agreed to host India matches on a neutral venue while the rest of the Asia Cup will be played in Pakistan.

In the latest development, however, ESPN Cricinfo suggested that Bangladesh had been proposed as a neutral venue for Pakistan matches during the ICC ODI World Cup in India later this year.

Earlier, the General Manager of Cricket for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Wasim Khan also claimed that Pakistan may play their matches of the upcoming ICC event at a neutral venue.

In an exclusive interview with ARY News on the sidelines of the recently-concluded T20I series between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Sharjah, Wasim asserted

Pakistan would also not play their matches in India and they might get shifted to a neutral country.

"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," he had said.

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.

Wahab Riaz distributed the flour bags



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that more than 7,77,000 flour bags have been distributed in Bahawalpur division so far while over two and half lakh families in Bahawalpur district have received free flour bags so far.

He shared this information during his Bahawalpur visit where he inspected Free Flour Distribution Centers established by the Punjab Government under the Free Flour Scheme on Wednesday.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz visited Dring Stadium, Government College of Technology and Eidgah Centres in Bahawalpur. Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa and Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan were also present.

Talking on this occasion, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that a total of 24 flour distribution centers have been established in the district. "I am personally supervising the process of free flour distribution in Bahawalpur," he added.

Hasan to join Warwickshire for upcoming season

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani pacer Hasan Ali would be joining the county club Warwickshire on April 1 for the upcoming season 2023.

The news was revealed by Warwickshire Cricket County Club on its Twitter handle on Tuesday.

Warwickshire CCC wrote, "Want some good news? Hasan Ali arrives on Saturday!"

Meanwhile, Hassan on his Twitter handle wrote, "Excitement on top #youbeas."

He said, "I will play in both the T20 Blast and the County Championship until the end of July."

It is pertinent to mention here that Hasan turned up for Lancashire for the first six matches of the 2022 LV Insurance County Championship.

POA finalizes 32 disciplines, four exhibition sports for 34th National Games

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) finalized 32 disciplines and four exhibition sports including women's cricket for the upcoming National Games, scheduled to take place in Quetta from May 15 to 23.

In a press release issued on Wednesday, POA revised the list of sports disciplines and exhibition sports for the 34th chapter of the National Games.

Earlier the body included 31 categories and three exhibition sports for the event.

The decision was taken after discussion and thorough consideration in the meeting of all stakeholders held on March 6 in Lahore.

The four exhibition sports now include Futsal (Men and Women), Throwball (Men and Women), Canoe and Kayak, along with women's cricket.



Details further suggest that a large number of male and female athletes will participate in the event for which POA

requested provincial Olympic associations, Islamabad Olympic Association, services, departments and concerned sports

federations to take appropriate action for the preparation, participation and conduct of the games in a befitting manner.

Disciplines: Archery (Men & Women), Athletics (Men & Women), Badminton (Men & Women), 4 Baseball (Men), Basketball (Men & Women), Bodybuilding (Men), Boxing (Men & Women), Cycling (Men & Women), Football (Men & Women), Golf (Men & Women), Gymnastics (Men), Handball (Men & Women), Hockey (Men & Women), Judo (Men & Women), Kabaddi (Men), Karate (Men & Women), Rugby (Men & Women), Rowing (Men & Women), Sailing (Men & Women), Shooting (Men & Women), Squash (Men & Women), Softball (Women), Swimming (Men & Women), Table Tennis (Men & Women), Taekwondo (Men & Women), Tug of War (Men), Tennis (Men & Women), Volleyball (Men & Women), Weightlifting (Men & Women), Wrestling (Men), Wushu (Men & Women), Fencing (Men & Women).

First Rumanza Open Golf 2023 brought the best out of national golf stars

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The First Rumanza Open Golf Championship extended over five days of classy golf playing activity from 1st March to 5th March 2023 at the most engaging Sir Nick Faldo designed first signature golf course of Pakistan, the Rumanza Golf Course, DHA, Multan. With striking attributes like, 270 acres spread, three zones, the desert zone, the wetland zone and the woodland zone, this golf course has captivated the locals as well as yearning ones from major golf centers of the country, like Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Peshawar and foreign visitors to Multan including the golf playing English Cricketers. No doubt its lush green meadows, fruit filled orchards, classy fairways and 51 Eco Bunkers enthrall and dazzle the earnest,

ardent and diligent ones who travel to Rumanza Golf Club for rounds of golf that leave unfading impressions on their golf related experience.

Historically the city of Multan was known as a major cultural and economic centre of Southern Punjab and now added to all this is illustrious noteworthiness as an international golf playing centre with links to 200 top golf courses of the world.

The 1st Rumanza Open Golf Championship emerged as a history creating championship for this Nick Faldo designed golf course of the country. Through this grand championship Rumanza played host to lady golfers, veterans above 70 years of age, senior amateurs fifty five years and above, senior professionals, junior professionals 20 years and below, merited amateurs with handicap of nine

and below and the 100 super golf professionals who were loaded with motivation about competing at this magnificent and technically demanding 18 holes golf course. Additionally all of them felt spell bound by the name Rumanza that covered romance, urge to excel, magnificence, aesthetic design, nature, zealous challenge and ardentness. A few more features that augmented Rumanza were GEO Certification, making it the first golf course in South Asia to achieve this and also significant were outstanding novelties linked to the golf course like, signature design, development by renowned international architects, world wide golfing affiliations, plus the eco bunkers and a comprehensive golf lighting system in place. From the financial angle the huge attraction for eligible golf professionals was the cash laden purse of Rupees twelve

Million and an alluring car for a hole in one.

In his post victory comments, Ahmed Baig stated that the playing arena, the Rumanza Golf Course with course length extended to 7553 yards was an exacting examination for competing golf professionals that required meticulous shot placing accuracy due to the demanding fairways. The infrastructure was certainly top class and the organizing team at Rumanza Golf Club Brig, Fayyaz Ahmed Sial, Col Muhammad Anwar Tarrar, the Tournament Director and Samuel Humphrey, General Manager, Col Habib, DHA Project Secretary deserve all the credit for holding this grand 1st Rumanza Open Golf Championship which has enabled youngsters like Minhaj Maqsood, Muhammad Shahzad, Salman Jehangir, Qasim Ali Khan with reputation



Ahmed Baig the star performer of 1st Rumanza Open Golf Championship honored by Lt Gen (r) Qazi Muhammad Ikram, President, Pakistan Golf Federation, Brig Shoaib, Project Director and Brig Fayyaz Sial, Secretary, Rumanza Golf Club

substantially enhanced. It can be further added that Saad Habib is just sixteen years old and his golfing talent certainly appears a gift of Nature. In this championship

of golf champions, Saad Habib showed exemplary resoluteness to make the cut and remain well placed in the race amongst top performers. His potential is

bound to bloom. In the months to come the Management at Rumanza plans to make this a place of excellence for golfing activity.