Barkat Rice Mills

(Pvt) Limited

UAE's ambitions for global sustainability

As the UAE prepares to host the largest United Nations climate change conference, COP28, later this year, UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamedbin Zayed Al Nahyan recently announced 2023 as the "Year of Sustainability" to emphasize the importance of sustainability in shapinga more prosperous future. (Details on Page 8)



FM asks int'l community for collective action to overcome economic, climate challenges

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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ong queue

KARACHI: Deserving people stand in long queue to buy fruit on subsidized prices (10 rupees per Kg) at Ramazan Fair Price Market on New M.A Jinnah Road, in Provincial Capital.



Swiftly passed SC bill curtailing CJP's powers awaits President's assent

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Thursday sent the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 to President Dr Arif Alvi for final assent thus making it a law.

The upper house of parliament had, earlier, passed the bill, tabled by the law minister, with major-

As many as 60 lawmakers voted in favour while 19 senators opposed the bill. Opposition lawmakers tore up copies of the proposed bill. The bill is aimed at curtailing powers of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity.

The house rejected opposition's motion for sending the bill to the standing committee of the Senate. Treasury benches moved a motion to pass the bill immediately which was accepted

by the house.

ty staff of the Senate made a protective fence between treasury and opposition lawmakers. After that the bill was presented in the house for voting. The bill was passed by the house with majority votes.

PTI Senator Ali Zafar and opposition leader Shahzad Wasim tried to speak but they were not given permission to express their views on the bill.

The federal cabinet had approved the bill on March 28. Later, it was passed by the the National Assembly on Wednesday. A few amendments were suggested by the Standing Committee on Law and Justice hours earlier. As the bill was tabled in the upper house on Thursday, PTI members put up

strong opposition. Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, while presenting the bill in the Senate, said, "Law can never be stagnant. One has to keep a margin for changes in the law



ing to needs of the people in the present." The law minister said, "Instead of running the court through collective thinking, the court became dependent on an individual."

Criticising the excessive use of suo motu powers, he said, Executives were made to stand on the rostrum repeatedly. Such suo motu notices were taken that matters of cleaning streets were also brought up.

The minister lamented that In the meanwhile, securi- so that it can function accord- due to suo motu notices, the

state had to incur losses worth billions of dollars. He mentioned losses faced by the government in the Steel Mills and the Reko Diq agreement. The liver hospital also was an example of excessive use of suo motu powers, he said.

Mr Tarar said voices had arisen from the various bar bodies and the Senate that the "jurisdiction of Article 106 of the Constitution be restructured at least" so that it would reflect "collective

thinking".

bill, he said there were demands in the recent Senate sessions as well to do legislation to "solve the issue". He also highlighted that two amendments had been suggested on Wednesday by the standing committee.

Detailing the salient features of the bill, the law minister said there had now arisen an opinion from within the Supreme Court that the power to constitute benches should not lie under one person only.

"Only collective thinking takes institutions forward. If we want to strengthen institutions, we should strengthen the system instead of the personalities so that the institution can deliver," he asserted.

Mr Tarar further said the bill would solve the issues of deciding when a certain case had to be fixed for hearing and whether it is of public importance or not.

After passage of the bill, the session was prorogued till Defending the need for the 10:30am on Friday (tomorrow).

PM greets UAE's new vice president, Dubai's crown prince

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday extended felicitations to Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on his appointment as the vice president of the United Arab Emirates.

"May this new chapter be filled with success and prosperity for the UAE and its people," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister also congratulations Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed



Abu Dhabi.

"As a brotherly country, we look forward to continuing our strong partnership and working together towards a brighter Al-Nahyan on his appoint- future for our people and the ment as the Crown Prince of region," he wrote on Twitter.

DSP among four killed, six injured in IED blast, terrorists' attack



Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: A Deputy Superintendent of Police OSP) district Lakki Marwat his squad members embraced martyrdom while six police officials got injured in an apparently planned terrorist attack on a police station followed by an IED blast on DSP's vehicle in district Lakki Marwat in the wee hours on Thursday.

According to police, the terrorists first attacked the Sadar police station with modern and heavy weapons but the police personnel who were already on alert gave a befitting response as a result of which the terrorists retreated and escaped while taking advantage of the darkness.

However, in exchange for firing five police personnel deployed at the police station including Head Constable Farooq Shah and Constables Amanatullah, Azghar Ali, Gul Tiaz and Arif were injured.

As soon as the information went viral on the police wireless system, DSP Iqbal

Mohmand along with his squad rushed to the police station to rescue the injured police officials but himself fell prev to an IED blast at Peer Iqbal Mohmand and three of wale Mor, which claimed the lives of DSP Igbal Khan Mohmand and three of his gunners including Karamat, Waqar and Ali Marjan while driver of the vehicle Sardar Ali was injured in the deadly blast.

The other teams of the police force also arrived at the scene, cordoned off the area and started a search operation. Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and shifted injured and the dead bodies to the hospitals.

DSP Iqbal Khan Mohmand had been serving in Lakki Marwat for a long time and had conducted several successful operations against terrorists and criminals.

KP police chief and District Police Officer (DPO) Lakki Marwat said that DSP Iqbal Mohmand's dedication and bravery would be remembered forever and expressed the resolve that the perpetrators of the cowardly attack would soon be brought to justice.

LHC nullifies Section 124A of Treason Act

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday declared Section 124A of the Treason Act null and void.

On March 14, the Lahore High Court (LHC) concluded a hearing over petitions against the sedition law and reserved its decision. LHC Justice Shahid Karim in his short order declared Section 124A in conflict with the constitution of Pakistan.

The Sedition Law was challenged by Abuzar Salman Niazi advocate and others.

"Sedition laws are a legacy of the colonial history", petitioners' counsel argued. "Pakistan's constitution gives freedom of expression and opinion to every citizen," the lawyer said.

Dar proposes automated system to update population data in Pakistan

Mews Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday proposed replacing traditional census practices with a more cost-effective and efficient automated system that updates information using the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and other modern technologies.

During the Senate question hour, Dar responded to a question from Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi and emphasized the potential of technology to transform traditional practices and streamline the process of enrolling the population. The new approach would eliminate the need for



census.

Regarding the holding

of separate general elec-

tions in Punjab and Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Dar object-

ed, stating that according to

the 18th amendment, elec-

tions in the country should

be held simultaneously. In

October, there will be two

sitting governments, and

the question is whether

expensive census expendi-

Dar said the government spent billions of rupees on the 2017 census, but Sindh. Balochistan, and partially South Punjab raised objections over its accuracy. Eventually, the constitution was amended to allow the holding of the 2018 general elections based on the last

they will be dissolved or if a caretaker government will be appointed to ensure impartiality. However, the constitution does not allow Minister for Finance and

Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar stated that the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is making every effort to conduct the 7th Population & Housing Census digitally, in accordance with the decision of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in its 45th meeting held on April 12,

The CCI directed that "the process of the next census should start as early as possible according to international best practices by using the latest tech-

Sanaullah says NA to be dissolved on Aug 12, elections on Oct 8

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has said the National Assembly will cease to exist on Aug 12 or 16 after which a caretaker set-up will be in place to hold elections.

Speaking to media here on Thursday, Sanaullah said the political temperature in the country should be reduced so that dialogue could be initiated to solve the issues. He held Imran Khan responsible for chaos and anarchy in the country, claiming that he had worked

10 years for the purpose. Sanaullah stressed the need for "greater dialogues" to resolve the crisis. Strategy should be devised for the dialogues, he added.

SC forms new bench to hear polls delay case after Justice Aminuddin's recusal

E City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Thursday constituted a four-member bench to hear Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) plea against the delay in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections.

The development comes hours after Justice Aminuddin Khan recused himself from a Supreme Court bench hearing the PTI's petition against ECP decision to delay polls.

A new bench will hear the case tomorrow at 11:30pm.

Justice Aminuddin in his remarks said he cannot hear the case after yesterday's decision of a three-member bench headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa. After remarks of the honorable justice, the other four members of the bench left the court room and the bench

was dissolved. Wednesday,

three-member bench of the Supreme Court ordered to adjourn the hearing of cases of constitutional importance and suo motu notices. A three-member bench of

the court issued the order in a case of giving grace marks to Hafiz-e-Quran. The nine-page decision was written by Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, while Justice Shahid Waheed dissented from the decision.

It may be noted that a five-member bench was hearing PTI's plea against the postponement of elections in Punjab by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Punjab and KPK assemblies' speakers Sibtain Khan and Mushtaq Ghani have filed a joint constitutional petition on behalf of the Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf.

The Spokesman

Firing surface-to-air missiles

KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy on Thursday exhibited an excellent display of firing surface-to-air missiles. Navy spokesperson Muhammad Imran said Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi witnessed the firing of missiles by air defence units. He said the missiles fired by Pak Navy successfully hit their targets. He said firing of these missiles was proof of Pak Navy's combat readiness and operational capabilities.



President Alvi directs varsity to pay pension shares to retired professor

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing a university to pay the pension share to its former AIOU in 2020, he made the professor who had served the university for 14 years.

The president said that pension was a hard-earned right that accrued to an employee by dint of his long, continuous and faithful service, and the deprivation or delay in the grant of this right could not be permitted, except in accordance with the law.

As per details, Professor Dr Ali Asghar Chishti (the complainant) had served at the International Islamic of WM. University Islamabad (IIUI) from June 1985 to August order of Mohtasib directing

1999 as a faculty member and he joined Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) after applying through the proper chan-

After his retirement from

request to IIUI for the transfer of pension shares but the same was not done despite the issuance of a letter of liability in his favour. Subsequently, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) for relief, which passed the order in his favour as during the hearing, IIUI admitted his claim and assured him to redress his grievance. Later, IIUI chose to file a representation with the President against the orders



IIUI to transfer the pension ment Departments, Agencies share of the complainant as and Officers had been directper his request and based ed to not cause unnecessary his order on a decision of the Supreme Court.

another judgement of the The president upheld the Supreme Court, dated had stated that any violathe Ombudsman's order and 21.02.2013, wherein Governtion of these directions shall rejected the representation.

hurdle or delay in finalizing the payment of pensionary/ The president also cited retirement benefits in future.

In its judgement, the Court

amount to criminal negligence and dereliction of duty, and if any delay in the finalization of pension benefits cases of government servants, widows or orphan children was brought to the notice of the Court, the head of the concerned department would also be held liable for the contempt of the Court and would be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.

The president concluded that since IIUI had conceded the entitlement/claim of the complainant before the Wafaqi Mohtasib, therefore, it had no legal or moral justification to backtrack or seek reversal of the Mohtasib's orders. He directed IIUI to comply with

FM asks int'l community for collective action to overcome economic, climate challenges

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday said the international community needed to work together to overcome challenges caused by the climate catastrophe, Covid-19 pandemic, tough economic conditions and heightened geopolitical tensions.

He was speaking at an Interfaith Iftar dinner hosted in honour of the diplomatic corps here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Islamabad-based ambassadors, high commissioners and heads of missions representing countries from both predominantly Muslims and non-Muslims, joined the Iftar.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, National Assembly Speaker



Raja Pervez Ashraf, Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan, ministers and parliamentarians attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, olessed month of Ramazan.

facing the consequences of the devastation of climate change

followed by the economic chanlleges in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the government had the monumental task of recon-FM Bilawal Bhutto extended struction and rehabilitation of greetings to the guests on the people affected by the floods.

He mentioned that the Bena-Pakistan, he said, was zir Income Support Programme was the most effective mean to provide financial assistance to

Dean of Diplomatic Corps of Ramazan that brought to Pakistan Atadjan Movlam-

global peace and harmony. The members of the diplomatic corps appreciated the gesture of the Foreign Ministry in holding the Iftar with the

concept of interfaith harmony. United States Ambassador Donald Blome told APP that the interfaith Iftar was a wonderful tradition that represented the spirit of brotherhood among countries.

ov emphasized the significance

of interfaith communication for

China's Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue while talking to APP said the breaking of fast by the diplomatic representatives from all over the world demonstrated a beautiful concept of

Norway's Ambassador Per Albert Ilsaas lauded Pakistan's

interfaith harmony.

together people from different religions.

High Commissioner of Maldives Farzana Zahir told APP that promoting tolerance and acceptance of different religions created the basis for people to live together peace-

Ambassador at large for Kartarpur Corridor Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora said the event sent a positive message about the perception of Pakistan among the international community.

Member of the National Assembly Ramesh Kumar Vankwani said bringing together the envoys from different religions in the month of Ramazan was a beautiful symbol of building relationships beyond religious borders.

PM orders withdrawal of curative reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, calling it baseless and politically motivated, ordered the withdrawal of a curative reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The prime minister instructed Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar to withdraw the reference saying that the government would not pursue Niazi had also made the President the same for it being baseless and of Pakistan "misuse" his office for politically motivated, a PM Office statement said.

The federal cabinet had already approved the withdrawal of the reference in a meeting chaired by the prime minister.

a victimization by revengeful Imran Niazi against an impartial person pursuing the course of constitution and the law. This was a conspiracy to usurp the independence of judiciary and create a division within," the prime minister remarked.

He said while being in opposition, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and other coalition parties had opposed this frivolous reference.

The prime minister said Imran this "criminal act" who became an accomplice in an attack on the judi-

He said the lawyers' bodies including the Pakistan Bar Council had also opposed the reference and the "This was not a reference rather government valued their opinion.

IPSG to be helpful for implementation of climate-resilient projects over coming years: Ayaz

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for of UNDP Pakistan, country heads Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Thursday chaired the first meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSG).

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Secretaries Ministries of also present in the meeting, said a Resilient Pakistan. press release issued here.

lateral development partners, and tion of the 4RF. senior diplomats, including Ambas-Denmark, Europe Union (EU), Australia, China, France, the Netherlands, the UK, Canada, Russia, Italy, Azerbaijan, Qatar, Turkey, Republic of Korea and Japan.

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Resident Representatives and representatives from UNICEF, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, IMF, USAID, FCDO, Islamic Development Bank and Italian Cooperation Agency also attended the first meeting of the IPSG.

The minister welcomed the distinguished participants and expressed Finance and Planning Develop- gratitude for their continued support ment and Special Initiatives were and commitment towards Climate

He highlighted the purpose of The meeting was attended by a constituting IPSG as a forum to arge number of bilateral and multi- facilitate coordinated implementa-

He expressed hope that IPSG sadors, of USA, Germany, Norway, would be helpful in securing financial and other commitments for the implementation of climate-resilient projects over the coming years.

He appreciated the role of UNDP as the secretariat of IPSG.

More than 400,000 people allegedly involved in blasphemy in Pakistan: Report

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Legal Commission on Blasphemy, a non-profitable organization, on Thursday informed that More than 400,000 people were allegedly involved in blasphemous practices in Pakistan as per the Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi Bench.

Abdul Rahim Advocate, addressing a press conference here, at Nation- they were arrested, their strength al Press Club said Allah Almighty, Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad

(Peace Be Upon Him), Ahle Bayt, Ummahat-ul-Muminin, Ashab, Holy Quran and the national flag were being desecrated in a systematic way on the social media.

Expressing his astonishment, he said it was not happening in any other country but in our own Federal Investigation Agency Cyber homeland, adding that in 2022, Crime Wing's report submitted in FIA arrested four suspects of blas-

During the investigation, it was Commission's Chairman Rao revealed that they formed a blasphemy group in 2019 but when comprised of more than 32,000 blasphemers, he added.

UAE's ambitions for global sustainability



腾 H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi

s the UAE prepares to host the largest United Nations climate change conference, COP28, later this vear, UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamedbin Zayed Al Nahyan recently announced 2023 as the "Year of Sustainability" to 50% of its electricity from clean sources

ity in shapinga more prosperous future. sioned the world's largest single-site solar

This announcement signifies the UAE's commitment to sustainable development and its recognition of the global climate emergency that can only be addressed through collective action. The Year of Sustainability will include a range of initiatives to reduce the UAE's carbon footprint, increase environmental awareness, and promote sustainability in the public and private sectors.

The UAE has emerged as a global leader in sustainability in recent years as a result of its ambitious vision, strategic investments, and robust pro-climate policies. With a rapidly growing population, the UAE has recognized the need to transition to a more sustainable future and has taken bold steps to achieve this goal.

One of the key pillars of its sustainability agenda is renewable energy, as theUAE has set a target of generating

emphasize the importance of sustainabil- by 2050. In 2020, the UAE commisenergy project at Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Parkwith a capacity of 1.2 gigawatts (GW).

Significant reforms are also underway in the transport sector, with sizeable investments in the country's mass transit systems, such as the Dubai Metro. Dubai's road and transport agency wants to see 100% electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles across the emirate's public transport network by 2050, and around USD 160 billion is also being invested in a range of ambitious schemes aimed at achieving carbon neutrality through the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative.

In addition to its domestic efforts, the UAE has also emerged as a leader in global sustainability initiatives. The country is a signatory to the Paris Agreement on climate change and has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 23.5% by 2030. The UAE also hosts the



International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and has convened several important international conferences on sustainability, including the World Future Energy Summit and Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

The UAE's sustainability efforts have

received widespread global recognition. In 2021, the UAE was ranked first in the Middle East and North Africa region in the Global Green Economy Index.

The UAE's commitment to sustainability is a model for other countries to follow, and the Year of Sustainability will

the world as the UAE demonstrates that sustainability is not only achievable, but essential for our future. As we look ahead to COP28 and

be a turning point for the country and for

beyond, the UAE and Islamic Republic of Pakistan canadvanceregional and global cooperation through collective efforts to create a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for all, especially for the most vulnerable countries onthe Climate Risk Index.

In conclusion, the UAE's role in sustainability is an inspiring example of what can be achieved when a nation prioritizes sustainable development through its investments in renewable energy, water conservation, and global initiatives. As the world confronts the urgent challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, the UAE's leadership in sustainability is more important than ever.

(Writer is the Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan)

Punjab minister, commissioner monitor supply of free flour under Ramazan package

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The provision of free flour to the citizens under the historic Ramazan package of the Punjab government continues-Provincial Minister for Communications and Works and Excise Bilal Afzal and Commissioner Amir Khattak visited the free flour points of Khanewal and Jahaniyan-Provincial Minis-

and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. He also inquired about the 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 talking to the media on this occasion said that Punjab Chief Minister Bilal Afzal took this opportunity. ter Mohsin Naqvi has given a histor-

He reviewed the supply of free flour ic Ramazan package for the people of the province.

> The Punjab government will deliver the fruits of the Ramazan package to the citizens in any case-he directed In case of heavy rush, the number of counters should be increased Providing free flour in a dignified manner is the right of the citizens and ours There is responsibility.

Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Khattak said on this occasion been made by the police.

that he is happily monitoring the supply of free flour in the division, the divisional and district administrations of the four districts are busy to serve the public.

That more than 4 lakh bags of free flour have been distributed in the district so far, the number of counters has been increased at the centers where there is a rush-DPO said that foolproof security arrangements have

Heavy rainfall

RAWALPINDI: People are passing through a flooded road after the heavy rainfall at Mukha Singh area in the city.



Pakistan People's Party, Azad Kashmir strongly protested

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan People's Party, Azad Kashmir strongly protested against the united opposition against the government for defamation of character, false and fabricated mental innovation based on accusations, the leader of the opposition, Chaudhry Latif, before the former prime minister, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan. He demanded that all the facts be presented in the honorable house from the adjournment motion and called the Khape slogan. historic address of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari from the meeting of the National Assembly as bold and courageous and the interpretation of 22 million people, from which the Leader of the People, Shaheed Zulfikar and the nation, while Presi-



dent of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi in the dangerous situation caused by the martyrdom of Ms. Benazir Bhutto, former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari's statement Pakistan

Declaring the rational Federal Foreign Minister logic of saving Pakistan is the moral, political and ideological victory of the eternal struggle of the People's Party. There will be no need for existing enemies, in a good peaceful environment, using the name of the prime minis-Ali Bhutto, Daughter of ter in a negative way and East Ms. Benazir Bhutto's opening the Pandora's box to concern philosophy is the create a political atmosphere secret of development and is part of a specific agenda self-reliance of the country and a blackmailing tactic. Shaukat-i Javed Mir, the

Central Deputy Secretary of time in history, has put an Information and nominat- end to political revenge and ed candidate for Assembly Constituency No. 7, speaking to the media at the Assembly Secretariat, said that some ministers are involved in the misuse of powers, including looting, bribery, and abuse of merit commissions, and they are drawing the public's attention. Shaukat Javed Mir said that the history of the People's Party is a witness that it sacrificed its lives for the sake of national dignity and public interests.

Under the leadership of Ex Primier Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, did grade three hundred educational institutions, establish health centers and provide unspecified employment, build roads, water supplies, three medical colleges, women's university, cadet colleges, and make the independent region an educational state through revolutionary decisions. In response, Shaukat Javed Mir said that former Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, for the first

felicitates newly elected office bearers of NPC, Islamabad Abdul Majeed Tahir reprisals by giving funds to opposition members of the assembly equal to the

members of the govern-

ment and building a culture

of consultative trust through

tolerance, politeness and

ment has removed the

burden of state dignity in

order to continue its power.

The ministers are at odds

with each other. People's

Party Chairman said that

the history of horse trad-

ing has been made in Azad

Kashmir through the use

of wealth. Federal Foreign

Minister Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari Former President

of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari

Chairperson of Political

Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur

Party President Chaudhry

Muhammad Yasin Lead-

er of Opposition Chaudhry

Latif Akbar and others led

by the public wishes against

incompetent rulers In the

field of action, there will be

The current govern-

courtesy.



PMAJK

ISLAMA-BAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas extended his

heartfelt felicitations to all the office bearers of the National Press Club Islamabad, including its newly elected President Anwar Raza and Secretary General Khalil Ahmed Raja.In his congratulatory message, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan expressed the hope that the NPC members would use all their abilities to ensure the supremacy of the constitution and freedom of expression in the country.Referring to the NPC's valuable services in promoting civil liberties in the country, the PM expressed the optimism that the newly elected members of the prestigious body would use print, electronic and social media platforms to raise their voice in support of the Kashmiris who were fighting against the Indian occupation in the IIOJK.

Mohammad Iqbal retired from PEMRA

News Desk

QUETTA: A shield presented to Muhammad Igbal by Deputy Superintendent of Police Quetta on behalf of Balochistan Police at PEMRA Islamabad. A meeting was attended by Director General Licencing/Broadcast Wakeel Khan, Director Abdul Rahman Amini, Director Tariq Mehmood and Director Zahid Idris from ZE at PEMRA, Islamabad.

Director General Licencing/ Broadcast Wakil Khan said that Muhammad Igbal has performed his duties in the best way, his services will always be remembered.

Police Quetta, Mahmood Ali Khokhar said that Director Muhammad Igbal fulfilled FM Radio Licensing.



Deputy Superintendent of his responsibilities very well and his services will be remembered especially in regard to

Mehmood Ali Khokhar said about the latest weather and that FM radio broadcasting is the best way of keeping He further added, awareness

traffic conditions on toads. people well aware, informed of road safety education can

help in keeping highways safe from accidents. The Traffic Police Quetta FM-88.6 radio station will be of great importance to keep road commuters informed about weather, traffic. alternative routes as well as traffic rules.

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has issued an educational radio license to the Quetta Traffic Police and very soon not only regular transmission will be broadcast but also same will be broadcast from more cities of Balochistan including Gwadar for the safety and guidance of the people.

The objective of FM radio is to educate the public about traffic rules, traffic education, road safety and obtaining a driving license.

Gomal Zam Road has been closed due to land sliding



😂 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower South Waziristan tribal District unfortunately due to recent heavy rains for the last three days, the Wana Gomal Zam road is closed due to land sliding at various places and due to the closure of this important road, passengers and drivers have been forced to use

Although due to road closure, on one hand, passengers have to travel for more than 2 hours, while on the other hand, drivers are charging $\,$ double fare from passengers and riders.

However, apart from this, the emergency patients are facing severe pain because the distance on the Wana Jandola route is long and most of the patients die on the way.

Local tribal elders, political leaders and drivers strongly demanded from the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood that Wana Gomal Zam Road, which is an important highway on which the business of Pakistan's and business community from many countries, including Afghanistan, is running,

Therefore, this important highway should be immediately handed over to the National Highway Authority and at the same time, steps should be taken on an emergency basis to rehabilitate and clear it.

On the other hand, Deputy Commissioner of Lower South Waziristan $\,$ Muhammad Nasir Khan said in this regard that Wana Gomal zam road is closed due to land sliding due to heavy rains for the last three days, the restoration work is going on, so people should use alternate routes.

Thousands flour bags distributed in Multan Division

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: 16 lakh 46 thousand 698 flour bags have been distributed in Multan division under Ramazan package. More than 16 lakh bags of flour were distributed from March 19 to March 28. Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Khattak In one day, 2 lakh 29 thousand 521 bags of flour were distributed at the trucking points. Flour is being supplied at 76 flour trucking points and 82 distribution points in Multan Division. Aamir Khattak Commissioner Aamir Khattak's order to check the quality of flour Review meeting about Ramazan package presided over by Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak

1542 users, 151 Civil Defense personnel on duty at various points in Multan Division. Commissioner Aamir Khattak's order to increase the number of counters, users Commissioner Aamir Khattak's order to further increase checking counters for the convenience of citizens The Punjab government has given an ideal Ramazan package for the deserving class. Officers of district departments and civil defense officials are also on duty. he said Citizens have benefited from the fruits of government subsidy by showing restraint. Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Khattak.

Multan: By establishing more flour points in the district, the rush has been reduced, points are being increased as required. Aamir Khattak Additional Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Arshad Vito were present in the meeting Deputy Commissioners, officers of the concerned departments are present on the video link

Security of worship places and mosques should also be ensured: SSP

👺 Bureau Report.

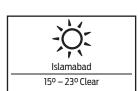
FAISALABAD: SSP Patrolling Police Faisalabad Region Mirza Anjum Kamal while issuing special orders to the District DSPs and In-charges Post Faisalabad Region regarding security and crime control in the month of Ramazan said that the District DSPs must go on Patrolling sites & During the patrolling mobiles check & support them in accelerating the process of getting peaceful environment all around.

He is dire need to check employ-

ees' turnout, weapons, cleanliness, first aid box, reflective cones, briefing de-briefing register and offenders/ fugitives lists as well as checking post-high ways, distribution of free flour in beat areas and security around places of worship. He pointed out that let us be sure to check the movement of suspicious persons in the surrounding areas. He said with the support of masses try again and again to maintain & provide full support to senior citizens, women and children. During the month of Ramazan, the movement of criminals increase during the hours of Zohar and Iftar timing. In this regard, make an effective patrol plan. Be initiated on time, keep all staff present at the post, accordingly Perform SOP duties. Immediate response should be given to the calls received from the patrol police helpline 1124. Kamal elaborated that the patrol posts will be checked regularly even the reporting centers have been established to cooperate with the citizens at the patrol posts and ask them to behave ethically. Occurring from, the traffic increases at the time of Iftar, which Accidents happen, traffic should not be blocked in any beat area. The men of the shift will do their duty on high alert, strong action should be taken against arms and drugs, special monitoring of black spots, both sentries of the post (main gate sentry and roof sentry) should wear bullet proof jackets and be alert. He further expressed that all will perform duty one step head, be extremely alert and careful and check suspicious persons. Take action against those who put illegal

green and fake number plates on vehicles. He pointed out that each and every person seems outlaw and creates suspicious motion and activity on the road should be fully checked in





SERVICES Namaz Timings .. 6:26 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

ENQUIRY dhi Ambulance115			
dhi Ambulance	115		
IA Flight Info	114		
IA Cargo92	80979		
ailway Inquiry	117		
ailway Exchange9270	0831-5		
/ASA Rawalpindi55	55489		

HOSPITALS

HUSFIIALS			
CMH	5611111		
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		

People's voice will matter in Pakistan: Ghuman

腾 Mian Rashid Asghar



unleashing gathering with great patriotic passions of PTI members and other masses at Pakistan Minaret has declared the results before contesting the forthcoming Electoral College.

He said adding that the People's voice is significant part in a state instead framing and changing laws for personal whims and

Muhammad Shahbaz Bajwa on this occasion also pointed out that the people of Pakistan are with justice and balance in the institutions in all respect.

He further expressed that no one can suppress the Voice of real independ-

Last 76- years, an era of might is right has escaped from this emerging voice for ensuring the fundamental rights.

Sugary drinks major causes of diseases

Tax on sugary drinks is a triple win for government; experts

👺 Hussna Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Increasing tax on sugary drinks can help generating significant revenue and reduce the hospital expenditure. The common man is not effected when tax is increased on sugary drinks as these are not necessary items and their consumption only add diseases burden and increase hospital expenditure. This was said by experts during the media session organized by Pakistan National Heart Association aimed to indicate gaps and propose way forward for sugary drink's tax policy.

Pakistan ranks third highest in the world with more than 33 million people with diabetes. The annual cost of managing diabetes has increased to USD 2640 million in Pakistan. The PANAH's Gener-



said that for the last four decades, his association has been working to save the lives of people, especially the youth, from heart and other Non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Sugary drinks are one of the major causes of these diseases, every section of society; media, al Secretary Sanaullah Ghumman health professional are raising their



of these harmful drinks.

Global Health Advocacy Incubator, said that excessive consumpthreat to health and economy in the country. "increasing tax on

voices to reduce the consumption sugary drinks is a triple win for the government, as the policy inter-Munawar Hussain, Consultant, vention does not cost anything to government, help reduce disease burden and hospital expenditure, tion of sugary drinks is a growing and increase revenue" said Muna-

"Government should consider causes of obesity leading to type

increasing tax on all type of sugary drinks including carbonated beverages, energy drinks, flavored dairies, juices (including fruit juices), iced tea, squashes and syrups for better outcomes of the policy. Another important consideration is that water and unsweetened milk should not be taxed"

We further request the Government of Pakistan to increase the federal excise duty on sugary drinks to 50% so that the consumption of sugary drinks is reduced.

Speaking to the workshop, Dr. Khawaja Masood from the Ministry of Health that non communicable diseases are on the rise in Pakistan and we fully support fiscal policies aimed reducing the consumption of sugary drinks. "research shows that sugary drinks are among the major

2 diabetes, heart diseases, cancers and many other chronic diseases" he said.

"The consumption of flavored milk and yogurt is equally harmful to the public health as other sugary drinks. People should choose healthier alternatives like unsweetened milk, lassi and water" he added.

Aziz Alvi, representing the media, said that The beverage industry is using various tactic to oppose the tax on sugary drinks which are causing more and more diseases to the public. The media shall continue disseminating facts and exposing interference of the industry in the policy process.

"Panah is working for a good cause and we stand with Panah and the media will continue to play its role to make Pakistan healthy by supporting voices of public health advocates" he added.

Islamabad Industrial Association Elections 2023-24

 $Ahmed\ Waheed\ President, Karim\ Aziz\ Malik\ Senior\ Vice\ President\ elected$



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Selection of Ahmed Waheed and his team will be an important milestone in the development of the industrial area in the capital and aligning it with modern requirements:

Islamabad (Staff Reporter) former president of ICCI Ahmed Waheed was elected the new President of Islamas senior vice President, Usman Shaukat was elected as vice president. Former Presidents ciation Mian Akram. Fareed, Tariq Sadiq, Zakaria A. Zia and their team's services for industrial development were lauded. . Chief Election Commissioner Islam Industrial Association Sheikh Tariq Sadiq announced members Nasir Khan, Usman Shaukat, Sheikh Rizwan, ImtiArshad and including newly elected top office bearers.

The Annual General Body Meeting of Islamabad Industhe Election 2022-23 Hotel Crowne Plaza Islamabad. Sub-organizations of industrial associations including steel industry, pipe manufacturing, automobiles, pharmaceutical, oil and ghee, soap and chemiabad Industrial Association, and software technology, oil the modern requirements, and Karim Aziz Malik was elected and gas, fruit and vegetable, solve outstanding issues with Former Vice Presidents of sentatives of Cargo, Engineering participated in the meetof Islamabad Industrial Asso- ing and appreciated and paid tribute to the tireless efforts of former presidents Zakaria A. Zia, SheikhTariq Sadiq and M. Akram Farid.

Former President Islamabad Industrial Association Mian Akram Farid addressed the the unopposed executive meeting. He paid great tribute Mian Shaukat Masood, Chohdi to outgoing President Zakaria A. Zia, Senior Vice President az Rastgar, Mahmood Warich, Mian Waqas Masood, Vice President ICCI Fahad Wahid and Chaudhry Muhammad President Shahid Javed Cheesaid in his address that That mony on March 31.

they registered the association, and CDA, MCI, WAPDA. And solved the issues togethtrial Association was held at er with FBR. He further said and expressed hope that the upcoming leadership of Ahmed Waheed, Karim Aziz Malik, Usman Shaukat and their team will lead to the development of the industry located in the federal capital and It will prove cal, marble and flour mills, IT to be a keystone to align it with food hotels industry Repre- CDA FRR MCL and WAPDA and voice the industry and the Aziz Malik, Chohdi Waheed-Mutati area located in the

ma and their team for the way

And he hoped that the new leadership of Omid Tahir will use all resources to solve the problems of the manufacturers of Islamabad and develop the industrial area.

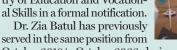
federal capital.

Former ICCI President Wahiduddin, Nasir M. Farishi, Sheikh Atif Ikram, Senior Vice the new leadership has made every effort to solve the problems of the industrial area, and we have strengthened our association together.

He informed the new president about the development works and problems in Kahota Industrial Area Senior Vice President ICCI Fahad Waheed, Former Presidents of ICC, Nasir Khan, Mian Shaukat Masood, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sheikh Atif Ikram, FPCCI Nasir Qureshi, Karim uddin attended the meeting. In the meeting, former Senior Vice President ICCI Rafat Farid, Iftikhar Anwar Sethi, Mian Aslam Farid, Mahmood Waraich, Sanaullah Bisham, Shaukat Havat Khan, Tahir Ayub, Dr. Usman, Naeem Pracha, Babu Aleem Khan, addressed the meeting. Sheikh Rizwan, Usman Khaledu and others participated in the swearing-in cere-

Dr. Syeda Zia Batul appointed as the Chairperson of PARA

ISLAMABAD: Well-known educationist and policy maker Dr Syeda Zia Batul has been appointed as the Chairperson of Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority Islamabad (PEIRA) for the second term, which was issued by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Skills in a formal notification.





October 2019 to October 2022, during which he has rendered outstanding services in the field of education in Pakistan.

With over 20 years of professional experience, Dr. Zia Batul has an extensive background in policy making and reforms in various sectors of socio-economic development with special focus on education. In addition to his PhD degree, he has received professional training in policy reform, education standards and accreditation from the UK and Australia.

During her first term as chairperson of PARA, she spearheaded initiatives to improve the quality of education in the private sector, including the development and implementation of quality assurance standards, institutional review, accreditation systems, performance Includes evaluation standards, and policy reforms.

Nationally and internationally. He is also credited with developing the first quality assurance agency in Pakistan while working for the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and has contributed to the development of the Pakistan Qualification Framework and Register.

Dr. Batul has represented Pakistan at various international forums as an international expert and resource person.

MOU signed between PIDE and EDB



ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Engineering Development Board (EDB) in Islamabad. The PIDE was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque and EDB by the Chairman, Mr. Almas Hyder.

According to PIDE Press Release, the MoU document covers formal collaboration on areas of mutual research interest leading to the development of Pakistan's Engineering Goods and Services Sector on modern lines. Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, PIDE, stressed the need to map out and determine the contribution of the engineering industry to the economy in terms of GDP share, investment, and employment generation, and identification of top performers. There is also a need to understand why firms do not grow and why they are not exporting.

Mr. Almas Hyder echoed the Vice-Chancellor's sentiments. Further-

more, the Memorandum of Understanding with PIDE would give the EDB an edge when proposing policy interventions for development of the engineering industry as these would be based on updated information regarding the current state of the industry. Research and policy go hand in hand, and the industry needs to be mapped out more.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) seeks to promote cooperation in research activities between two institutes. The need to cooperate to achieve the mutually beneficial goal of promoting research and development of the engineering industry, serving critical decisions and policymakers of the country with credible research-based analysis is acknowledged by the MoU.

K-Electric setup night facilitation camps during Ramazan

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: As part of its effort to offer maximum convenience to its consumers and ensure uninterrupted power supply to the city, K-Electric continues to take various measures, including setting up night facilitation's camps, conducting anti-power theft drives, and disconnecting defaulters' power supply in various parts of the city. K-Electric has recently setup a night facilitation camp in Gulistan e

Johar, Landhi, Shah Faisal Colony, Malir, Garden, Bin Qaism, Clifton and F.B Area where the utility received massive footfall from the consumers. Consumers were collectively facilitated and availed different services

from KE teams, including bill payment solutions via easy monthly installments and rebates as per their eligibility. Customers were also facilitated with their requests for new connections whereas faulty meters were immediately replaced.

Vice Chancellor receives prestigious Sitara-e-Imtiaz

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University is proud to announce that its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad, has been awarded the prestigious Sitara-Imtiaz by President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This award has been granted to Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmed, in recognition of his outstanding contributions as a religious scholar and his devotion to the study and dissemination of Islamic

Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad is a well-respected social scientist with a global reputation and holds the esteemed position of founding Vice-Chancellor at Riphah International University.



Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmed has dedicated his life to promoting Islamic education and values, and under his leadershipseveral education institutions have been established in Pakistan and abroad, He has published over 90 research papers.

His recent books include: Jinnah; Islamic vision of Pakistan, Al Fatihah: a thematic study, Issues in Islamic Society and state and Gender, Law and Society in Islam.

He was earlier awarded fellowship by University Science Malaysia and Honorary Professorship by University of Kyrgyzstan.Under his Leadership Riphah International University has become one of the top universities in

Comprehensive Medical workshop on Critical Airway Management

By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: For the first time in the history of Nishtar Medical University, a comprehensive workshop on Critical Airway Management was organized at Skill Lab Nishtar Medical University with the aim of equipping the medical professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to deal with any emergency situation.

In this one-day workshop, a prominent figure in the field of critical care management, Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University, along with Prof.



Dr. Masood-ul-Rauf Haraj, Dr. Syed Shams-ul-Hasan Bukhari and Dr. Maryam covered many topics related

to critical care. Moreover, the participants of the workshop were provided with hands-on training and the opportunity to use the latest equip-At the end of the workshop, Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed distribut-

ed certificates among the participants and thanked private organization Rehmat Foundation and Dr. Ghulam Qadir for their support in this regard. On the other hand, the participants of the workshop appreciated the efforts of Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf and other organizers, describing the workshop as very useful for increasing their professional skills.

Editorial/Opinion

Friday, March 31, 2023

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Asim Nazir Ahmad Vice Chairman: Managing Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com

Syed Afraz Ali Nazish Bureau Chief Lahore: (afrazalishah@gmail.com) Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

Pakistan supports China's global development

akistan strongly supports the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, both proposed by President Xi Jinping over the last two years, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said.

The initiatives carry significance for human progress and have become essential in addressing the urgent needs and difficulties of a divided and unstable world, he told

He said that the GDI was aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, which are about poverty reduction and socioeconomic develop-

Ambassador Haque said that the GDI, proposed by President Xi back in September 2021 in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, had been a very important initiative after the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), "which has been about the development of infrastructure" and connectivity".

When Pakistan's prime minister visited Beijing in November last year, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding, with Pakistan becoming one of the first partner countries under the GDI, according to the ambassador.

"So, under this MoU, we will be cooperating in the areas of education, health, agriculture, and of course, climate change, which has become a very important subject not only for Pakistan but also for the entire world community," he said.

Citing the recent floods in Pakistan, the envoy said climate change under the GDI framework would become a very important topic of cooperation between China and Pakistan. The Pakistan flooding was a clarion call for everybody, he continued.

Ambassador Haque said Pakistan had fully supported the GSI because Pakistan and China are important mem-

bers of the international community. Both countries were very responsible members of the United Nations, he said, adding the GSI was aligned with the purposes and principles of the UN.

He said that security remains an important issue for both China and Pakistan and added that Pakistan had suffered over the years due to an adverse security environ-

Not only the physical security of borders but also security for people, food security, and energy security, "these are all important aspects of security for both countries",

"So, in this respect, we feel very proud that Pakistan and China have similar visions and similar positions on global peace and security," he said.

China's pragmatism pushing Iran to end its regional isolation

in Iran's oil, gas and

petrochemicals industries,

to these sectors.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

hina's pragmatic approach and its major concentration on economic growth will likely continue to contribute to it playing an important role in diplomacy in the Middle East, as well as in enhancing peace, security and stability generally.

It is worth noting that one of China's most valuable imported goods is oil. And the majority of China's imported oil comes from the Middle East. According to the World's Top Exports website, the value of crude oil exported to China totaled \$229.3 billion in 2021, up 41.4 percent since 2017 and 30 percent from 2020 to 2021.

It added that crude oil is China's second most valuable imported good after integrated electronic circuits and microassemblies. Forty-four countries supplied crude petroleum oil to mainland China in 2021, including smaller suppliers like Albania, Algeria, Bolivia, Brunei and Ivory Coast. The top five exporters (Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Oman and Angola) provided 59.6 percent of China's crude oil imports in 2021. About half originated from nine Middle Eastern nations, ranging from the \$39.9 billionworth provided by Saudi Arabia to the \$232.3 million-worth of unprocessed petroleum from Egypt.

More fundamentally, China has strong trade and economic relationships with

Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern Tehran and Riyadh could have a signifcountries beyond its oil imports. When it comes to Iran and Saudi Arabia, according to Deutsche Welle, China "has cultivated strong economic and political ties with both Riyadh and Tehran in recent years. Saudi Arabia is China's largest oil supplier, with trade between the two

countries amounting to \$87 billion in 2021. Commerce between Iran and China, meanwhile, was worth more than \$16 billion in the same year, with Tehran depending on the Asian giant for as much as 30 percent of its foreign trade."

In other words, the more the Middle East enjoys stability, security and peace, the

be preserved. This is accurate for other countries in the region too. Furthermore, this might be partially why China brokered the important agreement between regional powers Saudi Arabia and Iran. This month's deal is a key development not only in terms of restoring ties between the Iranian government and Saudi Arabia, but also in reducing tensions and enhancing peace and security in the region. Improved ties between

icant impact on the region's geopolitical and economic landscapes.

If the Iranian government fulfills its duties and commits to this historic deal, the region can witness a brighter future, preserving the economic, political and strategic interests of all parties involved.

The

Saudi

Arabia-Iran deal is without doubt a Leaked information reveals diplomatic victothat one of the clauses is that, ry for China and enhances its presin return for its investment tige and legitimacy on the global stage. But it is also important to Beijing will be given priority point out that it is not in China's if it wants to bid on any new economic interest project in Iran that is linked to see conflict in the region or, more importantly, to

witness the Iranian

government being more China's economic interests will isolated and experiencing tensions with other countries in the Middle East.

This is because Beijing has committed itself to a significant investment in Iran. In 2021, China and the Iranian government signed a 25-year strategic partnership deal, which is now in the early stages of implementation. The agreement states that China will continue to import oil from Iran. According to the Tehran Times: "The Chinese foreign minister approved of his Iranian coun-

published in China's Global Times. Wang (Yi) said the Iranian foreign minister's views show the promising horizon in relations between Tehran and Beijing. The top Chinese diplomat underlined his country's readiness to expand cooperation with Iran in financing, energy, banking and cultural sectors despite the ... sanctions."

China's investments in Iran over the 25-year term of the deal are expected to total about \$400 billion. The agreement also grants Beijing some rights and will help the Islamic Republic increase its oil and gas production. Leaked information reveals that one of the clauses is that, in return for its investment in Iran's oil, gas and petrochemicals industries, Beijing will be given priority if it wants to bid on any new project in Iran that is linked to these sectors.

As a result, it is realistic to argue that, if the Iranian government is involved in long-term rivalry or conflict with other countries in the region, this could jeopardize China's investments in Tehran. Therefore, Beijing offered the Iranian government an invaluable opportunity for the de-escalation of these tensions via diplomacy, allowing it to embrace friendship with Saudi Arabia.

In a nutshell, as China increases its economic engagement in the Middle East, it will most likely step up its diplomatic engagement in the region too. The Saudi Arabia-Iran deal is the first prominent example of this.



Daylight saving fiasco a sign of looming trouble in Lebanon Today's Tibet evinces path to modernization

Khaled Abou Zahr

discussions are something I despise because they are fruitless and aimless. Yet, the its catastrophic financial situation is charged with sectarianism and it needs to be addressed. I will first state that I was fortunate as an emigrant to have Lebanese friends in France without ever knowing or asking what their confession was. To this day, I do not know and this ignorance is bliss. Friends are friends. I was also fortunate not to live through the horrible years of civil war, despite the fact that threats and bombs from the Syrian regime and its partners followed my late father to Europe. This week's daylight saving episode was telltry is facing.

In a split second, the political and being described as Sunni versus Shiite into Muslim versus Christian. There is a lot to say. In fact, just as the protests in France are not only about pensions and the age of retirement, in Lebanon it is not just a question of when to apply daylight saving time. In France, the ongoing burst of protests began following the government's use of Article 49.3 of the French Constitution to pass its pension reforms. This was interpreted as a unilateral decision by the president. However, in reality, Article 49.3 the parliament to put the entire govern- not, this system encourages fear-mon-

ment to a no-confidence vote, which it gering and populism instead of the narrowly survived. Yet, the accumulation of COVID-19, war in Europe and inflation have pushed French citizens to feel like they are losing their voice or control over their country.

As Lebanon is moving toward total current state of Lebanon and decrepitude, this episode should be seen as a warning sign. In my view, the Christian community is clearly stating that it does not accept and does not wish to be an add-on or a second-level voice in the politics of the country. Indeed, within the past decade, the politics of Lebanon have been framed by the Sunni-Shiite divide. This has meant that Christians have had to align with either one or the other to get their voices heard. The unified reaction to the daylight saving decision was a declaration against this situation. And it is understandable.

Why should the Christian commuing regarding the high risks the counnity or any other community for that matter have to align with another in order to get its voice heard? No single media scene in Lebanon shifted from community in Lebanon should be in the category of second-class political decision-makers. In Iraq, the Sunni population has been transformed into such a class, while in Lebanon too the Sunnis are a weakened political force. There is an urgent need to step away from this type of confessional politics.

A strong Lebanon is a Lebanon where all the communities are protected and have their future in their own hands. If there is fear of the other or a lack of representation, this cannot work. Politicians need to be held accountable is not a unilateral decision as it allows and responsible. Whether we like it or and unstable. Time is of the essence to

principle of serving citizens. A clear example is how Gebran Bassil this week made front-page news in all the Christian media. In a flash, he went from pariah to a cleaned-up political voice.

This is why we should pay attention to little details. They have a tendency to blow up and bring chaos. And so, whether actions and reactions are considered clumsy or futile, they are a sign of dangerous times. Moreover, this incident has shown that the alliances and the political system are nothing but a masquerade. It shows that Lebanon is not a democracy but a confessional system sprinkled with Western democratic displays.

And so, it is not a surprise that the reaction by Lebanese Christians to this failed decision — and for the first time in large numbers — was to put forward the need for a federation. I have stated it often and agree that federalism is the best solution for a new political system. This is the only way not to have any community feel marginalized while shifting toward accountability. Yet, this transformation must be real and not cosmetic, like it has been done in Iraq, where it is essentially a centralized system controlled by one single confessional group.

Thus, this is a warning that Lebanon is a split second away from clumsily spiraling once again into violent military confrontation. This risk should be taken into account, especially as the situation in northern Syria is still fluid save the country.

Kelsang Drolma

he development of Tibet and ethnic groups has always been one of the priorities for the central government. Based on equality, China's ethnic policy is aimed at realizing common prosperity and improving the lives and livelihoods of all ethnic groups. As such, the modernization of Tibet reflects Chinese-style modernization.

The modernization process of Tibet, however, has been arduous. By taking measures for the liberation of social productivity, the central authorities laid a solid foundation and gave the institutional guarantee for Tibet's modernization. Today, Tibet is a socialist society where all workers enjoy equal rights and freedom in all aspects of life.

Since the founding of the People's Republic, especially since the launch of reform and opening-up, the Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people, including members of all ethnic groups, in promoting socialist modernization and adopting a modernization path with Chinese characteristics based on the reality of the situation.

Before liberation, Tibet was a hierarchical society where most people were poor, lacked economic autonomy, and led a miserable life, forcing them to pin

all their hopes on the afterlife. After the peaceful liberation of Tibet, however, the construction of Qing-

hai-Tibet and Sichuan-Tibet highways

greatly shortened the distance between

Tibet and the rest of the country. And launched large-scale environmental the establishment of new schools allowed the people of the plateau to see a different world, a world of modern

These democratic reforms following the liberation of Tibet helped overthrow the old system, allowing the Tibetan people to live with dignity, exercise freedom of action, and adopt modern ways in a socialist democratic country. Today, their rights are protected by national laws and regulations, and their needs

In order to improve the Tibetan people's sense of gain and happiness, more than 80 percent of Tibet's budget is devoted to improving people's livelihoods. In fact, Tibetan people's livelihoods have been improving at a faster rate than the national and central-western region's average. In particular, the development of education, healthcare and other sectors has greatly improved the material and spiritual lives of the

Tibetan people. Laws and regulations related to the protection and development of ethnic languages and scripts included in China's Constitution allow Tibetan cultural texts, written in the Tibetan script, to be disseminated not only through books and classrooms but also through television and the internet.

The Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau has the world's most unique and harshest terrain with unusual distribution of species. To protect this magnificent plateau, the central government has been promoting green and sustainable development in Tibet. It has also

protection projects, including reverting farmlands to forests and grasslands, and provided exemplary financial support for Tibet's green development. For example, from 2012 to 2022, the central government allocated 29.28 billion yuan (\$4.28 billion) in subsidies and rewards for the conservation of grassland ecology in Tibet.

Indeed, Tibet is taking big strides toward modernization that is in harmony with nature and conforms to the central government's new Tibet governance policy, which upholds the Party's leadership, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and the system of regional ethnic autonomy, while strengthening ethnic unity.

As of 2017, Tibet's GDP growth rate had been in double digits for 24 consecutive years, the highest in the country. And as Tibet has been focusing more on high-quality development since 2018, the traditional barriers to industrial development have been broken, and green development enabled by industrial empowerment has accelerated, while digital industrialization has evolved rapidly and technological innovations have become a driver of the region's development.

While the development achievements of Tibet are the result of the unity and hard work of all ethnic groups living in the autonomous region, the modernization of Tibet is an apt example of what the Chinese modernization

(Courtesy China Daily)

AIOU organizes a seminar on 'Pakistan and Azerbaijan Relations'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan and Azerbaijan are two brotherly Muslim countries that are connected by historical, cultural, religious, geographical and political ties. Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue and has taken this issue to the United Nations and we demand a solution in the light of UN resolutions," expressed Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H.E Kazar Farhadov, at a seminar on "The Founding role of Heydar Aliyev in development of Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations" held at Allama Iqbal Open University. He said that both countries have always supported each other at various international forums like United Nations and OIC.

Khazar Farhadov added that both countries are taking steps to further increase the volume of trade. He said that Azerbaijan requires the services desire for cooperation between AIOU of skilled and experienced people and the universities of Azerbaijan in from IT and pharma industry from the field of languages and history to



Pakistan. Azerbaijani people especially students are very interested in learning about Pakistani language and culture. He added that the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Islamabad is trying to provide all possible facilities to the citizens of Pakistan. He expressed his

train the new generation of Azerbai-

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that Pakistan was the second country to recognize Azerbaijan's independence in 1991 and ${\bf diplomatic\ relations\ were\ established}$ between the two countries in 1992. He said that Allama Igbal Open University can further strengthen the rela-

tionship between the two brotherly countries through educational cooperation. AIOU has spread its operations across the globe, the people of Azerbaijan can get online education from AIOU . Chairman, Department of Mass Communication, Prof. Dr. Saqib Riaz and Asad Munir thanked Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Hazra Farhadov for delivering a lecture in the seminar.

Partners emphasized on the importance of water and sanitation for all

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UNESCO in partnership with PCRWR, UNICEF, WaterAid, IWMI, Muslim Aid, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Islamabad and ICIMOD organized an event on World Water Day 2023 theme i.e., Accelerating Change to Solve the Water & Sanitation Crisis". Representative of Government organizations, Academia, Students, NGOs participated in the

During his welcome remarks, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR highlighted the importance of water in the light of the Quran and Sunnah. He further said that globally, 2.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water and 4.5 billion people have no adequate facility for safely managed sanitation services.

highlighted that water security is a big



nity is still a big challenge.

A Panel discussion was organized inviting key experts to shed light with reference to this year's theme. The In his keynote speech, Dr. Mohsin panelists included Dr. Saima Hamid, Hafeez, Country Representative, IWMI Vice Chancellor, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad access to water to the deprived commu-Director General, Water Supply, CDA to come together to achieve SDGs.

and Mr. Muhammad Tanveer, Managing Director, WASA, Rawalpindi. The panelists emphasized the need of raising awareness among the communities about water scarcity, conservation, and WASH facilities at the grassroot level counter the issues. particularly at school level awareness issue and has been further accelerat- Chairman, Department of Agriculture should be raised of young students on World Water Development Report ed due to extreme events of climate Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open Univer- the challenges of water security. More- 2023 on "Partnerships and cooperachange. Sustainable and equitable sity, Mr. Sardar Khan Zimri, Deputy over, all partners and stakeholders need tion for Water" was also launched in

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Inoussa Kabore, UNICEF Pakistan Deputy Representative, described that water is indispensable for all living beings. Access to safe WASH facilities is a basic right of all human beings. The water demand has increased due to the rapid increase in population. Climate change has further threatened the situation. The recent devastating floods posed a negative impact on the communities.

Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi, Country Director/Representative, UNES-CO Islamabad, said that the purpose of world water day is to create awareness on water-related issues. This year's theme is very crucial and globally we are lagging behind in providing safe and clean drinking water to deprived communities. Strong collaborative and holistic efforts are inevitable. Partnerships and coordination among the stakeholders should be encouraged to

During the event

Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan begins visit to the UN Headquarters

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Today marks the start of the visit of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Ms. Mahri Bashimova to the United Nations headquarters in New York.

On 29 March the Deputy Foreign Minister held meetings with the United Nations senior officials, in particular Ms. Natalia Gherman, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, and Mr. Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia.

Gherman, the Deputy Foreign Minister highlighted the efforts made by



Turkmenistan in countering terrorism and promoting regional stability, and expressed the country's willingness to continue working closely with the Unit-Asia and the Americas, and acting ed Nations and its partners to address transnational challenges. Ms. Gherman praised Turkmenistan's commit-During the discussion with Ms. ment to regional peace and security and expressed gratitude for Turkmenistan's contribution to enhancing multilateral

cooperation with the United Nations counterterrorism entities.

In the meeting with Mr. Jenča Deputy Minister discussed the opportunities for broader partnership to strengthen preventive diplomacy mechanisms in Central Asia and at the global level. The two officials discussed ways to enhance ment to working closely with the UN cooperation between Turkmenistan to promote peace, security, and developand the UNRCCA in further promot-

ing peace and security in the region. Mr. Jenča commended Turkmenistan's leadership in promoting regional stability and expressed strong support for the international initiatives of the country, in particular the holding the high-level debates of the UN General Assembly on the Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation of Central Asia, as well as the establishment of the Central Asian Youth Dialogue for Peace.

During the above-mentioned meetings, the Deputy Foreign Minister expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the delegation of Turkmenistan by the United Nations officials and emphasized Turkmenistan's continued commitment in the region and beyond.

The International Day of Zero

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first-ever International Day of Zero Waste reminds us of a fundamental and brutal truth: humanity is treating our planet

Every year, more than 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste is created, but 33 per cent of it is not properly managed in controlled facilities. Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic is dumped into the ocean.

Meanwhile, pollution and chemicals are poisoning our water, air and soil. And a staggering 10 per cent of all global greenhouse gas emissions comes from growing, storing and transporting food that is never used.

We must stop trashing our only home and declare war on waste. We need those who produce waste to design products that use fewer $resources \ and \ materials, while \ managing \ was teacross \ production \ cycles$ and extending the lives of the products they sell.

We must massively invest in modern waste management systems and policies that encourage people to re-use and recycle everything from plastic bottles to ageing electronics.

And as consumers, we must all consider the origins and impacts of the goods and products we purchase, and reuse and recycle what we can, whenever we can.

It's time to clean up our world, and make progress towards circular, zero-waste economies — for people and planet alike.

China congratulates Saudi Arabia on becoming SCO dialogue partner

№ News Desk

BEIJING: China on Thursday felicitated Saudi Arabia on becoming a dialogue partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

"We congratulate Saudi Arabia on becoming a dialogue partner of the SCO", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing.

She said, China stands ready to strengthen cooperation with Saudi Arabia within the SCO to contribute more to safeguarding regional peace and stability and promoting common development.

It may be mentioned here that Saudi Arabia has officially joined the SCO on Wednesday.

Removal from list of high-risk countries an achievement for Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) $\operatorname{Dr}.$ Shahid Rasheed Butt on Thursday said the removal of Pakistan from the European Union's list of high-risk countries is a great achievement.

The development will have a positive impact on the overall business environment, it will save time and cost of exporters, will boost exports, and improve international borrowing capabilities, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that Pakistan will now be able to explore new markets in the continent and the Pakistani companies doing business with the 27-member bloc will not face additional regulatory requirements. The new development would add to the comfort level of our busi-

ness community and is will ease the cost and time of legal and financial transactions by Pakistani companies and individuals in the EU, he said. The high-risk countries list includes nations that do not have a robust

regulatory and legal system to prevent financial crimes and terror financing that could pose significant threats to the financial system. When a country is added to the list, it is subjected to enhanced scru-

tiny and additional measures that increase the cost of doing business. In line with last year's FATF decision, the EU has decided to remove

akistan from its list of countries with high risk regarding money laundering and financing of terrorism which is a great achievement. Now the EU has accepted that weaknesses in the country's legal and

regulatory systems have been upgraded and Pakistan can now prevent financial crimes and terrorist financing, he said.

IIOJK journalist Rayees Butt remembered on his martyrdom anniversary

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Several journalists and members of civil society in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) paid rich tributes and condolences to martyred journalist Rayees Ahmad Butt on his first martyrdom anniversary

Indian troops martyred young Kashmiri freelance journalist Rayees Ahmad along with a youth during a cordon and search operation on March 30 last year in the Rainawari area of the Srinagar city, Kashmir Media Service (KMS) reported.

"Occupied Kashmir is one of the most dangerous places in the world where people associated with the press and media are performing their professional duties in the most difficult circumstances and situations," said a report released by KMS on Thursday.

It said 20 journalists had been confirmed as being killed while performing their duties during the Kashmiris' ongoing liberation struggle since 1989. They include Shabbir Ahmed Dar, Mushtaq Ali, Muhammad Shaban Wakeel, a woman scribe Aasiya Jeelani, Ghulam Muhammad Lone, Ghulam Rasool Azad, Pervez Muhammad Sultan, Shujaat Bukhari, Ali Muhammad Mahajan, Syed Ghulam Nabi, Altaf Ahmed Fakhtoo, Saidan Shafi, Tariq Ahmed, Abdul Majid Butt and Javed Ahmed Mir.

Pakistan-Kazakhstan Relations:

Pakistan, Kazakhstan to start direct flights in May: Ambassador Kistafin

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin on Thursday said direct air flights between Kazakhstan and Pakistan would start in May 2023, which would strengthen the economic connectivity between the two countries.

The direct flights between only increase economic ties, but also the people-to-people contacts, he said during a meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Commerce and Industries Adnan Jalil here at

The ambassador said it would he added. promote tourism in both countries, which would further advance their relations.

Both Pakistan and Kazakhstan were among the most beautiful countries and the tourism industry could become the wheel of their economies, he added.

Ambassador Kistafin said the Turkestan region of Kazakh-Lahore and Almaty would not stan and the Northern Areas of Pakistan were among the most beautiful regions of the world. Events would be held during the current year to promote tourism in Kazakhstan-Turkestan, and Pakistan could also benefit from

He said business communities and chambers could play an role in enhancing bilateral trade relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

Last year, he said, "we organized a single country business exhibition in which businessmen from Pakistan also participated."

This year, he said, a Pakistani business delegation would visit Kazakhstan. He would soon visit Peshawar and interact with the business community, he added.

The ambassador said being a gateway to Central Asia, Peshawar was very important for the opportunities on that count, mutual trade between Pakistan

and Kazakhstan. There was a need to further strengthen the economic and trade relations between Peshawar and the areas of Central Asia.

KP Minister Adnan Jalil said Pakistan's economic and trade links with Central Asia were very important.

He said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was close to the Central Asian states, due to which they had some cultural compatibility. "We have centuries-old relations with Central Asia and trade caravans used to travel between the two regions."

He said the KP govern-



ment would play its due role in strengthening economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

'`` Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
39,848.35	39,879.89			
Day's High	Day's Low:			
40,005.07	39,796.69			
Index Value	Change			
3,464,906,500	-31.54			
Percentage	Time			
-0.08%	30 Mar, 2023			
	5:00 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
7,620.43	+56.16			
Percentage	Time			
+0.74%	30 Mar, 4:35 pm			
	GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
32,730.13	+12.53			
Percentage	Time			

ASIA PACIIIC: NIKKEI SLUCKS AVETAYE			
Index Value Change			
27,782.93	-100.85		
Percentage	Time		

+0.038%

-0.36%

30 Mar, 12:56 pm

GMT-4

30 Mar, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.5	189.9
Bahrain Dinar	753.89	761.89
Canadian Dollar	206.5	208.7
China Yuan	41.16	41.56
Danish Krone	41.19	41.59
Euro	306	309
Hong Kong Dollar	36.11	36.46
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	2.2	2.25
Kuwaiti Dinar	924.43	933.43
Malaysian Ringgit	64.14	64.74
NewZealand \$	176.37	178.37
Norwegians Krone	27.16	27.46
Omani Riyal	736.32	744.32
Qatari Riyal	77.87	78.57
Saudi Riyal	75.6	76.4
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	27.22	27.52
Swiss Franc	308.27	310.77
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	77.2	77.9
UK Pound Sterling	347.5	351
US Dollar	283.8	286.6

Investors drive demand for sustainability assurance

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Investors seeking to place reliance on corporate sustainability information are driving unprecedented demand for assurance in this emerging area.

This represents a challenge and an opportunity for the global accountancy profession. In response the profession is engaged in determining the framework within which assurance engagements should be carried out and who is best qualified to perform the work.

Using the core assurance skills obtained through the experience of auditing financial statements, the accountancy profession - alongside others performing assurance engagements - is well placed to satisfy this demand.

ACCA's report Sustainability Assurance - Rising to the Challenge describes the landscape for sustainability assurance and introduces the extant standard and guidance issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Board (IAASB).

Sustainability Assurance - Rising to the Challenge sets out the key issues faced by practitioners providing this assurance

 $\label{eq:ACCA's research-supported} ACCA's \ research-supported \ by \ evidence$ gathered from a series of virtual global roundtables held in 2022 and 2023, with assurance practitioners and other representatives involved with audit and assurance policy-related matters - sets out seven key

To avoid a new 'sustainability assurance expectation gap' ACCA stresses the importance of international and national standard setters explain what 'limited assurance' and 'reasonable assurance' mean, and the key differences between the two.

Standard setters should consider the risk of misleading reporting - green washing when developing reporting and assurance

A concept to deal with estimates should be a key focus for the IAASB as much sustainability reporting and assurance work

is often based on hypothetical scenarios. The unprecedented dependence on subject matter experts (SMEs) for sustainability assurance engagements may suggest the need for further standards and guidance on how to rely on their work.

Emirates and United Activate Code share Partnership to Enhance Connectivity to the US

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Emirates and United have activated their code share partnership, allowing Emirates customers to enjoy easier access to an expanded choice of U.S. destinations. Starting today, Emirates customers will be able to fly to three of the nation's biggest business hubs-Chicago, Houston or San Francisco-and connect easily to an expansive network of domestic U.S. points on flights operated by United.

Tickets are available to purchase from today on emirates.com as well as through trade channels including travel agencies.

With the launch of the partnership, Emirates customers heading to the U.S., can now look forward to access to more than 150 U.S. cities in the United network, via the three

gateways. Courtesy of this partnership, Pakistani customers can also get easy connectivity to their favourite cities including Las Vegas, Denver, Austin and many more.

Similarly, Emirates customers in the U.S. planning trips to Dubai and beyond have a myriad of choices and can utilise United's services to easily connect to Emirates operated flights bound for Dubai, via Chicago, Houston or San Francisco. The world just got bigger for U.S.travelers journeying to Emirates' extensive network beyond Dubai, including many unique destinations across the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

The partnership unlocks a host of popular destinations accessible from Emirates gateways such as Atlanta, Austin, Denver, the globe, and meet demand from across as five points across Canada, Mexico, Brazil Minneapolis and Phoenix. Emirates passen-

gers planning trips to destinations such as rate travellers and students who can now Detroit, can fly direct from Dubai to Chicago or Houston, and simply connect on a United flight to the final destination, while enjoying the hassle-free flight benefits. The reciprocal benefits extend to passengers flying out of the U.S. using Emirates services to fly to in the Americas outside of the U.S. Emir-Dubai, with the same easy access from a vast ates customers will be able to choose from network of domestic cities and connection at one of the three hubs.

Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer commented: "We are extremely delighted to activate this historic partnership with United and significantly expand our footprint in the U.S. United's vast network across the Americas will help us to offer more choice to our customer base from across segments including the leisure, VFR, corpo- and Argentina.

connect seamlessly to and from a broader network of more than 150 domestic points."

Emirates and United have an interline arrangement that allows passengers to easily reach a wider choice of destinations dozens more destinations in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America, while also enjoying conveniences such as the simplicity of flight itineraries on a single-ticket and smooth connections via the three hubs (Chicago, Houston and San Francisco).

Emirates currently offer services between its hub in Dubai and 12 U.S. cities, as well

Paints buckets

MUZAFERABAD: A worker is displaying paints buckets outside a shop to attract customers in Garhi Pan Chowk in the Capital of the AJK.



Photo: Online

Telenor delegation visits PTA



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Telenor, led by Ms. Ine Elisabeth, Head of Investment Management, Asia Hub and Ms. Arisa Siong, Director Public & Regula-

tory Affairs Asia, visited Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) headquarters, today.

They met with the Chairman PTA, Mr. Muhammad Naveed to discuss future prospects, issues, and matters of mutu-

The two sides discussed Telenor's future plans for enhancing connectivity and agreed on mutual collaboration to further bolster efforts in the digital transformation of the country



Chief Secretary AJK Muhammad Usman Chachar chairs meeting of Board of Directors AJK Bank at Muzaffarabad.

NTDC's HV & SC Lab Faisalabad awarded international standards status by PNAC

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) High Voltage & Short Circuit Lab Faisalabad has been granted the status of Internationally Accredited Lab for the period of three years. Deputy Director General (PNAC) Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman Memon handed over the accreditation certificate to Engr. Bashir Ahmed, Chief Engineer HV&SC Lab Rawat.

Earlier on 5-6 December 2022, Pakistan Nation-



(PNAC) Ministry of Science final assessment and recomand Technology team visited mended the said Lab for al Accreditation Council HV&SC Lab Faisalabad for accreditation process.

Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan appreciated the efforts of Lab team for this achieve-

High Voltage & Short Circuit Lab (Formerly RTL) NTDC Faisalabad is a service providing lab for WAPDA/ NTDC/GENCOs/DISCOs and its associated firms/ companies for the testing of 118 types of materials including HT/LT Cables, T/L Hardware, Station Hardware, Transformer Hardware, Construction Material and T&P/ PPEs to ensure the quality and reliability of materials.

CCP warns consumers of risks associated with Mobile App

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competi-(CCP) warns and cautions the general public about the rising trend of mobile app-based micro-credit and nano-loan facilities. These applications, available on Google PlayStore and AppStore, offer shortterm financing to borrowers, but are currently facing numerous complaints and challenges in their track-andtrace process

As a result, the CCP has initiated an enquiry against these applications, which are observed to constantly change their premises and/ or companies/undertakings behind such applications. Until the conclusion of the enquiry, the CCP deems it necessary to alert the general public about the many issues observed and how to avoid these issues. CCP has also intimated to SECP, FIA, and PTA in this regard.

consumers are borrowing are duly registered and are operating under a regulatory regime.

Moreover, these applications may tend to take complete control of the user's device by requiring the user to agree to standard access permissions for the app. This user as well as make the user vulnerable to the operator of such applications. There- lower to middle-income class.

fore, users are cautioned to carefully read the terms and conditions displayed so that tion Commission of Pakistan they can make an informed decision.

When applying for a loan through these mobile app-based micro-credit and nano-loan facilities, users are presented with various terms and conditions that outline the time period for which the loan is extended, the exact amount of loan disbursed, deductions made from the total loan requested, payment and repayment methods, and any hidden charges. However, it has been observed that these terms and conditions are often at variance with what is advertised, resulting in deception or fraud.

The applications also require the user to fill in two or more emergency contacts, which are considered as collaterals/guarantors by the operators. Recovery agents have reportedly been known to harass and abuse borrow-Most of these applications ers and their contacts for the operate without complying sake of repayment. Generwith Pakistan's regulato- al public is made aware that ry framework. Therefore, it these lenders will, on maturiis important to ensure that ty, make calls to the consumthe applications from which er as well as the emergency contacts for recovery of the

CCP strongly advises the public to exercise caution and due diligence when using mobile app-based micro-credit and nano-loan facilities. As per the initial findings, these applications have well over 10 million may affect the privacy of the downloads by the general public, mostly vulnerable consumers, belonging to the

Pakistan needs IMF, the lender does not need us

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said that Pakistan needs the IMF to avoid a default. The international organization does not need us. our leaders breaking prom-

An important international organization like the IMF is being deliberately made an enemy of Pakistan for which a heavy price will have to be paid, it said.

Our leaders should immediately stop making irresponsible statements and false accusations against IMF as it is damaging the reputation of the country, said Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

He said in a statement issued here that the leading politicians and economic managers of the bankrupting country have not only repeatedly threatened the IMF but also claimed to subdue it which is the height of irresponsibility.

Aslam Khan said that after threats, the IMF was blamed for demanding a cut in Pakistan's missile program, on which the IMF had to issue a clarification.

A few days before this, the international organization was accused of obstructing the election, on which IMF had to provide an explanation, he added.

Aslam Khan said it seems that the IMF is being deliberately made an enemy so that it decides not to lend to Pakistan. The IMF does not trust Pakistan due to the habit of

Now, baseless allegations are being made which are disturbing for the institution and it is tarnishing the reputation of our leaders and

The Arab countries that promised to give loans to Pakistan last year are still not cooperating and Pakistan while Pakistan will not be able to survive for long without a six billion dollar loan, he observed.

Under such challenging circumstances, the conspiracies against the IMF are disturbing, he said, adding that the recent announcement of petroleum subsidy without the permission of the IMF has further increased the mistrust

He said that an economic manager has been claiming for several months that the IMF's programme will be restored within days and dollars will be coming from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and other friendly countries within days but nothing is happening.

Yorkshire signs Saud Shakeel for County C'ship Season

ISLAMABAD: Yorkshire County Cricket Club has signed the talented Pakistan batsman, Saud Shakeel, as a replacement for the injured Neil Wagner for the early part of the County Championship season.

Wagner was ruled out of the competition due to a bulging disc in his back and a torn right hamstring that he sustained during New Zealand's Test duty earlier this month.

The 27-year-old, who made his Test debut last winter against England and New Zealand, had a stunning start to his international career by scoring 50s in each of his first five appearances and averaging 72.5 in the process.

Saud might make his debut for Yorkshire in their first Division Two fixture



against Leicestershire at Headingley on Thursday. However, the player's availability was contingent on the processing additional strength to the team. Howevof his visa, which may cause some delay.

Yorkshire's top six would be bolstered by the inclusion of Saud, who brings

captain and Pakistan cricketer, Shan Masood, may not be available for the initial rounds of the Championship

Shan was a non-playing member of the Pakistan T20I squad that recently lost 2-1 to Afghanistan in Sharjah. He is also in contention for selection in Pakistan's upcoming five-match home series against New Zealand in T20 and one-day internationals from April 14.

If Masood was not chosen for national duty, he would join the team in time for their first season outside of the top flight since 2012, quoted cricketpakistan.com.pk.

Interestingly, Yorkshire has opted to replace the departing Neil Wagner with a batter rather than a like-for-like replacement due to the early season availability er, there was a chance that the new club of their other seamers.

Sarfaraz Ahmed opens up on his future with Quetta Gladiators

By A Sports -

KARACHI: Quetta Gladiators' captain Sarfaraz Ahmed opened up regarding his future with his Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise and said he has no plans to leave the side.

Sarfaraz while speaking in a YouTube podcast, responded to a question regarding his future with the Gladiators and shared his bond with the franchise owner Nadeem Omar and claimed that he will not leave the former champions until they decided to part ways.

Quetta for the last eight



with them is too old. I think and supported me during since 2003 or 2004, I am my growth as a cricketer. He with them. I guess I was just is just like a father figure to 17 when I first played for me. I will not leave Quetta Nadeem Bhai's team Omar until they do," he said.

"I am associated with Associates," he recalled.

Notably, Sarfaraz has "I played for the Pakistan been with the Gladiators years but my relationship club and Nadeem Bhai saw since the inception of the

PSL in 2016. The wicketkeeper never missed a single match for Gladiators until this year when an injury forced him to miss his side's

last two fixtures. Meanwhile, Gladiators' owner Omar in multiple interviews, often backed Sarfaraz to continue to lead his side and reiterated that he will remain in the franchise until he himself decides otherwise regarding his future.

It is pertinent to mention that the Sarfaraz-led Gladiators are going downhill after winning the title in 2019 as the side failed to make it to the playoffs in the previous four editions of the PSL.

Sarfaraz rates Amir higher than Shaheen

By A Sports -

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed shared that he believes Mohammad Amir is a more skilful pacer than Pakistan's current ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Sarfaraz, in a YouTube podcast, was asked to rate Mohammad Asif, Amir and

Shaheen in light of their abilities as a pacer. "I will put Asif at the number one position," Sarfaraz responded.

"If you talk about skills, Amir is not playing international cricket right now. I think he should play international cricket but it is his decision. If Amir was playing right now, I would put Amir at two and Shaheen at number three," he concluded.

It is pertinent to mention that Sarfaraz is considered one of the most successful Pakistani captains. He is the only Pakistani captain two have won two ICC trophies — the Champions Trophy and U19 World

England's Bairstow hopes Bagnaia eyes landmark to return for Ireland Test

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jonny Bairstow hopes to be fit for England's opening Test of the summer against Ireland in June, according to Yorkshire head coach Ottis Gibson.

Bairstow's superb form last year came to an abrupt end when a freak accident on the golf course in September left him with three separate fractures in his left fibula, as well as a ty Championship matchdislocated ankle and ligament injuries.

The 33-year-old had an operation to insert a metal plate and recently withdrew from the Indian Premier team, who've done a great League as he stepped up his rehabilitation.

Gibson said Bairstow expects to be sidelined for another two months, but able to play games by the has his sights set on featuring in a Test for the first time in nine months when tracking well. He's running England host Ireland at Lord's on June 1.

That match will serve as a tune-up for the hotly-antic-Australia.

With the Ashes in mind, Bairstow would ideally make his first-class comeback in Yorkshire's Coun-



es against Glamorgan and Durham starting on May 4

"I've had a conversation with him and the medical job, they think by the end of May he should be in position to play cricket," Gibson said.

"He should be availmiddle to end of May. He's had a horrific injury but he's up and down and he can run in straight lines, but he's not doing much lateral stuff yet.

"The medical team will let ipated Ashes series against us know how far along he is but he is expecting, when I've spoken to him, to be in a position to play in England's aiming for."

Bairstow has indicated he would like to resume wicketkeeping duties when he returns for Yorkshire, giving him another route back into the England side.

His sensational run of Test form last year, when he smashed four brilliant centuries, came as a specialist batter, but fellow Yorkshireman Harry Brook has excelled at number five since stepping up in Bairstow's

absence over the winter. "Part of the job in county cricket is to prepare players for England. If England put in a request then we'd be crazy not to accommodate them, especially in an Ashes year," Gibson said.

"We will certainly try to first Test. That's what he is accommodate that request, if and when it comes.

Argentina win as MotoGP laments fallen stars

SLAMABAD: World MotoGP champion Francesco Bagnaia targets a first Ducati win in Argentina on Sunday in a drastically reduced grid stripped of four riders injured in the

chaotic season-opener in Portugal. Bagnaia secured maximum points both the inaugural sprint race and the showpiece event.

The 26-year-old Italian kept his head while a series of rivals crashed and collided.

His Ducati factory teammate Enea Bastianini is missing from Argentina after suffering a broken shoulder blade.

Spanish veteran Pol Espargaro is facing a lengthy absence due to a bruised lung and fractures to his jaw and spine following a crash in

Six-time premier class champion Marc Marquez is out after undergoing a fifth surgery in less than three years following his spectacular collision with Aprilia rider Miguel Olivei-

Marquez, 30, and a three-time winner in Argentina, needed the operation to repair damage to his right hand. The Spanish star, roundly jeered

by the Portuguese crowd in the aftermath of the incident with Oliveira, will also have to serve a double long-

lap penalty at his next race in the United States. That penalty has, however, been

referred to the sport's court of appeal. The luckless Oliveira is sidelined due to a leg injury sustained in the accident leaving Sunday's grid reduced to 18 from 22.

For Bagnaia, Sunday brings a in the Algarve courtesy of winning chance to deliver a first win at Termas de Rio Hondo for Ducati.

The circuit is one of just three at which the Italian team has never triumphed.

There are promising omens — it was in Argentina last year that Aprilia, courtesy of Aleix Espargaro, cele-

brated their first MotoGP win. "I am really curious to see what happens as Ducati has never won

here," said Bagnaia on Thursday. "We haven't tested at the track but I am sure we can demonstrate our

He added: "Last week everything

was perfect, and I hope the same will happen here in Argentina. "In any case, I'm optimistic: my

feelings with the bike are incredible. so I'm convinced that I can perform in any conditions."

One of those conditions will be wet-weather racing, especially for Friday practice when rain is forecast.

One of Bagnaia's main challengers is expected to be Aprilia's Maverick Vinales who won the Argentina Grand Prix on a Yamaha in 2017.

Naseem elected Punjab Basketball President

LAHORE: Col (retd) Naseem Butt has been elected as President of Punjab Basketball Association (PBBA) for a period of four years during an important meeting held in Lahore on Thursday.

All members of PBBA participated in the key meeting. Commissioner FBR Lahore Abdul Jawad was chosen as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Col (retd) Asif Dar Senior Vice President, Arshad Butt, Ghulam Jilani and Rana Shabbir Ahmed Vice-Presidents, Malik Rashid Representative of PBBA, M Akram General Secretary, Imtiaz ul Hasan, Kashif Butt and Mian Waqas Assistant Secretaries while Akbar Butt was elected treasurer of Punjab Basketball Association.

Faisal Khan was the chief of the selection committee while Arslan Tariq, Tariq Elahi, Mehmood Ahmed, Shahood ul Hasan, M Usman, Abdullah Mughal and Saeed Ahmed were the members of the selection committee.

Newly elected President of PBBA congratulated the new office-bearers and also shared the details of future planning regarding different events and activities of the Punjab Basket-

Bright Gymkhana clinched KMPL Season 27 title



KARACHI KMPL season 27 winner Team Bright Gymkhana is the chief guest in a group photo with KCCA Zone 3 President Mohammad Raees. Secretary Afzal Qureshi is also present in the picture.

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Bright Gymkhana won the KMPL Season 27 title by defeating Sadiq Sports by 27 runs.

In the final match played at the Eidgah ground, Bright Gymkhana batted first and scored 199 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Mubashir Ahmed scored 66 runs with the help of two sixes and 6 fours, while Umar Mateen scored 45 runs and Danish Moin Scored 37 runs.

In reply, Sadiq Sports got out by scoring 172 runs. M Arif played $\,$ a brilliant innings of 87 runs while M Arsalan scored 23 runs. Aziz Khan gave 4 runs for 22 while Afzal Qureshi dismissed two players.

At the end of the match, the chief guest, President of KCCA Zone 3, Mohammad Raees, distributed trophies and other prizes among the players..

I told Babar, you are afraid to get out, reveals Simon **Doull**

By A Sports -

KARACHI: Former New Zealand cricketer and renowned commentator Simon Doull finally opened up on his conversation with Babar Azam during the Pakistan Super League (PSL)

New Zealand commentator Doull, has been in hot water after criticizing Babar for slowing down to complete his maiden PSL century in Peshawar Zalmi's crucial fixture against Quetta Glad-

The commentator received major backlash from Babar's fans and then in Zalmi's next fixture, he was seen having one on one conversation with Babar.

Meanwhile, in a video posted on Twitter, Doull has finally revealed the gist of his conversation with Babar and claimed that Babar has a fear of getting out.

"I told Babar that you are the best player in the country; I believe you should be bullying this tournament and owning these bowlers. You, at times, are afraid to get out, but you shouldn't ever be afraid to get out. At some point in your innings, that shows, and that was kind of the gist of my whole chat with him," Doull said.

"Someone messaged me yesterday. Quinton de Kock slowed down, getting to his hundred. Did they win - yes. The simple tactic is if you are chasing and pacing the inning and are at home, you win - there's never going to be an issue. I'll never have a problem with it. But when you're setting, and you don't know what a good score and particularly at that stage at that game is, there were so many resources waiting in the wings that you just have to keep going."

"That was the whole crux of the comment. At times it gets blown out of proportion. I'll never ever hide behind anything that I say. I said it at the time, I stuck by it, and I have no issue that I said it," Doull concluded.

It is pertinent to mention that Babar's maiden PSL century went in vain as Jason Roy's masterclass trumped his efforts to script an astonishing victory for Quetta Gladiators.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Administration Succession Certificate by M Hassan Akhter with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Ghulam Zarin citizen number 6110129846735 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. Kausar Nisar (Daughter) 2.Hassan Akhter (Son)3.Safdar Hussain (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Mr Muhammad Amjad with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr Muhammad Latif citizen number 3330321862219 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

.Hashmat Begum (Spouse 2.Muhammad Hanif (Son 3.Muhammad Sharif (Son 4.Muhammad Amjad (Son On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

PUBLIC NOTICE

Administration Succession Certificate by M Khuram Shahzad with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. She Muhammad citizen numbe 3320122875551 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Ayesha Sher 2.Anees Bibi (Daughter)3.Asia (Daughter)4.Shazia (Daughter)5.Sardaran (Spouse 6.Mukhtar Ahmad 7.Muhammad Nafees

8.Muhammad Hanif (Son 9.Pervaiz Shahzad (Son 10.Khuram Shahzad (Son On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved persor may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteer (14) days after publication of this

PUBLIC NOTICE

issuance Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Mr. Ali Pervaiz with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Pervaiz Igbal citizen number 374058977167 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. Amber Khalid (Daughter) Z.Tahira Parveen (Spouse)3.Ali Pervaiz (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

REHMANABAD RAWALPINDI-

PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance

Administration Succession Certificate by Mr. Jamil Ahmed with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 6110154302863 has received. Following are declared as legal heirs. I.Shamim Akhtar (Daughte

2.Parveen Akhtar (Daughter Bani Jan (Daughter)4.Nasee Akhtar (Daughter)5.Rehmat Jan (Spouse)6.Abdul Hameed (Son) .Shakeel Ahmed (Son)8.Saghir (Son)9.Muhammad Tufial Raja (Son)10.Abdul Rasheed (Son)11.Jamil Ahmed

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Mr Muhammad Imtiaz with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Yasir citizen Imtiaz number 3740502989293 has been received. Following are declared

1.Yasmin Imtiaz (Mother) Muhammad Imtiaz (Father) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

as legal heirs.

ISLAMABAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance

Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Mr Ateeq Ur Rehman with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Liagat citizen 6110187536831 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Amna Liaqat (Daughter) Liaqat (Daughter) 2.Amra 3. Tahira Bibi (Spouse) 4. Zohaib Bhatti (Son)5.Ateeq Ur Rehma (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance

Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Mi Mustafa Alam Mahsud with regards to moveable immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Sher Alam Mahsud citizen number 1730131080147 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Natasha Alam Mahsud (Daughter)2.Lubana Mahsud

(Mother)3.Shandana Mahsud Spouse)4.Mustafa Mahsud (Son) On the above application the

objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteer (14) days after publication of this

PUBLIC NOTICE

Certificate by Mr. Rehan Farooc Satti with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr Muhammad Farooq Raja citizen number 3740225292131 has been legal heirs. 1.Aneela Naheed (Daughter) 2. Lubna Naheed (Daughter) 3. Safeera Begum (Spouse) 4. Muhammad Imrai Farooq (Son)5. Muh Kamran Farooq (Son)6. Rizwan Farooq (Son)7. Rehan Farooq Sa (Son)

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