



Bilawal Bhutto fears 'martial law' if larger bench is not constituted

Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has warned of deepening 'constitutional crisis' if larger bench is not constituted to hear polls delay case, fearing that it would lead to martial law in the country. (Details on Page 8)



Fawad Chaudhry says current rulers to face accountability soon

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice President Fawad Chaudhry has said that the rulership is not a permanent thing and the current rulers will face accountability soon. While addressing the lawyers convention in Islamabad today, Fawad Chaudhry said that the legal fraternity exhibited solidarity with the judiciary and the Constitution. "The voices of lawyers show that the protectors of the Constitution are present here."

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers holding placards are shouting slogans during protest outside Supreme Court in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Institutions, politicians owe to nation to sober up, unite & deliver: President



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said inadequate investment in human capital was an important issue that needed to be addressed by the institutional and political leadership.

"Institutional and political leadership owes it to the nation to sober up, unite & deliver," he wrote on Twitter.

The president regretted that the real issues of the country had taken a back seat in the current situation.

"These are the real issues of my country, but they have taken a remote back seat in the current hysteria," he said.

He stressed the role of institutions and politicians to get united and deliver.

President Alvi also shared an article published in a

national daily based on the data of the World Bank and Pakistan Human Capital Review.

Low human capital investments will limit the realisation of Pakistan's ambition to become an upper-middle-income country by 2047, says a new World Bank report.

Pakistan's Human Capital Index (HCI) value of 0.41 is low in both absolute and relative terms; lower than the South Asia average of 0.48, with Bangladesh at 0.46 and Nepal at 0.49.

"If Pakistan continues on its current trajectory in human capital development, its GDP per capita would grow overall by a mere 18 percent through 2047, the 100th anniversary of its founding, according to the Pakistan Human Capital Review.

Coalition parties' meeting expressed no confidence in SC bench hearing polls delay case: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday maintained that all the leaders of coalition parties in the Federal Government, during a meeting chaired by him in Lahore last week, had expressed their no confidence in the Supreme Court bench hearing the suo motu case of polls delay.

Taking part in the National Assembly session, the prime minister endorsed the views of Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar regarding the expression of no confidence in the constitution of the bench seized of the matter.

He said Justice Ijazul Ahsan, another member of the bench, had recused himself from the bench.

He requested the Chief Justice of Pakistan to constitute a full court sans two judges as it would be acceptable to the nation.

Such a contentious decision, he said, would be against the norms of justice.



The prime minister referred to the CJP's remarks in which he stated that certain people speaking in the National Assembly had undergone jail terms and said it was a matter of pride that he had been released by the high court on merit in the false and fabricated cases.

Imran Niazi and his collaborators had framed false cases against him and tried to implicate him in those fabricated cases,

he added.

It was their right under the Constitution to express their views in the Parliament, he said, adding whether the CJP had referred to the witch-hunting of the opposition leaders during the PTI's tenure.

The prime minister said there were serious allegations of corruption against certain members of the bench and by including them in the bench what

message was given to the whole country.

He stressed that the law of equality was applicable to all. Double standards would not work.

In London's case, Imran's lackey Shelhzad Akbar, had got published a false story in the Daily Mail, London, but later the author tendered an apology, he added.

The prime minister said Imran

Niazi during his rule had no other engagement but to spend his energies on devising nefarious schemes to send opposition leaders to jails.

He mentioned that Imran had sent him twice to jail and was trying to send him for the third time.

Even his bail which was granted on merit by the high court during the PTI's government was challenged in the Supreme Court, he added.

He said he was released on merit and now standing in the Parliament. "My fault was that as leader of the opposition, they were countering the ill-devised policies of the PTI's government and Niazi considered them as hurdles and acted like 'Nero plays the flute when the Rome was on fire'.

Earlier, the law minister briefed the House about the proceedings in the apex court and reiterated that the coalition parties had already conveyed to the court to constitute a full court to hear the instant case.

Supreme Court reserves verdict in elections' delay case after intense arguments

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A three-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday resumed hearing of the plea challenging delay in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The court reserved verdict on the case and is likely to announce it on Tuesday. At the outset, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial asked PPP counsel Farooq H. Naek whether his party had boycotted the proceedings.

Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan, ECP lawyers Irfan Qadir and Sajel Swati and PTI lawyer Ali Zafar were also present in the courtroom as the hearing began. Also in attendance were secretaries of finance and defence.

"How can you boycott the case and at the same time attend the hearing," Justice Akhtar said. "How

can anyone boycott proceedings of the case," he inquired. He said newspaper reports suggested that the government had boycotted the proceedings and how could he (Mr Naek) give arguments. He also asked Mr Naek to read out the joint statement and expressed displeasure with the language used in it.

The CJP asked the PPP lawyer if he wanted to become a part of the proceedings and Mr Naek assured that his party did not boycott the hearing. Justice Bandial said something else was written in the newspapers and the PPP counsel replied that his party had reservations on the maintainability of the petition.

The CJP asked Mr Naek to give assurance in writing that the party had not boycotted the hearing.

Justice Bandial then inquired about the directions the AGP had received. Mr Awan replied that the government worked under the Constitution and could not boycott

the proceedings. He, however, claimed that the PTI petition was based on the SC's March 1 verdict in which the apex court had instructed the president to select a date for elections in Punjab and the governor to pick a date for polls in KP. The KP governor did not select a date until the petition was filed, he said.

The question had been raised on how could the ECP give the date of Oct 8 for polls, the CJP said. He said only the apex court had the authority to delay elections and the Election Commission of Pakistan had no such power to do so.

The CJP also said the circular issued by the Supreme Court did not overrule the order given by a bench, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Meanwhile, Justice Ahsan said the actual matter under consideration was the ECP's decision to postpone elections. The commission,

he said, was bound to follow the court orders.

The AGP said that during the first round of the hearings, a nine-member bench had conducted the proceedings. "On Feb 21, we received the order of the court which included dissenting notes from two judges. The two judges had dismissed the case in the first hearing," he said.

However, the CJP said only one judge had dismissed the proceedings. "Justice Athar Minallah had not mentioned rejecting the request in his dissenting note," he said.

Justice Yahya Afridi had agreed with Justice Minallah in his note," the AGP argued to which Justice Bandial stated that the court had understood Awan's stance.

Justice Akhtar recalled that on Feb 27, a nine-member bench had submitted the matter to the CJP for the reconstitution of the bench.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa writes letter, calls for removal of SC registrar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Qazi Faez Isa has written a letter to the Supreme Court (SC) Registrar Ishrat Ali and advised him to immediately relinquish his office after his circular purporting to 'undo, disobey and violate order dated 29 March 2023 of a three-member SC bench'.

On March 31, the Supreme Court (SC) Registrar Office rejected Justice Qazi Faez Isa's observation regarding the hearing of suo moto cases. The SC Registrar's Office issued a circular regarding the hearing of cases under Article 184/3.

Cabinet asks President to sign SC Practice Act, withdraws services of SC Registrar

Spokesman Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet Monday asked President Dr Arif Alvi to immediately sign the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act 2023 so that the country could be taken out of the constitutional and political crisis.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the special meeting of the federal cabinet held at the Prime Minister House.

The ministers considered in detail two-point agenda. Minister for Law Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan briefed the cabinet on different matters.

PML-N endorses PDM's decision regarding 'no trust' on 3-member bench: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had endorsed the decision taken by the Pakistan Democratic Movement regarding "no trust" on three-member bench hearing a case of the polls' delay in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"How Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, who has recused himself from hearing the suo motu case regarding the polls delay, can be made part of the bench which is hearing the contempt case," the minister said.

Parliamentary Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses Parliamentary Party Meeting on Monday.



Photo: PID

No Pak-Israel ties until Palestinians get separate homeland: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, rubbishing the social media propaganda, categorically ruled out any possibility of the relationship between Pakistan and Israel until the people of Palestine get their due right of a separate homeland.

Addressing the parliamentary party meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), he resolved that Pakistan would not deviate from its principled position of having no ties with Israel until the Palestinians get their legitimate right.

He was referring to the social media posts mentioning any trade activity by a Pakistani Jew with Israel.

"There is not even mention of that. This is just baseless. An individual Jew has traded

some goods. The government has nothing to do with that," he commented.

Behind such propaganda were the people who opposed a Muslim candidate of London Mayorship and instead supported the Jewish candidate, he added.

The prime minister told the PML-N parliamentarians that before assuming the government, he had not imagined the severity of the situation in form of a destroyed economy and strained foreign relations with brotherly countries, including China and Saudi Arabia.

He said under PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and with the cooperation of the allied parties, the government was making all-out efforts to cope with the challenges.

He said the government had fulfilled all the conditions

imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the previous regime had violated the commitments with the global financial institution.

He said recently Pakistan was hit by the worst flood and the Federal Government alone had spent Rs100 billion to support the suffering people.

The prime minister recalled that during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif till 2017, the country was progressing with the sugar price at Rs 52 and the dollar rate at Rs 100.

He said during its four-year tenure, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government took loans even more than those taken during the 70-year history.

The previous government not only violated the IMF agreement but also questioned the transparency in the CPEC (China-Pakistan Econom-

ic Corridor) projects which impacted the Pak-China bilateral relations.

It was alleged that the CPEC projects involved 45 percent corruption and such allegations were repeated not only in the cabinet but also in the Parliament and private meetings, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the leadership of the PML-N and other allied parties rendered immense sacrifices and also put their politics at stake to protect the state which was in no way a bad deal.

"Though the situation is tough now, the time will come when it will change... Pakistan is genuinely at a crossroads. Today we have to live within the ambit of the Constitution and law," he remarked.

The prime minister told the meeting that during the PTI government, there was

no shortage of wheat in the country rather it was a scandal. However, the incumbent government timely imported the commodity to avert any shortage.

He said the government had launched the history's biggest project of distributing three wheat flour bags to needy families during Holy Ramadan which would benefit around 100 million people.

He said the government was striving to improve the situation but political stability was a must to achieve the desired goal.

Drawing a stark comparison, the prime minister said Nawaz Sharif's daughter was implicated in corruption cases but contrary to that the PTI wanted to save Imran Khan's wife claiming that she was not a public office-holder. Fri, 31 Mar 2023, 2:08 PM

Maryam accuses Imran, facilitators of 'evading accountability', 'committing corruption'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Monday has launched a scathing attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, accusing him and his facilitators of being "corrupt and evading accountability".

She took to Twitter to express her view, claiming that a "network exists to protect corrupt individuals, which has now been exposed".

Maryam Nawaz warned Imran Khan could not escape the consequences of his actions, and that his facilitators would not be spared from scrutiny.

Furthermore, Maryam Nawaz directly accused Imran Khan of being corrupt and claimed that the "facilitators protecting him are also corrupt".



She stated that operating the network of corruption and avoidance of accountability was no longer viable and that Imran Khan and his facilitators were drowning.

Fawad Chaudhry says current rulers to face accountability soon

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice President Fawad Chaudhry has said that the rulership is not a permanent thing and the current rulers will face accountability soon.

While addressing the lawyers convention in Islamabad today, Fawad Chaudhry said that the legal fraternity exhibited solidarity with the judiciary and the Constitution. "The voices of lawyers show that the protectors of the Constitution are present here."

"After today's hearing [of the election delay case], I realised that the major hurdle in the organisation of polls is the deficiency of votes. The Constitution is incomplete without the votes of the nationals."

Chaudhry said that they were thinking to enter general elections phase after the dissolution of two provincial assemblies but incompetent people became the ministers now.

"Those who had chanted slogans of Vote Ko Izzat Do are missing and the ruling PML-N leaders cannot even take meals among the nationals."

"Our fundamental rights were seized and lawyers have been stopped from going inside the court. This government has only one policy to abduct people and subjected them to cruelty. People in black coats had never been taken into custody in the darkness of the night earlier."

He urged the immediate organisation of elections in the country as per the Constitution.

Earlier, Fawad Chaudhry said that the rulers have started a rebellion against the Constitution to pressurise the courts.

While talking to the media, Fawad Chaudhry said that Article 218(3) of the Constitution bounds the election commission to organise elections. He said that the time has arrived to launch a nationwide movement for the revival of the Constitution after the 'fascist attacks'.

He said that PTI and the nation are standing beside the judiciary. He added that Imran Khan would announce a nationwide movement to support the judiciary and the Constitution.

Bilawal Bhutto fears 'martial law' if larger bench is not constituted

Correspondent

LARKANA: Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has warned of deepening 'constitutional crisis' if larger bench is not constituted to hear polls delay case, fearing that it would lead to martial law in the country.

Talking to journalists in Larkana, the PPP chairman said that what is happening on the matter of elections was in front of the nation and the country, urging the judiciary to ask three judges about it.

Bilawal Bhutto noted that the criticism of higher judiciary by the judges is historical, saying that the fellow judges have also expressed 'lack of confidence' on the three-member bench, hearing a petition by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against the postponement of Punjab elections.



The foreign minister urged Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial to constitute a larger bench as per the Constitution, saying that judges who were caught consulting with the opposition - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - should not be part of the bench.

He feared that if larger bench would not be formed then a 'constitutional crisis' will be emerged, which will lead

towards 'martial law' in the country. "A nine-member bench has reduced to three judges," he said, adding that the nation will remember chief justice if larger bench is not formed.

He also lambasted Imran Khan, saying that the PTI chairman was chief polling agent of former dictator General Pervez Musharraf. "Remnants of every political dictator have landed himself in PTI," he added.

He alleged that Imran Khan decided to release terrorists from jail and due to his decisions, nation is facing terrorism again. However, he vowed, the government will once again confront the terrorists and defeat them.

It is pertinent to mention here that the coalition parties expressed their "lack of confidence" in three-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) of Paki-

stan hearing a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) petition against the delay in elections of the Punjab Assembly.

The decision was taken during a high-level meeting of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) parties, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif.

The coalition parties expressed lack of confidence in the Supreme Court bench - comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar.

The meeting was summoned after the Supreme Court rejected the ruling alliance's plea for a full court bench in the election delay case. The apex court itself witnessed high drama, with two judges recusing themselves from the remaining three-member bench.

APHC deeply concerned over unlawful detentions in IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, APHC leadership has expressed deep concern over the continued unlawful detention of thousands of Kashmiris who have been languishing in jails for expressing their dissent to India's illegal occupation.

The APHC leadership in a statement in Srinagar said that the Modi regime is deliberately prolonging the detention of Kashmiri prisoners for their political beliefs. The leadership said that as part of its coercive policies, the Hindutva government of India has arrested thousands of civilians in the occupied territory since its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 and thereafter.

Among those who are languishing

in jails in India and IIOJK include APHC Chairman Masrat Alam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Advocate Shahid-ul-Islam, Ayaz Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Merajudin Kalval, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Molvi Bashir Ahmed, Mush-taq-ul-Islam, Bilal Siddiqi, human rights defender Khuram Parvaiz, Muhammad Ahsan Untoo, Muhammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Muhammad Shafi Khan, Ameer Hamza and Muhammad Yousuf Mir.

Demonstrating the worst form of political vendetta, the APHC leaders Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori and Muhammad Saleem Zargar maintained, India is denying space to Hurriyat leaders by repeatedly arresting them on fake charges.

Ahsan Iqbal briefs Chinese Think Tank on Pak-China relations, CPEC

News Desk

BELJING: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary held an exclusive session with the heads and representatives of leading Chinese Think Tanks and emphasized the importance of Pakistan China relationship and reaffirmed Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China, which is time-tested and timeless.

The Minister reiterated that as the flagship of BRI, CPEC had strategic significance for both Pakistan and China and has delivered tangible benefits to the people of the two countries.

He noted that CPEC early-harvest projects have transformed Pakistan's economic landscape thus laying a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth.

The Minister emphasized that both China and Pakistan should continue to expedite efforts to achieve Gwadar's potential as a hub of regional commerce and



industry, while also prioritizing work on ML-1 and other key energy projects.

He highlighted the need for joint research projects for Pakistani and Chinese businessmen by think tanks of the both countries for identifying opportunities of mutual cooperation and removing knowledge gaps.

He said 2023 is year of CPEC's decade and a delegation of Chinese scholars will be invited to Pakistan to observe the progress of CPEC.

The think tanks appreciated Minister's views and shared their ideas for building Pakistan-China Community of shared future in the New Era.

Government promotes Urdu as medium of instruction in Govt departments, Senate told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Law and Justice, Shahadat Awan, on Monday announced that the Pakistani government was taking concrete steps to promote Urdu as the medium of instruction in various government departments.

The move aims to reinforce the country's national language and cultural identity.

During Senate proceedings, responding to a motion by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, Awan reiterated the statement made by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founding father, that Urdu would be the official language of the country.

Awan emphasized that without



a single state language, no nation could remain tied together and function effectively.

To this end, the National Language Promotion Department

(National Language Authority) has already been established to promote Urdu language.

It has published translations of over 800 books and trained 45,000 officers to play their role in the promotion of Urdu.

Moreover, instructions given in signboards in important government departments have already been in Urdu language.

Earlier, the mover of the motion, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed emphasized the importance of promoting Urdu language in offices and other areas, suggesting that product ingredients should also be published in Urdu and that the Central Superior Services (CSS) examinations should be conducted in Urdu language.

Shazia Marri reviews BISP initiatives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri presided over a high level meeting to review the various initiatives of Benazir Income Support Programme, and directed the concerned for more vigilance to ensure the disbursement of Benazir Kafaalat and other initiatives in a more transparent manner.

This she said while presiding over a meeting on zoom which was attended by the Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme Mr. Yusuf Khan, Additional Secretary Dr Tahir Noor, and all Director Generals including heads of Provinces and regions.

The Secretary Benazir Income

Support Programme (BISP) briefed Minister regarding the ongoing quarterly disbursement of Benazir Kafaalat which has been enhanced from Rs 7000 to 8500 by the Federal Government. The details of other initiatives including disbursement of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, Sindh Government's payments of Wheat Seed Subsidy to farmers of flood affected areas of Sindh, and Atta (Flour) subsidy payments, were also discussed.

The ongoing survey of National Socio-Economic Registry 'Dynamic Registry' was also discussed under which the status of already registered beneficiaries is being reassessed. Dynamic Registry also gives the new deserving beneficiaries the opportunity to take benefit from the initiative on

qualifying the criteria/ poverty benchmark.

The Regional DGs for Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jamu Kashmir briefed the Minister with regard to complaints of illegal deductions received, recovery made and the POS agents blocked under the complaints of deductions. The provincial DGs discussed about the shortage of manpower in meeting.

Ms. Shazia Marri said that we need to educate beneficiaries that the government of Pakistan has increased the amount of Benazir Kafaalat for quarter of Jan- March and April- Jun from Rupees 7000 to 8500 and 9000 respectively. She urged the beneficiaries to lodge their complaints in case

of unlawful deductions in the nearest BISP office.

The Minister directed the field staff to enhance vigilance at grassroots level to control the complaints of illegal deductions received from some areas against the POS (Point of Sale) agents of partner banks, i.e. Habib Bank in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan and Bank Al-Falah in rest of the country to simplify the payment mechanism through their ATMs so that the beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme could withdraw their funds easily. The Minister asked the Secretary BISP to work out a plan to address the issue of shortage of manpower in the provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

Award

Karachi: Secretary College Education Department Ahmed Baksh Narejo is giving the award for best director of physical education to Batool Kazim of HI Osmania Girls College in connection with Sindh College Games. DG Colleges Sindh Shadab Hussain is also present in the picture.



All religions can foster love by establishing good relations. Bishop Yousaf Sohan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Catholic Bishop of Multan and National Commission for Inter-Religious and Inter-Church Dialogue Bishop Yusuf Sohan has said that inter-religious harmony is the need of the hour. At this time, the Christian and Muslim communities around the world are in a state of fasting and fasting is only for God and He is the rewarder.

We have increased our honor by breaking the fast, he expressed these views yesterday while addressing the breaking ceremony of the Catholic Bishop House, Multan, organized by the National Commission for Inter-Religious and Inter-



Church Dialogue of Pakistan

A large number of people belonging to the Christian and Muslim community participated in the Iftar ceremony, including Samuel Clement, Sarfraz Clement, Father Asif

Malik, Allama Dr. Arshad Ali Baloch, Allama Abdul Hanan Haidari, Pir Amir Mahmood Naqshbandi, Pir Obaid Sadr. Puri, Khawar Shafiqat Bhatta, Syed Asghar Abbas Naqvi, Rao Abdul Qayyum Shaheen, Professor Abdul Majeed

Vato, Shafaq Bhatta, Al Haji Muhammad Ashraf Qureshi, Engineer Shakawat, Ahmed Qureshi, Nurul Amin Khakwani, Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi, Khawaja Aziz, Faisal Tangwani participated of Iftar Dinar

Former Tehsil Nazim Raja Hamid to contest for PP 12 seat

News Desk

ISLAMABAD:

Former Tehsil Nazim Potohar Town and former Chairman ADA Hamid Nawaz Raja decided to participate in the elections on the strong appeal of the residents of PP 12, which is welcome. His services are alive in the hearts of the people, the vote of the local people is with Hamid Nawaz Raja, he will be successful. And as always, play a key role in solving people's problems.

Residents of provincial constituency PP 12 said that Respect and love for Hamid Nawaz Raja resides in the hearts of people. He served the people as the Nazim of Pothohar region, he is still alive in the hearts of the people. Hamid Nawaz Raja always treated the poor people respectively, who could not get access to government offices, he helped them in every legitimate work. He has a long list of public services.



Jammu Kashmir Liberation League says Kashmir Corridor is 'deeply condemnable'

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed Mughal, Secretary General Jammu Kashmir Liberation League said that the resolution passed in Azad Kashmir Assembly regarding Kashmir Corridor is sad, worrisome and condemnable. The Azad Kashmir Assembly should immediately withdraw from the current resolution.

The Azad Kashmir government and the Azad Kashmir Assembly have become part of the conspiracy to divide Kashmir.

He said that the Indian media is shouting that this resolution is part of their agenda.

With such actions, it has become clear that the government of Paki-

stan has withdrawn from the Kashmir issue. It is much more important than Sharda Corridor to give access to Dargah Hazrat Bil and Charar Sharif. The recent resolution of the Azad Kashmir Assembly has added salt to the wounds of the martyrs of Kashmir.

He expressed these views recently while expressing his reaction to the resolution passed by the Azad Kashmir Assembly for the construction of the Kashmir Corridor.

He said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is not the center of any one civilization, but of many civilizations and inspired religions, in which a large number of Muslims associated with the followers of Islamic civilization and Sufis reside in Dargah

Hazrat Bil and Charar in Srinagar. Sharif is missing attendance.

The Liberation League believes that this move is not only an access to the religious place, but this move appears to be a part of the agenda of dividing Kashmir. They said that sometimes there is talk of making Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan a province, sometimes these areas are Pakistan.

The talk of integration, sometimes the talk of ending the internal autonomy of these areas, sometimes the talk of erasing the identity of these parts of the state in the census and sometimes the talk of creating a desirable corridor like Sharda Peth for a certain class are actually part of the Indian agenda. There are different forms.

The government of Pakistan should try to learn some lessons from the anti-Kashmir propaganda in India and the opinions, comments and discussions of Indian intellectuals in the media.

Betrayal of the blood of 6 lakh martyrs of Kashmir and negation of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Kashmir policy.

He further said that if the conspiracy of partition of Kashmir continues like this, the day is not far when there will be a devastating war in the region, so Pakistanis The rulers should develop some national and national pride in themselves, stop this joke with the Kashmiri nation and refrain from the heinous and cowardly actions of partitioned Kashmir.

Sharda Corridor move smacks of dividing Kashmir: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir



RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, President Muslim Conference and ex-Premier, has warned that the recently Sharda Corridor resolution tabled in the AJK Assembly smacks of territorial division of Kashmir as Indian media is already claiming it as part of their agenda. Both the AJK government and the Assembly must desist from falling into this

evil conspiracy, he cautioned. As per text of the resolution a highly strategic thickly jungled Upper Neelum Valley location, Sharda, stately a holy site of Hindus is to be opened via a corridor to Indian Hindus. Indian media is clamouring that this move is part of their agenda.

Sardar Attique Khan said that his party present in the AJK Assembly rejects this resolution being what he called anti-Kashmir cause move that also gravely damages Pakistan's Kashmir case. He said that his party has been favoring promotion of religious tourism in the J&K state but this Sharda Peeth corridor is clearly an intrigue and no one should prey to this trap; he urged AJK government and the Assembly to immediately reject this resolution and asked government of Pakistan to take all stakeholders-AJK govt, assembly, APHC-into confidence before making such a move like this of highly sensitive nature.

Any measure that denigrates the sanctity of over 600,000 Kashmiri sacrifices in the way of Kashmir struggle would be deemed unpatriotic meriting complete rejection, he explained.

AC Wana along with AFC visited various free flour points 7

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the tribal district of Lower South Waziristan, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi along with Assistant Food Controller inspected the free flour points established at different places in Wana, during the inspection seven flour dealers were caught accepting money from people for free flour.



These flour dealers were issued notices under the proposed law to Police Station Wana, on which SHO City Police Station Wana Saif Ullah Wazir detained all the dealers and presented the before Assistant Commissioner/Special Magistrate Wana,

All the accused confessed to their crime, against which Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi immediately took legal action and after that all the dealers were released after imposing a heavy fine.

On the other hand, Assistant Commissioner Wana further said that no negligence will be tolerated in the distribution of free flour, if the dealer took money from a poor man in exchange for free flour, strict legal action will be taken against him and transparency in the distribution of flour will be ensured in all cases, no one is allowed to take money from anyone.

Editors Council congratulate journalist panel for clean sweep

Sohail Anjum Malik

ISLAMABAD: Editors Council congratulate journalist panel for clean sweep, glorious and memorable victory

President Anwar Raza, Secretary Khalil Raja, Finance Secretary Nayyar Ali will pay effective role to solve the matters of whole journalist Community

Islamabad: Editors Council have praised journalist panel for clean sweep and glorious and memorable victory in the annuals elections. It was said that the elected body may serve the community with spirit and enthusiasm for the betterment of media persons. President of Editors Council Fida Sherazi and Secretary Nayyar Sarhadi remarked that success of journalist panel is very good sign for Media Industry. They hoped that journalists are united under the leadership of panel chairman Afzal Butt. Remember that The annual election of National Press Club Islamabad 2023-24 was won by the journalist panel with a huge majority, 26 candidates of the journalist panel while 2 candidates of the Javed Malik group were declared successful. And Javed Malik group were against each other. A large number of journalists from the twin cities participated in the elections and 1943 journalists exercised their right to vote. According to the announced results of the elections, Anwar Raza of the Journalist Panel was declared successful with 1038 votes, compared to Javed Malik Group's presidential candidate Javed Malik who got 604 votes, while Sharjeel Amjad Rao of Dastur Journalist Panel got 268 votes.

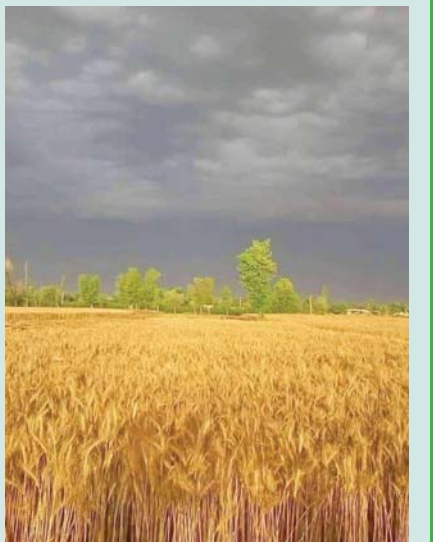
Government of Punjab strict action against wheat smuggling

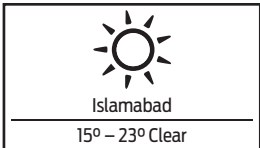
Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Strict measures taken by the Punjab government to stop wheat smuggling.

The implementation of the orders banning the transportation of wheat from across Punjab to other provinces was immediately implemented. In this regard, on the special and strict insistence of Deputy Commissioner Rajanpur Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khan Rand Baloch and the strict instructions of Assistant Commissioner Rojhan Mujahid Abbas (Rojhan District Rajanpur) from other provinces at the inter-provincial border and check post of Sindh adjacent to Punjab. A ban has been imposed on transportation of wheat from Punjab to other provinces of Sindh / Balochistan / Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shattered border areas of Punjab, Rajanpur. Taunsa Sharif. Strict instructions have been issued to the concerned departments of Sakhi Sarwar district, Dera Ghazi and Sadiqabad tehsils to be alert and vigilant when the media team secretly visited Shahwali, the adjacent inter-provincial check post of Sindh and Punjab, to investigate the matter. When we reached there, there was Shahwali check post along with Ahmed DFC employee, and security of Punjab Police, which is conducting strict checking of wheat on trawlers, trucks, tractor trolleys coming from Punjab to Sindh. district administration staff under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Rajanpur Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Khan Rand Baloch officers and their staff are vigilant and are performing duties 24 hours in different shifts to stop smuggling of wheat.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:29 am
Zohr 12:11 pm
Asr 4:42 pm
Maghrib 6:29 pm
Isha 7:54 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

IIUI extends application submission date of English Language courses till April 7th

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) has extended the last date of its English language courses in the evening till April 7th (Friday) for female students.

According to the details, the Centre for language teaching of IIUI has extended the last date of the Diploma of English Language (06 months evening), Certificate English Language (3 months evening) and English language certificate (2 months evening) for female students till Friday 07th.

Interested candidates can call on 051-9019704 or they can visit room no B-103, ground floor, Maryam Block, female campus as well details of the course are available on IIUI website www.iiu.edu.pk.

Meanwhile, the university shall also convene a meeting during this week to further improve these courses and to discuss important matters related to academics.

HC of Australia called on Federal Minister for Finance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomed H.E Mr. Neil Hawkins, High Commissioner of Australia, and highlighted the friendly relations between the two countries.

The two sides discussed the existing level of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on enhancing bilateral ties and cooperation in trade, economic and investment fields.

The Finance Minister briefed the envoy about the current economic outlook of the country and apprised of pragmatic policy reforms initiated by the government for the socio-economic uplift of the masses as well as economic progress and development of the country. The Finance Minister commended Australian support for relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees in Pakistan. The High Commissioner informed that the entire amount pledged by the Australian Government had been disbursed.

The Finance Minister apprised the High commissioner of the progress in



talks held with the IMF Mission.

H.E Mr. Neil Hawkins, High Commissioner of Australia, extending greetings on the Holy month of Ramadan, shared his views about the deep rooted friendly relations between Pakistan and Australia. He further shared the willingness to boost the ties further in terms of trade and investment. The Envoy also apprised the Minister that

100,000 strong Pakistan Diaspora and 15,000 Pakistani students in Australia are playing an important role in bringing the two countries closed. The High Commissioner also appreciated the policies and programs of the government for socio-economic development and economic growth. He stated that Australia wanted to see Pakistan as a strong, peaceful and prosperous country.

Free flour

ISLAMABAD: Women are leaving after receives flour sacks from Free Floor distribution Center under Prime Minister's scheme at G-7 Markaz during the holy month of Ramadan in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Sardar Tanveer says inquiry into Kashmir resolution into its merits under way

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has said that an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the facts regarding the adoption of a resolution in the Azad Kashmir Assembly seeking opening of a Kartarpur-type corridor for Kashmiris.

The PM made these assertions while addressing an Iftar cum dinner party hosted in honour of the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders here today.

Expressed his serious concern over the resolution presented in the Legislative Assembly, the PM said that an inquiry was going on to determine the facts.

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, while reiterating his government's commitment to promoting the Kashmir cause, assured the Hurriyat leadership of extending all-out support to Kashmiri freedom movement.

"With the support of the Pakistan Foreign Office, delegations comprising



ing Kashmiri representatives will be sent abroad to apprise the world of the sensitivities vis a vis the Kashmir dispute", he said, adding that an effective campaign would be launched to make the international community aware of the false and fabricated court cases against Hurriyat leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Mussrat Alam Bhat, Ameer Hamza, Asiya Andrabi, Dr. Hameed Fayyaz and others.

The PM also stressed the need for exposing the Modi government's nefarious designs behind holding a meeting the members of G20 countries in Occupied Kashmir.

Appreciating the Hurriyat leadership for their indomitable role in the ongoing liberation struggle, the PM said, "I assure the Hurriyat leadership that we will always remain at the forefront to strengthen the ongoing freedom movement".

The Kashmir dispute, he said, was not just a territorial dispute but it was all about the right of self-determination of millions of Kashmiris.

Voicing his concern over the simmering situation in the IoK, the PM said that there was a dire need to resolve the dispute in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Iftar dinner was attended by the government ministers including Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Dewan Ali Chaghtai, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Malik Zafar, whereas Hurriyat Conference Convener Mahmood Ahmed Saghar, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Syed Yusuf Naseem, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi and others were present on the occasion.

CCP prepares comprehensive guidelines on deceptive marketing practices

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with its commitment to safeguarding consumers against anti-competitive behaviour and offering valuable insights to stakeholders regarding Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has devised comprehensive guidelines pertaining to deceptive marketing practices, and how to steer clear of them.

The Guidelines on Deceptive Marketing Practices, which are being issued by CCP under Sections 28 and 29 of the Act, aim to provide a comprehensive explanation of the scope and application of Section 10 of the Act. The guidelines draw upon issues raised in cases involving false or misleading

advertising and other deceptive marketing practices that the CCP has resolved or adjudicated since 2008. Therefore, they contain general information and illustrative examples based on jurisprudence developed through the Commission's decisions over the years, intended to guide all stakeholders.

In broad terms, the Guidelines cover key concepts such as the principle of net general impression, material information, false and misleading information, and implied and express claims, among others. It also explains various forms of Deceptive Marketing Practices prevalent in the market and provides guidance on how businesses can ensure they do not engage in such violations. The Guidelines also touch upon the method of filing a complaint, remedies avail-

able under competition law, and the enforcement powers available to the Commission. The guidelines have been made available on the official website of CCP, which can be accessed at www.cc.gov.pk.

Stakeholders are advised to study the Act in conjunction with these Guidelines and to seek legal advice where necessary. It may be noted that the information contained in these Guidelines is not exhaustive and does not limit the investigation and enforcement powers of the Commission. The Commission reserve its right to amend these Guidelines from time to time.

In 2008, an Office of Fair Trade (OFT) was established with the goal of encouraging businesses to comply with Section 10 of the Competition

Law and improve their trade practices through compliance-oriented approach while taking decisive action against hardcore or flagrant offenders of the Act. The OFT serves as a watchdog to create a business environment in Pakistan based on healthy competition and to protect consumers from deceptive marketing practices. The OFT also aims to ensure that consumers are provided with adequate information to make informed choices.

It is CCP's mandate, under the Competition Act, to ensure free competition in all spheres of commercial and economic activity, to enhance economic efficiency, and to protect consumers from anti-competitive behaviour, including deceptive marketing practices.

Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi offers an extravagant Iftar Dinner



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ramadan is a month of blessings, fasting, reflection and prayer for Muslims. Muslims all over the world come together to break their daily fasts by sharing meals with family and friends.

This Ramadan, Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi offers an extravagant Iftar Dinner, including a variety of Pakistani cuisine, continental food and live stations, curated especially by a team of brilliant chefs at the hotel for all their guests. The ambience is nothing less than rich and radiant, ensuring that the guests have a memorable experience.

Bring your loved ones together for a delightful Iftar Dinner at the Marquee and enjoy the true essence of Ramadan with the grand Iftar Dinner followed by Qawwali.

Resolve public problems immediately: Engineer Amjad Tareen

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Secretary Services and General Administration (S&GAD) Department South Punjab Engineer Shoaib Khan Tareen has said that the main purpose of establishing the South Punjab Secretariat was to resolve the problems and grievances of the people of this region at their door steps. He instructed all the officers and staff members to make public service their motto. He was chairing the first meeting, on Monday, held to review the performance of the department after taking charge of his post. Additional Secretary South Punjab Mohammad Farooq Dogar, Deputy Secretaries Ali Atif Buttar, Abdul Saboor Thakur, Section Officer Wajihah Rasool, Protocol Officer Taimoor Aslam and staff members attended the meeting.

Secretary Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen said that timely redressal of public complaints was our duty and complaints being received in the office of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab be categorised and strict action be taken on complaints regarding crime. He asked to burried the red tapism and to adopt new traditions to serve public. On this occasion, a briefing was given regarding the performance of Services & General Administration Department.

The Secretary Services has convened a meeting on Tuesday to review the progress on the project of Civil Secretariat South Punjab building. Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen was previously serving as Secretary Board of Revenue South Punjab. He has also served as Secretary Specialized Healthcare South Punjab and as Deputy Commissioner Muzaffargarh.

ACCA Global Talent Trends survey reveals public sector facing talent challenge



News Desk

LAHORE: Finance professionals working in the public sector play a crucial role in addressing sustainability and climate change issues. ACCA's (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Global Talent Trends survey shows three out of four public sector respondents agree that accountants will play a bigger part in helping organisations address this agenda in the future.

In one of the largest ever studies across the accountancy profession, ACCA's inaugural Global Talent Trends Survey 2023 provides a unique and vital view of how people feel about working in the finance profession right now. Finance professionals working in the public sector share many of the same concerns as the wider profession, but there are some differences.

ACCA's research highlighted seven key talent trends for the public sector.

Useless mega projects have played a key role in the bankrupting country

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said useless mega projects have played a key role in bankrupting the country. These projects have not served the country but politicians and their favorite bureaucrats.

Unnecessary projects are made by borrowing billions of dollars, which benefits politicians and the country suffers, it said.

For several decades, the masses are told that completion of a certain project will usher in a new era of development and prosperity, production and exports will increase; inflation and unemployment will end but these lies have never come true, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that before every such project, the masses are told that it will make Pakistan a developed country, but such moves end up making politicians and their close bureaucrats more prosperous while the lives of people become more miserable.

He said that important institutions like the Planning Commission are kept weak for unholy designs, and if necessary, a new department or authority is created to serve political purposes.

Incompetent bureaucrats do not know how to run the institution, but they are experts in pleasing politicians which results in annual losses of hundreds of billions of rupees to institutions, he observed.

Those who claimed to set up industries across the country have pushed the country into an unmanageable debt trap for political and material gains.

Dr. Mughal said that the last year Pakistan received foreign direct investment of two billion dollars, while Singapore, which has a population 42 times less than Pakistan and an area 1093 times lesser than our country attracted an FDI of 92 billion dollars.



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Enhancing Pak-Türkiye Educational Relationship

Pakistan and Türkiye enjoy a longstanding relationship, rooted in shared history, culture, and religion. Both countries have made significant strides in various sectors, including higher education. Under the auspices of the Association of Private Sector Universities Pakistan (APSUP), a 34-member Pakistani delegation from 18 leading universities visited Istanbul, providing a golden opportunity to enhance bilateral relationships in higher education. It was the ever largest Pakistani delegation that visited Türkiye's higher education sector. The delegation also participated in the annual Eurasia Higher Education Summit, organized by the Eurasian Universities Union, to discuss the current state and future of higher education in the region. The summit provides a platform for academic leaders and policymakers to share experiences, best practices, and ideas to improve the quality of higher education and research in Eurasia. Earlier, a Pakistani delegation comprising vice-chancellors of Pakistani universities participated in the South Asia Higher Education Forum at Istanbul in 2019.

During the summit, the first-ever Pakistani Pavilion was set up, showcasing achievements, innovations, and research contributions of Pakistani universities which included Superior University, University of Lahore, University of Faisalabad, University of Sialkot, International Institute of Science, Arts & Technology, University of Management and Technology, Institute of South Punjab, Iqra University, Preston University, Gift University, University of South Asia,

Indus University, Benazir Bhutto Dewan University and Institute of Business and Management. The delegation engaged with other participants and explored opportunities for academic partnerships and collaborations. The Pakistani delegation met with representatives of leading Turkish universities, including Istanbul Aydın University, Yeditepe University, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul University, and other leading universities. The delegation also invited leaders and representatives of international universities to the SEE Pakistan Expo in August 2023, an invitation was accepted by the leadership of Eurasian universities. The visit aimed to foster collaboration in the fields of research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, marking a significant milestone in Pakistan-Türkiye relations.

One of the key areas of focus during the visit was promoting student exchange programs between Pakistan and Türkiye. The Pakistani delegation sought to establish partnerships with Turkish universities that would enable students from both countries to study abroad, exchange knowledge and ideas, gain exposure to new perspectives and cultures, and enhance their academic and professional skills.

In addition to student exchange programs, the delegation explored avenues for joint research projects and collaborations. Turkey has made significant investments in science and tech-

nology over the years and emerged as a leading player in the global research landscape. By partnering with Turkish universities and research institutions, Pakistani universities could benefit from the expertise and resources available in Türkiye, while contributing to joint research projects that could have a significant impact on both countries.

The visit also provided an opportunity to explore ways to enhance academic mobility between Pakistan and Türkiye. The delegation discussed establishing joint degree programs, enabling students to earn degrees from both Pakistani and Turkish universities, benefiting from the academic strengths of both countries, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas between Pakistani and Turkish academic institutions.

The Pakistani delegation also pledged more than 500 million PKR for earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye, spent on relief, rehabilitation, and scholarships for students from affected areas. Several universities in Pakistan extended their support to earthquake-affected people of Türkiye, including Superior University, University of Lahore, University of Faisalabad, University of Sialkot, International Institute of Science, Arts & Technology, University of Management and Technology, and others. Chairman of APSUP, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rehman, who led the Pakistani delegation, along with Rector Superior

University, Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman, handed over a cheque of 400,000 Turkish lira to Elif Aydin, Vice Chairman of the Board Anatolian Education and Cultural Foundation Türkiye. Speaking on the occasion, the President of Eurasian Universities Union, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Aydin, expressed gratitude to APSUP and the Pakistani nation for their continued support to the Turkish people, especially during hard times. Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, who was also part of the Pakistani delegation, offered fully funded scholarships and research fellowships to Turkish nationals severely affected by the earthquake in collaboration with APSUP and member universities of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence.

In conclusion, the recent visit of the Pakistani delegation to Istanbul has significantly enhanced the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Türkiye in the field of higher education. By promoting student exchange programs, joint research projects, and academic mobility, both countries can benefit from each other's strengths and expertise while contributing to the global knowledge economy. It is hoped that this visit will pave the way for deeper and more meaningful collaborations between Pakistani and Turkish universities in the years to come.

The writer is Executive Director of the Association of Private Sector Universities Pakistan (APSUP) and associated with Higher Education Sector for last more than 23 years.



Analysis

M Murtaza Noor

Pakistan's growing climate vulnerability demands

Experts have claimed that the country has recently emerged among the highly vulnerable and impacted countries due to climate change that demanded the stakeholders to invest in exploring Solar Geoengineering potential to reduce global warming impacts in the region to prevent erratic climate catastrophes.

Prof. Dr. Athar Hussain and Abdul Waheed from COMSATS University in their recent study article, have tried to research and analyze the Solar Geoengineering techniques and its possible outcomes with reference to Pakistan and other less developed countries facing equal climate risks and hazards.

The authors of the research based article are of the view that the anthropogenic activities have resulted in a high concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases. This increase in emissions has caused an increase in the world temperature of the atmosphere.

"Climate engineering approaches aim to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to address global warming's worldwide effects. In this context, the approaches that reflect incoming sunlight back into space are technically called Solar Geoengineering."

The need for Solar Geoengineering in Pakistan is likely due to the fact that the country is considered to be highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, Pakistan needs to consider implementing Solar Geoengineering solutions in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect its population and economy.

Solar Geoengineering is a controversial topic, the opinions about it vary widely around the globe. Some experts argue that it is a necessary tool to combat climate change impacts that should be researched and implemented as soon as possible. Others argue that it is risky and that there is not enough understanding of the potential consequences to justify its use.

In this context, in case of Pakistan, since 2018, a group of scientists at the Center for Climate Research and Development at COMSATS University Islamabad conducted a study on "Impacts of sulfate aerosols on the climate of Pakistan". Since late 2022, their study is funded by UK based The DEGREEs Initiative.

They concluded and recommended building a dialogue on science, governance, and policy at the national level. The climate models analyzed were the first step in determining the relative magnitude of the impact of sulfate aerosol injection in Pakistan.

Similarly, in 2022 authors of this article conducted a Resources for the Future (an independent, nonprofit research institution in Washington, DC) funded Solar Geoengineering research to analyze stakeholders' perceptions, to improve understanding of the risks, potential benefits, and other uncertain implications of the solar geoengineering approach among three developing countries in global South (Pakistan, Nigeria, and Kenya).

This study examined their perspective via a total of more than 1000 respondent in diverse fields such as policymakers and research scholars.

Descriptive and inferential results indicate that there are significant differences within the global South on awareness of global warming and Solar Geoengineering, as well as on the deployment of sulfate aerosols as a measure to delay the harshest effects of global warming.

44th death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

With the establishment of Pakistan in 1947 dream of Pakistan got its interpretation in which Quaid-e-Azam and his team were included, if we see the downsides of Pakistan's politics, after the death of Quaid-e-Azam, his sister (Mohtarama Fatima Jinnah) took his place. After the era of Ayub Khan came the era of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was born in 1928 and got his education from abroad. Then he returned to Pakistan to play an important role in politics. And he participated in politics during Ayub Khan's reign. After that he became the youngest Foreign Minister of Pakistan. He also served as the fourth President from 1971 to 1973, and later as the ninth Prime Minister of Pakistan from 1973 to 1977. He was the founder of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and served as its chairman until his execution.

Bhutto was the country's first civilian chief martial law administrator since 1958, as well as the country's first civilian president. With Bhutto assuming the control, the leftists and democratic socialists entered the country's politics, and later emerged as power players in the country's politics. And, for the first time in the country's history, the leftists and democratic socialists had a chance to administer the country with the popular vote and

widely approved exclusive mandate, given to them by the West's population in the 1970s elections.

After that, in 1971 an accident happened due to which our East Pakistan got separated. 90,000 of our prisoners of war went to the custody of India. It was Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who freed all these prisoners from Indian custody. And respectfully brought to Pakistan. In the 1971 war, India created an environment that allowed its gangsters to enter Bangladesh and created an environment that would turn people against West Pakistan and its forces of Pakistan.

Misunderstandings were created so much that the tragedy of East Pakistan happened. After that, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto became the Prime Minister of Pakistan with a two-thirds majority. His first mission was to protect and strengthen the constitution of Pakistan. In this he took all the opposition parties of Pakistan into confidence. And the current constitution of Pakistan is the constitution of 1973 given by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He Provided facilities and equipment needed for Pakistan's forces around the world. He Traveled all over the world.

And told the whole world what

role India has played in the separation of East Pakistan. How Pakistan has been stabbed in the back by India. In 1974 India detonated nuclear weapons at Pokhran, a place in the state of Rajasthan. After that once again the balance shifted towards India. It was a momentous occasion and also a patient task for Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He visited Arab countries immediately after India's nuclear explosions. And informed their leaders of India's dangerous ambitions. Afterwards He organized the Islamic Summit Conference in Lahore. In which he explained India's

dangerous ambitions and India's hostility towards Pakistan And an agreed course of action was drawn up.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto said that when India has done four nuclear explosions, we should also think about it. Saudi Arabia especially provided financial support to Pakistan. After that, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto started communicating with nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan and other nuclear scientists. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto succeeded in bringing atomic scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan to Pakistan. Pakistan continued its journey to become a nuclear power. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's best achieve-

ment was the Kamra aeronautical Complex, Heavy mechanical complex Taxila, Pakistan Steel mill He started such huge projects. But when Pakistan started its atomic journey, unfortunately America, India and other forces decided to divert Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto from the path.

As a result, the Pakistan National Alliance, also known as PNA, was formed in which Mufti Mahmood Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mian Tufail Ahmed, Qazi Hussain Ahmed was included. They started a movement in the name of Tehreek Nizam Mustafa. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto preferred Zia-ul-Haq and made him Army Chief and promoted him to 7 ranks. Zia-ul-Haq overthrew the elected government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. And confused Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in the Nawab Ahmad Muhammad Khan case And he was finally sentenced to death. Zia-ul-Haq had imposed martial law, then the Supreme Court also confirmed this decision. Finally, on April 4, 1979, at two o'clock in the night, Bhutto was hanged in Adiala Jail. After that, he was cremated at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh in the presence of his 9,10 employees. When Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was arrested, his wife Nusrat Bhutto and his daughter Ms. Benazir Bhutto struggled with the public to release her father. America got succeed with Zia-ul-haq team to divert Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto from the path.



Analysis

Kiran Asim



Amjad Rasmi

Dialogue the best hope for Israeli-Palestinian de-escalation-II

Nickolay E. Mladenov

This could be achieved through two means: Israel facilitating grants or loans to the authority, backed by future tax revenues; and a reduction of the handling fees at the Allenby crossing.

Additionally, the Palestinian government must reform its controversial prisoner payment system, which faces increasing scrutiny from the US and the EU. This is essential to regain access to some of its tax income, currently withheld under Israeli law, and potential US funding that has been withheld by the Taylor Force Act.

Although these steps are challenging, and will face resistance from large domestic constituencies, they are both necessary and long overdue.

Thirdly, the Sharm El-Sheikh communication mechanism is established or both parties convene informally, it is essential that conversations begin on these subjects.

The immediate focus of any discussion should be twofold. Firstly, the talks should emphasize the enhancement of security coordination and the empowerment of Palestinian security forces to assume their duties and responsibilities effectively in their areas of operation, particularly in Area A of the West Bank, which falls under its security control.

This would alleviate the need for Israel to take unilateral action and undermine the PA's control in these areas. However, it is a difficult step for the authority's security forces to take, as they are reluctant to act in places such as Jenin and Nabulus due to fears of popular backlash.

Secondly, improved coordination and communication in tense situations could help mitigate inflammatory statements and actions

by all parties involved. The US, Egypt and Jordan have the potential to play significant roles in facilitating such dialogue.

There remains some uncertainty over whether the positive momentum created by the Aqaba and Sharm El-Sheikh meetings can yield tangible results and withstand the pressures, either from the coinciding religious holidays of Ramadan, Passover and Easter, which all occur in April this year, or from the radicals who are intent on escalation.

The true challenge lies in executing the steps agreed upon during the meetings. This necessitates not high-level international events but, rather, diligent efforts in daily communication and a mutual understanding that without such measures, tensions will continue to rise and the situation might rapidly spiral out of control.

The likelihood of all or some of these measures being implemented remains an open question. Yet given that the Middle East Quartet, which united the US with Russia, the EU and the UN to address such situations, is defunct, it is reassuring that Washington is now engaging with Egypt and Jordan in a new format that could bring Israelis and Palestinians together.

Obstacles might arise but the first step on the path toward political resolution is for Israeli and Palestinian security officials to agree that without coordination, the current crisis will only worsen.

Concluded
 Nickolay E. Mladenov is the director-general of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi and a Segal Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Twitter: @nmladenov. ©Syndication Bureau

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect Arab News' point of view

Quranic manuscripts exhibition inaugurated in Islamabad

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: On the blessed occasion of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, the exhibition of the rare and ancient manuscripts of the Holy Quran was inaugurated in Islamabad Monday.

The exhibition of Quran manuscripts under the Iranian Embassy and Iran Pakistan Persian Research Center was inaugurated today in Islamabad.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held in the presence of Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Syed Muhammad Ali Hussaini, Chairman of Ideological Council of Pakistan Qibla Ayaz and Cultural Consul of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ehsan Khazaei.

A large number of Pakistani calligraphers, activists and art lovers participated in the event. The exhibition includes dozens of original manuscripts of the Quran, some of which are accompanied by Persian translations.

During his address at the opening ceremony of the exhibition of manuscripts of the Holy Quran, the Iranian ambassador praised the cultural initiative and the Persian Research Center of Iran and Pakistan and said: holding this exhibition is a step towards



the respect and promotion of the Holy Quran. And to promote the concepts and

culture of this Holy book, it is a step towards establishing intimacy with the Quran, which informs the people

and those interested in Quranic culture about the wonderful, unique and handwritten versions of the Holy

Quran.

He said that the existence of 800-year-old copies of the Holy Quran is an emphasis on the historical status of the legacy of the Prophet (PBUH) and we hope that this event will be a strong incentive for Islam and its followers to read the Quran and to follow the teachings of Quran.

The Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan further said that the Holy Quran is an essential axis for the unity and closeness of the hearts of the Islamic Ummah and the blessed existence of the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) is the axis of unity, love and compassion.

As the Chief Guest of this spiritual event, the head of the Islamic Ideology Council appreciated the cultural initiative of the Iranian Embassy and said: It is an honor for every Muslim to participate in this exhibition, because we are the followers of Islamic.

He described the enthusiastic participation of people in the exhibition of Quranic manuscripts as a manifestation of the long-standing friendship between the people of Iran and Pakistan and the cultural ties of the two neighboring countries and said: The holy month of Ramadan is a great opportunity for Islamic culture and

Iran and Pakistan's strong cultural and people's commonality can be promoted.

Cultural Consul of the Iranian Embassy in Pakistan, Ehsan Khazaei, also described the exhibition of the manuscripts of the Holy Quran as useful for interested students and artists and emphasized the need to promote and increase cultural and artistic cooperation between the two countries.

In this exhibition, along with 45 Quranic manuscripts, calligraphy panels and works of art have also been presented and placed before the public. The Quranic exhibition continues for 7 days.

The Iran Pakistan Persian Research Center has more than 500 manuscripts of the Holy Quran, which could not be displayed due to lack of space, and only 45 selected copies of these manuscripts are on display for the first time in this exhibition.

These Qur'ans, whose writing dates back more than 800 years, are written in beautiful Nastaliq, Thulth Naskh calligraphy, and some of them are decorated with gold water and other colors and patterns of flowers and shrubs.

Humza Yousaf, the Pakistani-Origin Scottish First Minister

By Spokesman Report

In an interesting development, the Scottish National Party (SNP) elected Humza Yousaf as Scotland's first minister. He has succeeded Nicola Sturgeon and was elected in the session held on 28 March in the Scottish parliament.

He became the country's sixth first minister and first from an ethnic minority background. He is also the youngest first minister at 37, and the first Muslim from Pakistani origin to lead a major UK party. He was elected with 26 thousand 32 votes which corresponds to 52 per cent of the votes cast to the leadership. He was elected by the SNP after a bitterly fought contest that exposed deep divisions in his party over policy and a stalled independence campaign. His elevation to the top political leadership is one of the great triumphs of social mobility. His grandparents migrated to Glasgow in the 1960s and could not have imagined that their grandson would one day lead Scotland. In the space of two generations the migrant family has made the ascent from tailoring in Pakistani town of Mian Channu to the political heights.

With Rishi Sunak serving as UK prime minister and Leo Varadkar as Ireland's taoiseach, Humza Yousaf's emergence as the front-runner in the SNP leadership contest has once again given rise to a sense of accomplishment and recognition in his country of origin and amongst Muslims. But in the United Kingdom, the debate surrounding Yousaf is hardly about his race or religion. It is pointed out that main-stream opinion is either unaffected by the candidate's ethnic or religious background other than how this informs opinion on current politics. Interestingly, Scotland is quite unique as Scotland's Labour Party is led by Anas Sarwar and this is very encouraging.

Humza Yousaf was sworn in as Scotland's new leader on Wednesday



in a ceremony blending formal tradition with his Pakistani heritage, then announced his first cabinet in a move that risked deepening the divisions in his governing party. His victory was confirmed at the country's national rugby ground after a six-week campaign where the three candidates spent much of the contest criticising each other's record in a series of personal attacks. The SNP's unity, which had been one of its strengths, broke down over arguments about how to achieve a second independence referendum and the best way to introduce social reforms such as transgender rights. Yousaf takes over a party with an overriding objective to end Scotland's three-centuries-long union with England but his predecessor stepped down after the British government repeatedly blocked a route to a new vote on independence. While about four in 10 Scots support independence, the departure of Sturgeon — a charismatic and commanding leader — may initially slow some of the momentum behind a breakup of the United Kingdom.

Before becoming the first minister he served as the Scottish Health Secretary and rose through the ranks of the SNP to become the Scottish govern-

ment's first non-white and first Muslim cabinet minister in 2018. His father, who was born in Mian Channu, immigrated to Glasgow with his family in 1964. His mother, born in Kenya to a family of South Asian descent, also moved to Scotland in 1968. He was privately educated and went on to pursue politics at University of Glasgow where he was active in student politics and became head of the Muslim students' association. In 2011, at the age of 26, he became the youngest member of Scottish Parliament when he won from Glasgow. In a nod to his Scottish-Pakistani identity, he took his oath in both Urdu and English and wore a black embroidered sherwani with a Partick Thistle Football Club tartan shawl draped over his shoulder.

Yousaf, the first Muslim to lead a democratic western European nation, was dressed in a black shalwar kameez at Scotland's highest court, the Court of Session in Edinburgh. Yousaf, who pledged an oath of allegiance to King Charles, has previously said he wants to replace the monarchy with an elected head of state if he achieves his dream of ending Scotland's three-centuries-long political union with England. He then announced his new cabinet of



six women and three men, who were mainly close allies of Scotland's former leader Nicola Sturgeon, who resigned last month after dominating Scottish politics for more than a decade. But the new lineup could breed disunity as it excluded Yousaf's leadership rivals or their allies who said they were offered only positions that amounted to demotions. Shona Robison — a close friend of Sturgeon — will serve as finance minister as well as deputy first minister while Angus Robertson will continue to have the responsibility for constitutional issues and external affairs.

Announcing his new team, Yousaf said his cabinet, which has a majority of women for the first time in Scotland's history, should look as much as possible like the voters they represent.

The new leader faces numerous challenges, including uniting his party, charting a new course towards independence from the United Kingdom, and fixing Scotland's problems with healthcare and education. Humza Yousaf has been a member of the Scottish Parliament since 2011 and has faced criticism in the past. Until recently he was Scotland's health secretary,

at a time when the National Health Service was seen to be in crisis.

Scotland has long had Europe's highest drug death rate and the lowest life expectancy in Western Europe. Yousaf is accused by some of simply being gaff-prone. During his leadership campaign, he asked a group of Ukrainian refugee women separated from their husbands by war: "Where are all the men?" It is pointed out that he faces a tough road ahead after a bruising leadership battle.

In a 2018 interview Yousaf explained in detail how his mother's family faced racial discrimination in the East African city for being seen as taking away jobs from the local population. The hardship reached a breaking point when his grandmother was attacked with an axe and though she survived, but the family had had enough.

Born in Glasgow in 1985, Humza Yousaf was one of two ethnic minority pupils to attend his elementary school. Destined by family expectations to be an accountant, a doctor or a lawyer, Yousaf recalled the scariest moment was when he broke the mould by telling his parents about his desire to venture

into politics. He has often noted that his own background is an example of Scotland's socially liberal and ethnically diverse landscape, even referring to himself as coming from a "bhangra and bagpipes" heritage. Bhangra is the traditional folk music of the Punjab while bagpipes are the quintessential instrument of Scotland.

News of Humza Yousaf's victory dominated headlines in Pakistan with messages swirling on social media about the historic moment. His appointment is part of a wider movement taking shape globally that previously was acknowledged only informally that members of the Pakistani diaspora have long played a vital role in global history.

When Rishi Sunak similarly made history by becoming Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian descent, many in the South Asian nation were quick to congratulate him with some media channels even claiming him as their own. In any case the Western societies have succeeded in proving that they value talent and appreciate sustained and dedicated effort and adequately reward it.

Finland's Sanna Marin concedes defeat as NCP wins election

Finland's left-wing Prime Minister Sanna Marin conceded defeat on Sunday in the Nordic country's parliamentary election as the opposition right-wing National Coalition Party (NCP) claimed victory in a tightly fought contest.

The pro-business NCP was expected to win 48 of the 200 seats in parliament, narrowly ahead of the nationalist Finns Party with 46 seats and Marin's Social Democrats on 43 seats, justice ministry election data showed with all ballots counted.

"We got the biggest mandate," NCP leader Petteri Orpo said in a speech to followers, vowing to "fix Finland" and its economy.

He will get the first chance at forming a coalition to obtain majority in parliament as Marin's era as prime minister was expected to end.

"We have gained support, we have gained more seats



(in parliament). That's an excellent achievement, even if we did not finish first today," the prime minister said in a speech to party members.

Sanna Marin, 37, the world's youngest prime minister when she took office in 2019, is considered by fans around the globe as a millennial role model for progressive new leaders, but at home she has faced criticism for her partying and her government's public spending.

While she remains very popular among many Finns, particularly young moderates, she antagonised some

conservatives with lavish spending on pensions and education they see as not frugal enough.

The NCP has led in polls for almost two years although its lead had melted away in recent months. It has promised to curb spending and stop the rise of public debt, which has reached just over 70% of GDP since Marin took office in 2019.

Orpo accused Sanna Marin of eroding Finland's economic resilience at a time when Europe's energy crisis, driven by Russia's war in Ukraine, has hit the country hard and the cost of living has increased.

Orpo has said he will negotiate with all groups to obtain a majority in parliament, while Marin has said her Social Democrats may govern with the NCP but will not go into government with the Finns Party.

Marin called the Finns Party "openly racist" during a debate in January — an accusation the nationalist group rejected.

The Finns Party's main goal is to reduce what leader Riikka Purra has called "harmful" immigration from developing countries outside the European Union. It also calls for austerity policies to curb deficit spending, a stance it shares with the NCP.

Most notable of Marin's foreign policy actions has been her push, along with President Sauli Niinisto, for the country to make a watershed policy U-turn by seeking NATO membership in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Khunjerab Pass officially resumes passenger crossing on Monday: Mao Ning

By News Desk

BEIJING: The Khunjerab Pass, a seasonal trade route between Pakistan and China, has officially resumed passenger crossing today after almost three years of closure, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Monday.

"The Khunjerab pass is a seasonal pass, which is open from April 1 to November 30 every year. On April 03, this year, the pass officially resumed passenger crossings," she said during her regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP correspondent.

"The spokesperson said that during Covid-19 pandemic, the port implemented the policy about the passing of goods only. April 1, 2022 the pass has been reopened for the passing of goods and on April 3, this year the pass officially resumed passenger crossings, she added.

Mao Ning emphasized that China and Pakistan are

all-weather strategic partners and had been working closely in various fields, including port customs clearance for a long time.

She said that because of the friendship between the two countries, China tempo-

countries," she added.

While expressing his pleasure over the reopening of the pass, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that it would help increase trade between Pakistan and China.



rarily opened port many times during the lockdown period to ensure the passing of Pakistani personnel and emergency supplies.

"We are willing to work with Pakistan to resume the opening up of the pass, expedite its clearance and further serve the personnel exchange and trade and economic cooperation between the two

He said that the reopening of pass had removed a hurdle that would expedite the work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and added that restoration of the trade route between the two countries, after three years, was a matter of huge rejoicing.

In a statement, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N) senior vice president and chief organizer Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated the leadership of China and Pakistan on the restoration of Sino-Pak trade after three-year pause.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said in a tweet that the resumption of operations via Khunjerab Pass would serve to further bolster Pak-China trade and people to people linkage.

The two side are now working to keep the border crossing open all year round, he added.

The Khunjerab Pass that connects Gilgit-Baltistan with China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous region was closed in the year 2020 after spread of Covid-19 outbreak.

As result of cold weather and lack of oxygen in the high altitude, the pass generally opens from April 1 to November 30 every year, and remains closed from December 1 to March 31 of the following year.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
39,889.90	40,000.83
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,077.77	39,860.62
Index Value	Change
1,376,967,986	-110.93
Percentage	Time
-0.28%	3 Apr, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,673.00	+41.26
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	3 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,528.29	+254.14
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	3 Apr, 1:23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,188.15	+146.67
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	3 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.5	189.9
Bahrain Dinar	754.25	762.25
Canadian Dollar	206.5	208.7
China Yuan	41.16	41.56
Danish Krone	41.49	41.89
Euro	307.5	310.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.11	36.46
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	924.86	933.86
Malaysian Ringgit	64.14	64.74
New Zealand \$	176.37	178.37
Norwegians Krone	27.16	27.46
Omani Riyal	736.57	744.57
Qatari Riyal	77.87	78.57
Saudi Riyal	75.95	76.70
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	27.35	27.65
Swiss Franc	310.26	312.76
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	77.5	78.2
UK Pound Sterling	349.53	352.5
US Dollar	285.15	288

Big businesses should use their influence to save the country: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the country's economy was irreparably damaged by the coronavirus and floods.

After that came the political crisis which took the economy hostage which was followed by the constitutional crisis which has also engulfed the country, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country is going bankrupt but all the forces are engaged in political conflict instead of solv-



ing the country's problems.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that in the current situation, investors are the biggest losers after the masses.

He said that investors and big businesses should not play the role of silent spectators; they also need to play an active role to improve the current deteriorating situation.

The influential business groups can put pressure on all groups engaged in the power struggle to improve the situation.

This is only possible when the country's top businessmen unite, putting aside their political affiliations, and force all the players involved in this terrible game of power to act

responsibly.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that those who are busy trying to gain power are not interested in the problems of the people from whom they need votes.

People are worried about inflation, poor are dying to get flour, but the failed politicians are only concerned with their own interests and they have no mercy for the people who are dying of hunger.

In the current situation, self-interested politicians have failed, inflation, unemployment, and public agitation are increasing and things are getting out of hand. If big investors do not play their role even then, their businesses will also shrink rapidly and end soon.

Chairman FBR assures to look into the tax issues of business community for redress

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Asim Ahmad, Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue said that the business community is playing a key role in the development of the economy and assured that he would look into their tax issues for redress. He said that the budget making process is in progress and ICCI should submit its written budget proposals for consideration and incorporation in the final budget. He appreciated the initiative of ICCI for acknowledging the role of top taxpayers in the region and said that it would help promote tax culture. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President.

Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Special Assistant to PM on Revenue said that there is a trust deficit between the taxpayers and the tax collectors and stressed the need of taking measures to build confidence between the two important stakeholders of the economy. He said that it is very important to create a relationship of trust and confidence between the tax collectors and the taxpayers in order to enhance the tax base and improve tax revenue of the country. He hoped that ICCI would play a role to achieve this goal.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry apprised



the Chairman FBR about the various tax issues of the business community that needed his attention for redress. He said that the completion date of construction projects under the amnesty scheme will be expiring on 30th September 2023 and requested that this scheme should be further extended, at least for 2 years to facilitate the completion of ongoing projects under this scheme. He said that ICCI should be given representation in FBR tax committees that would help build confidence between the taxpayers and the FBR and improve tax culture. He said that ICCI plans to confer awards on the highest taxpayers from every sector of the economy in order to acknowledge their key role

in the tax contribution. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that due to ban on imports and LCs issue, the industrial activities are badly suffering and stressed that the government should look into this issue to address the concerns of industries.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that high taxes on the construction sector is affecting its business activities and said that FBR should reconsider them.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari and Khalid Javed, former Presidents ICCI also shared useful proposals to improve tax base and increase tax revenue of the country.

NEPRA conducts hearing on uniform quarterly adjustments for KE customers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: NEPRA conducted a public hearing on Monday on the Federal Government's request to apply quarterly adjustments on KE customers. These Quarterly Adjustments of PKR 1.5547 and PKR 1.48-4.45 pertains to the 2nd quarter of FY22 and the first quarter of FY23 respectively. Application of these adjustments on KE consumers along with their period of recoverability will be determined by NEPRA followed by a notification from the Government.

NEPRA scrutinized this request and will issue a final decision on the amount to be passed on to customers as per its protocol. NEPRA and the Government of Pakistan legislates the governing policies and regulations which determine the costs recovered from customers in their monthly bills.

Individual Distribution

Companies cannot influence the process or make unilateral changes.

In the first request, the Federal Government is seeking NEPRA's approval to apply PKR 1.55 rupees per unit on all customer categories (except Lifeline consumers) for units consumed in July, August, and September 2022. The amounts will be recovered in bills for the months of April, May, and June 2023 respectively.

In the second request, the Government is seeking approval to apply charges on units consumed in February and March 2023 to be recovered in April and May 2023 in the following manner: PKR 1.48 per unit for residential customers using up to 300 units except lifeline consumers; PKR 3.21 per unit for residential customers using more than 300 units, and PKR 4.45 per unit for all other categories excluding certain Agricultural consumers.

Pakistan's first agri-fintech app Digitt+ and easypaisa join hands



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Akhtar Fuiou Technologies under the umbrella of its agri financial services platform Digitt+ has entered a partnership with Telenor Microfinance Bank's leading digital payments platform, easypaisa. Digitt+ is a digital wallet, mobilized to enable and empower the unbanked population of Pakistan starting with the agri sector.

AFT has a vision of building a financially inclusive ecosystem through its wallet Digitt+ for the agri sector of the country. The EMI has received pilot approval for operation from the regulatory body. In its pilot phase the wallet will be marketed to diverse segments of the population. Digitt+ will allow its wallet holders to make various payments geared with a powerful Debit Card.

Partnership with easypaisa has been curated keeping customer convenience at the center. Through this partnership the Digitt+ wallet holders are being given the option to use the agent network of easypaisa as cash deposit and withdrawal touch point.

CEO Mr. Ahmed Ali Saleemi celebrating the partnership was quoted saying: "AFT believes in providing agile financial solutions to its customers in the simplest way possible and easypaisa is one such entity in the country that resonates with our own core values."

Head of easypaisa, Wallet Business, Farhan Hassan, commented on the partnership, "Currently Pakistan's agriculture sector is the largest contributor to the nation's GDP and exports. It also employs around 40% of the country's workforce."

Simple and easy financial solution is the key driver for both respective entities geared to collaborate effectively to accelerate the efforts of taking financial inclusion strategy forward.

Daraz Pakistan celebrates the spirit of Ramadan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Continuing its annual tradition, Daraz, Pakistan's leading online marketplace, has partnered with several non-profit organizations to give its users the option to support causes closest to their hearts during Ramadan. The platform aims to make the process of giving back more accessible and convenient for users, providing a seamless digital experience.

Through Daraz Donates, users can easily browse various non-profits and causes, learn more about their work, and donate directly through the Daraz app or website. The non-profits and causes available on the platform include Edhi Foundation, Kidney Center, JDC, Saylani Welfare Trust, Shaikat Khanum Memorial Trust, The Indus Hospital, Pink Ribbon, Pakistan Sweet Home, Dawat-e-Islami, Alkhidmat Foundation, Bint-e-Fatima Found-



ation, and cover a range of social issues, from education and healthcare to poverty. The platform features multiple payment options, including credit and debit cards, mobile wallets, and bank transfers, making it easy for users to donate from anywhere

in the country. The Daraz digital donation platform is now live on the Daraz app and website, and will be available throughout Ramadan.

On April 02, Daraz will also be hosting the first of its kind charity telethon of Pakistan in collaboration with HUM News, which will be bringing together multiple non-profit organizations on one platform including The Citizens Foundation, JDC, Saylani Welfare Trust, Pink Ribbon, and Indus Hospital.

Furthermore, Daraz will also be donating a chunk of its cross-border inventory from its warehouse to charities on a weekly basis.

For non-profits, it is often challenging to reach a wide audience and raise funds, but the Daraz platform provides them with an opportunity to connect with new supporters and make a meaningful impact with their work.

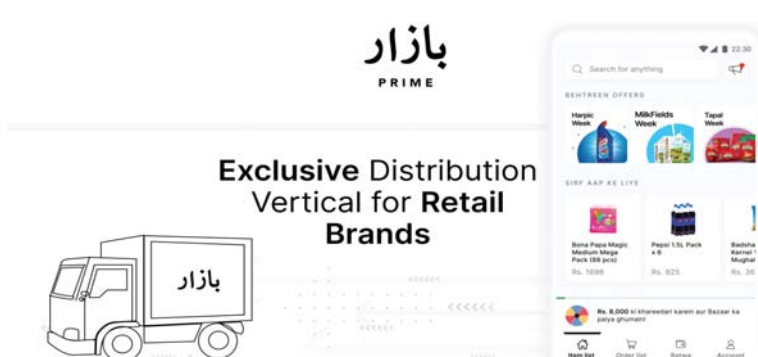
Bazaar launches Bazaar Prime, its exclusive distribution vertical

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Bazaar, Pakistan's leading B2B e-commerce platform for 5M+ businesses, launches Bazaar Prime—its exclusive market distribution arm for retail suppliers and manufacturers.

Bazaar's B2B platform provides procurement, fulfillment, digital lending, and supply chain products to retailers and manufacturers in Pakistan. Since its inception two years ago, Bazaar has raised over \$100m in venture financing and has scaled to become the leading tech enabled distributor in the country with the widest footprint across 50 cities and towns. With its deep technology stack, Bazaar provides hundreds of suppliers direct access to underserved merchants across several categories.

Hamza Jawaid, the co-founder of Bazaar, mentions, "Bazaar Prime is a game-changer for brands seeking to improve their coverage and distribution in the market. By leverag-



ing this partnership, brands can tap into a wealth of resources and tools that enable them to optimise their operations, enhance their customer reach, and ultimately drive business growth."

Bazaar Prime has already launched strategic partnerships with category leading brands such as Reckitt, Philip Morris, PepsiCo bottlers, Mughal Rice, Tapal, Milkfields,

Ana Batla and RealMe.

Ahmed Siyadat, Managing Director for Bazaar Retail says "Our speed and agility in setting up a tech enabled exclusive distribution is unmatched. From Mardan to Khairpur, we are present across all of Pakistan and with Bazaar Prime; our partners are able to leverage our expertise to really scale their businesses".

TikTok introduces a new way to refresh for you feed recommendations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Popular short-video platform TikTok has announced a new feature that allows users to refresh their For You feed if they feel that their recommendations are no longer relevant. This new feature is part of TikTok's ongoing efforts to ensure an enjoyable viewing experience for its users while also enabling self-expression.

The For You feed is a feature that helps TikTok users discover a diversity of content, creators, communities, and products. However, there are times when people's recommendations don't feel relevant anymore, or provide enough variety. To address this, TikTok is rolling out a

way for users to refresh their For You feed recommendations, which allows them to view content as if they just signed up for TikTok. The recommendation system will then surface more content based on new interactions.

This feature adds to a number of content controls that TikTok users already have to shape their experience, including the ability to filter out videos that use specific hash tags or phrases from their For You feeds, and to skip future videos from a particular creator or that use a particular sound. Enabling the refresh feature won't override any settings users have already chosen to enable or impact accounts they've followed.

Pakistan earns \$484m from travel services' export in 7 months

ISLAMABAD: The country has earned US \$484.140 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first seven months of the current fiscal year 2022-23.

This shows growth of 53.67 percent as compared to the US \$315.060 million worth same services provided during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

last year to US \$480.750 million during July-January 2023.

Among the personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure dipped by 10.53 percent while the education-related expenditure also dropped by 4.28 percent.

In addition, other personal services however increased of 54.80 percent.

Meanwhile, the exports of business services grew by 187.29 percent, from US\$ 1.180 million to US\$ 3.390 million, the PBS data revealed. APP

Sports advisor to CM Punjab Wahab announces to host Ramadan Sports Series

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that the First Ramadan Sports Series 2023 will be organized from April 7 to 11, 2023 on the directives of Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

He announced this while addressing a news press conference here at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, Commissioner Lahore Division Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and other officials were present on the occasion.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab Wahab Riaz said the teams from all divisions will participate in the competitions of hockey, football, kabaddi, badminton and table tennis. "The 12 teams of Lahore cricket clubs will compete in the tape ball cricket event scheduled to be played at Gau Shala Cricket Ground."

Giving details of prize money, he said



that a huge amount of Rs 85,50,000 will be distributed among top position holder teams of Ramadan Sports Series. "The winners of badminton and table tennis (male and female) events will get Rs 2 lakh cash prize each, while the runners up teams will be given Rs one lakh cash prize each," he added.

"Rs 25 lakh cash prize will be given to winners and Rs 15 lakh to runners up in hockey, Rs 8 lakh cash prize will be given to winners and Rs 3.5 lakh to runners up in kabaddi, Rs 7 lakh cash prize will be given to winners and Rs 3 lakh to runners up in football while Rs one lakh cash prize will be given to winners and Rs 50,000 to runners up in cricket."

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab

on Sports said that Ramadan Sports Series will provide a suitable platform to young talented players of the province to demonstrate their talent in the above mentioned games. "Excellent arrangements will be made for the competitions of Ramadan Sports Series. The participating teams will be provided all necessary facilities during the Ramadan Sports Series."

He further said that overall 768 male and female players and 135 officials will participate in the 5-day Ramadan Sports Series. "The competitions of badminton and table tennis (male and female) events will be played at NPSC Gymnasium Hall, football and kabaddi at Punjab Stadium, hockey matches at Mini Hockey Stadium while the tape ball cricket event will be played at Gau Shala Cricket Ground," he informed.

Wahab Riaz said that there will be two halves of 20 minutes each in the 8-a-side hockey event. "Park View Housing Society will sponsor the hockey event which is a good sign for the future of hockey in the country. Quetta Gladiators owner

Nadeem Omar has also expressed his interest in buying a team in the hockey tournament."

Commissioner Lahore Division Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Randhawa on this occasion said: "We recently organized Jashan-e-Baharan event quite successfully likewise the Ramadan Sports Series will also be conducted in a successful manner."

He said the Ramadan Sports Series will be fully sponsored event as per vision of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. "Punjab government will not spend a single penny on this event. The first Ramadan Sports Series event will be a memorable event," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail on this occasion said that the teams from 9 divisions are participating in the first Ramadan Sports Series. "Officers at the division level are selecting the teams in collaboration with sports associations purely on merit. Sports Board Punjab is providing the best platform to the players to express their talents," he added.

Moin subjects Mohammad Amir's international return to performance



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Moin Khan commented on the rumours surfacing the internet regarding the potential international return of experienced left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir and subjected it to the latter's performance.

Moin while talking to the media here responded to a question regarding the reports of Amir's comeback to international cricket and termed the pacer a brilliant player.

"Mohammad Amir is a brilliant player. If his performance is good then he should definitely be added to the national team," said Moin.

Notably, a report emerged on Sunday that Amir has been told to get ready for international cricket.

Reports further claimed that the national men's team's selection committee also contacted the pacer's manager and asked him to prohibit Amir from making unnecessary statements on the media and focus on his performance.

According to the details, Amir also received a green signal to represent Pakistan in the forthcoming ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 in India.

It is pertinent to mention that Amir represented Pakistan in 36 Tests, 61 ODIs, and 50 T20Is. He last played an international match in Pakistan colours in 2020 before announcing his retirement citing his difference with the then team management led by the former chief selector and head coach Misbah-ul-Haq.

The left-arm pacer played a pivotal role in Pakistan's last two ICC title victories - T20 World Cup 2009 and Champions Trophy 2017.

PCB issues statement over Mohammad Amir's 'comeback'

LAHORE: Reacting to the reports circulating in the media, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday clarified that all stories relating to left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir's return to the national team were "factually incorrect".

The reports on social media suggested that the left-arm pacer, who retired from international cricket in 2020, is expected to come out of retirement in the near future.

In a statement, the PCB stated that its selection policy is "crystal: domestic performance!". It further added that as far as PCB is concerned, Amir has retired from international cricket.

Earlier, rumours claimed that the Pakistan team's selection committee has contacted Amir's manager and asked him to direct the cricketer to not make unnecessary statements in the media.

It is pertinent to mention here that Amir had represented Pakistan in 36 Tests, 61 ODIs, and 50 T20Is. He last played an international match in 2020. The pacer was also part of the Pakistan team when they won ICC T20 World Cup 2009 and ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

His Champions Trophy 2017 final spell earned Pakistan their maiden title in an eight-team tournament.

In 2010, Amir, his new-ball partner Mohammad Asif and former Pakistan captain Salman Butt were banned from cricket for five years and handed jail sentences after the trio was found guilty of match-fixing during the Test series against England.



LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports Wahab Riaz is holding a press conference regarding the sports series at the National Hockey Stadium. Commissioner Lahore Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Director General Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail are present.

LSU vs Iowa: Tigers secure first NCCA women's basketball crown

LOS ANGELES: Louisiana State University (LSU) defeated the University of Iowa and Caitlin Clark with scores 102-85 on Sunday and secured the women's NCAA college basketball crown. AFP reported.

Jasmine Carson-led LSU Tigers scored the highest points in the history of the women's title basketball game with an early three-point barrage staking them to a 17-point halftime lead.

Jasmine Carson scored 29 points, 21 of them in the first half, while Alexis Morris scored all 16 after the break.

World Group of the World Junior Tennis (WJT) Team Championship finals after 27 years

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's Under-14 tennis team will be participating in the World Group of the World Junior Tennis (WJT) Team Championship finals after 27 years. The matches shall take place in Prostějov, Czech Republic in August.

The team made it to the top 4 after beating Iran, Indonesia, and Australia in the ITF World Tennis Junior Team Competition Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying in Kuching, Malaysia. After winning against Hong Kong in the semifinal round, the team lost the final match against Japan in Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying round. However, they had already confirmed their place in the world group after winning against Australia in the quarter-final match. The brilliant duo, Abubakar Talha and Hamza Roman created history by thumping Australia which is considered to be one of the strongest teams in the championship.

The players have shared their happiness while ensuring more such occasions of celebration and pride in the field of sports at a global level. They also gave credit to Bard foundation and Ace Tennis academy for their continuous efforts and contribution to this victory today.

BARD Foundation, in collaboration



with Ace Tennis academy, has played a vital role in facilitating and fostering this sheer talent of Pakistan. Funded by the foundation, Ace Tennis academy provides training to these young kids under the supervision of the program founders Aisamul-Haq Qureshi, Aqeel Khan and some of the finest tennis coaches and trainers in Pakistan.

The Managing Director of BARD Foundation Mehreen Dawood said, "It is a matter of great honour that such young kids are winning laurels for the country and making Pakistan proud nationally as well as internationally. Emphatically speaking, these kids were already equipped with exceptional sports skills, we just had to push and polish them for

the position that they have earned today. The credit goes to all the coaches at Ace Tennis academy who are working hard to nourish these gems. We also encourage all the sports enthusiasts to invest in the young players in whatever way possible so that we keep watering these seeds for a successful sports future of Pakistan."

The founder of Ace Tennis Academy, Aisamul Haq says, "We fervently wish that no kid is left behind in fulfilling his dreams only due to financial constraints. Pakistan is full of talented players; all they need is a little assistance and someone to believe in their capabilities. This is why we started this program with the vision to help these kids gear up for international-level tennis and prepare them physically for any and every opportunity. Alhamdulillah! They are giving results not just at the national level but world level as well"

BARD Foundation is a venture undertaken by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood to help less fortunate people realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The central objective of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on important skills. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.

Haider Ali joins Derbyshire for County Championship 2023

By A Sports -

KARACHI: Pakistan's young right-handed batter Haider Ali has joined Derbyshire County Cricket Club for the upcoming County Championship 2023.

According to the County club, Haider has joined the squad and is upbeat about working under former Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur and playing his natural aggressive game.

Haider signed a deal with Derbyshire for the entirety of the 2023 season, which begins against Worcestershire in the County Championship on Thursday.

Haider also expressed his excitement on working under Arthur, having seen his impact during the latter's stint as Pakistan head coach between 2016-2019.

"I'm very excited, it's my first time playing county cricket and I love the coaching of Mickey Arthur," he said.



"I think it's difficult for anyone to play all formats, but I'm lucky to have the opportunity and I'm so excited to get started. It has been a dream of mine to

play under Mickey, as soon as he called I said 'I'm ready to play county cricket for Derbyshire.'

"In Pakistan, our red ball cricket has

completely different situations because it's always hot weather, the pitches are not so good for seamers. In England, the pitches will be good for seam and swing.

"I've spoken to the coaches and they can help me, but I can still play my natural game. I like to attack the bowler, but every bowler is a good bowler in county cricket, so you need to choose bowlers to play your natural game against."

"In white ball cricket, I can play to the team requirements. If I need to be aggressive, I can do that, but if I need to bat 15-20 overs, I can do that too. I'm really excited to experience the Derbyshire crowd."

It is pertinent to mention that Haider was a part of the Pakistan side which finished as runners up in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. The right-handed batter represented Pakistan in 33 T20Is and two ODIs.

Medvedev wins fourth title of year with Miami Open triumph over Sinner

News Desk

MIAMI GARDENS: Russian Daniil Medvedev claimed his fourth ATP title of the year with an emphatic victory over Italy's Jannik Sinner in the final of the Miami Open on Sunday.

Sinner had upset world number one and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in Friday's semi-final, but the 21-year-old struggled in the heat against the fourth seed Medvedev, who triumphed 7-5, 6-3.

The win was Medvedev's 19th career ATP title and his fifth in a Masters 1000 event and confirmed his dominance on hard courts in 2023.

Sinner, also beaten in the Miami final two years ago and now with a 0-6 record against

the Russian, said he had not been at 100%.

"We woke up this morning not at my best, I felt a little bit sick...unfortunately today I couldn't play at my best," said the Italian who, however said there had been no question of him pulling out of the contest.

"No, it was not that bad. But, you know, with the heat, when you run a lot, it gets a little bit worse and worse. Obviously the first half an hour we played in the sun also," he said.

Medvedev, who had already won three titles in three weeks at Rotterdam, Doha and Dubai before losing to Alcaraz in the Indian Wells final, started confidently, holding serve to love while Sinner's first service game was a real battle.

Sinner had to save a break point and fought through a 26-shot rally before coming through at the end of a 10-minute game.

In contrast, Medvedev again served to love but Sinner was showing signs of settling as he held his serve and then the Italian broke Medvedev to go 3-2 up, with a deft touch volley.

Medvedev immediately broke back, however, with Sinner's effort clipping the net and going out and after the Russian held again, the Italian had attention from the ATP trainer.

Sinner, looking uncomfortable in the bright sunshine, took a pill along with a powder in his water in the 87 F (30.5 C) heat.

Medvedev, looking composed and confident, grabbed the first

set when Sinner was serving at 6-5 down and the Italian's poor shot into the net handed the Russian the crucial break.

Medvedev quickly got ahead in the second set when Sinner sent a forehand long but just as quickly handed the break back to Sinner.

But Sinner was making too many errors and when Medvedev broke again to go 3-1 up, the Italian was unable to turn things around and the world number five completed his first ever win in Miami.

"I'm really happy. Today was a tough match. It was probably the hottest day and the most humid during the day," Medvedev said.

"It was not easy conditions. I don't know if Jannik had a



small injury or cramp. I was also struggling, tried not to show it," he added.

At home on hard courts

Medvedev's 19 ATP Tour wins have come at 19 different events, but he had not won a Masters 1000 event since Toronto in

2021. "I haven't won such a big title in probably a year and a half. At the end I was quite shaky," he said.

"Not even tight, because I'm not scared to win. But still the hands get a little shaky so the serve is a little bit tougher... I managed to get myself together and close the match."

The 27-year-old has now won five of the six hard-court ATP Masters 1000s and has also reached the final at both hard-court Grand Slams, winning the 2021 US Open.

Now he must turn his attention to the clay courts where he has had much less success.

"I love hard courts, if it would be my choice there would be only hard courts," he joked.