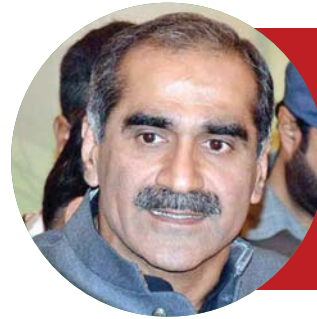




Imran asks PDM to explain away possible delay in Punjab Assembly elections

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan asked on Tuesday the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to explain away possible delay in Punjab Assembly elections. (Details on Page 8)



Political govts in 2 provinces to compromise general election's credibility: Saad

Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Tuesday said the presence of political governments in two provinces would compromise the credibility of the general election. Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister said his party wanted free, fair and transparent elections across the country, but it would not be possible in the presence of political governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

ZAB's 44th death anniversary

LARKANA: Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, MPA Ms. Faryal Talpur, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, President of PPP Sindh Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Syed Qaim Ali Shah and others offering Dua on the occasion of 44th Death Anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto at Bhutto House Naudero.



Photo: APP

Cabinet rejects Supreme Court verdict in elections delay case: sources



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Cabinet on Tuesday rejected Supreme Court's verdict on election, citing sources.

A federal cabinet session chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a session, considered the decision of the apex court for holding elections in Punjab. The cabinet declared the court's decision as a 'minority verdict' and 'non implementable'. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court today declared the ECP's order postponing the provincial assembly elections until October 8 as 'unconstitutional' and ordered the government to release Rs21 billion funds for elections in Punjab by April 10.

The top court directed to conduct Punjab polls on May 14. The SC further directed the caretaker government in Punjab to assist the commission.

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar after the Supreme Court's decision in the election delay case, also said that it will further fuel constitutional and political crises in the country.

PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz also heavily criticised the Supreme Court verdict terming it against the Constitution and urged the cabinet and the lawmakers to bring these people (the judges) to justice.

She was of the view that the three-member supreme court bench's verdict is reminiscent of the 2018 verdict by former CJP Saqib Nisar wherein the judge sentenced Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz ahead of elections, which Maryam claims was to make way for Imran Khan to win the polls.

She termed the judges of the bench as 'facilitators' of Imran Khan and urged the parliament to stop this 'one-man show', directly taking aim at Chief Justice Umar Atta Bindial.

SC announces verdict in Punjab, KP elections case

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday declared the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) March 22 order on Punjab elections null and void.

A three-member bench — comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar — announced the reserved verdict on the PTI's petition challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan's order postponing the elections in Punjab and KP.

The Supreme Court declared the ECP's order postponing the provincial assembly elections until October 8 as "unconstitutional" and ordered the government to release Rs21 billion funds for elections in Punjab by April 10.

The top court directed to conduct Punjab polls on May 14. The SC further directed the caretaker government in Punjab to assist the commission.

"The court will issue an appropriate order in case of non-provision of funds," the verdict read.

Regarding Khyber Pakhtunkh-

wa polls, the SC three-member bench said the issue will remain under debate as during the course of the hearing nobody represented the provincial governor.

'SC verdict will fuel constitutional crisis'

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said the Supreme Court's verdict in the election delay case, will further fuel constitutional and political crises in the country.

Law Minister Tarar regretted the decision of the three-member bench of the apex court saying it will further aggravate the constitutional and political crises.

"Eyebrows are being raised over the six judges' bench of the court formed today," law minister said.

He appealed the chief justice to "unite the house, none will be able to object over the united decisions", he said.

Ahead of the judgement today, the Ministry of Defence submitted its report to the Supreme Court (SC) through Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan detailing the availability of security personnel for election duties.

The hearings in the case, which



Key highlights of today's verdict

- ❖ ECP's March 22 order declared null and void
- ❖ Elections in Punjab to be held on May 14
- ❖ SC orders govt to provide Rs21 billion in funds for elections
- ❖ Nomination papers to be submitted from April 10
- ❖ List of candidates to be published on April 19
- ❖ SC to continue hearing KP elections case

lasted over a week, witnessed high drama after Justice Mandukhel and Justice Aminuddin excused themselves from hearing the case.

However, the coalition government — which had been demanding a full court to hear the case, raised objection on the bench.

The PDM government also sought the dismissal of the PTI petition in the light of what it interpreted as a "4-3" order issued by the apex court on March 1.

Separately, a resolution was also passed in the NA last week calling for the formation of a full SC bench

to hear constitutional matters.

The resolution, moved by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, stated that the Election Commission of Pakistan is a constitutional body and any trespassing in ECP's domain should be avoided and let the commission hold polling in a conducive environment as per its prerogative.

Notably, the Supreme Court also did not hear the arguments of lawyers representing the political parties that are part of the ruling coalition.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has also said the government will not accept if top court decision is announced in haste. Azam Nazeer Tarar regretted that the suo motu proceedings were initiated by a nine-member SC bench, which had been relegated to three members. Justice Mandokhail, one of the senior judges on the bench, recused himself from hearing the case.

He was of the view that general elections across the country should be held simultaneously for the sake of political and economic stability.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif takes aim at SC judges after elections verdict

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz took aim at the Supreme Court judges after the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa election verdict.

As per details, Maryam Nawaz tweeted that today's verdict of Supreme Court against delay in Punjab and KP elections is a part of conspiracy and it is a beginning to rewrite the constitution.

She said that today the Punjab government has been presented to the PTI chairman Imran Khan in a plate. This bench of Supreme Court has now taken the responsibility of doing what the former chief justice Saqib Nisar, Justice Asif Saeed Khosa and former ISI chief Faiz Hameed, did in 2018.

The PML-N senior vice president Maryam Nawaz said that the majority of the supreme court judges have opposed the facilitation done through a 'one man show'.

Bilawal Bhutto says 'cannot afford dictatorship in judiciary'

Bureau Report

LARKANA: Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Tuesday that they do not want to see dictatorship in judiciary and democracy.

While addressing an event in connection with the death anniversary of PPP founder and former president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Larkana, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the fight for 'Lakht-e-Lahore' will be disastrous for the country. He said that the constitutional crisis will be a dangerous experiment for the country.

"This constitutional crisis has put the country on a dangerous path. If it is contin-

ued in this way, then neither I nor Mian Sahab (Shehbaz Sharif) will be here. If Imran Khan thinks that he will stay here then it is his misunderstanding. It will be a dangerous experiment."

The PPP chief demanded the constitution of a larger bench to end the constitutional crisis. "You should summon the whole court and schedule elections tomorrow. We are fully prepared [for the polls] and Pakistan is ready to accept the larger bench's decision."

"One-man show is going on in Pakistan's judiciary. We cannot tolerate dictatorship on democracy, as well as, we do not want to see dictatorship in the judiciary," said Bilawal.

He said that former military

ruler Pervez Musharraf had violated the Constitution and the Supreme Court (SC) legalised his move besides allowing him to amend the Constitution. "It was our Supreme Court and it is part of our history."

Bilawal said that Asif Ali Zardari had spent 11 years in jail without committing any crime and justice was not served to him nor has anyone sought pardon for the injustice yet.

Never seen cowardly person like Imran in Pakistan history: Marriyum

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday taking a jibe on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, said she had never seen such a cowardly person in history of Pakistan.

Sharing a video of Imran Khan on her twitter handle covering his head with a protective shield, she said this picture was a proof of Imran Khan's real personality and character.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa's order ends as SC disposes of Hafiz-e-Quran case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A six-member bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday disposed of a case of giving grace marks to a Hafiz-e-Quran for admission in medical.

A six-member bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan, comprising, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muahhir Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard the case in which SC judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa gave interim order on the hearing of suo moto notices.

The SC bench dismissed the case of Hafiz-e-Quran and with the decision, the interim order of Justice Qazi Faez Isa automatically ended.

Qazi Faez Isa's ruling

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

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

Accident

KARACHI: A view of the cars and bikes, buried under the building debris as an ancient building fall down suddenly at Bolten Market, which leads severe loss to the residence, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

ECP's job to conduct elections: Ranjha



City Desk

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha on Tuesday said it was the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct elections in the country, but the Supreme Court had issued a new schedule for the elections in Punjab.

Talking to the media outside the Supreme Court, Mohsin Shah Nawaz said the apex court had fixed May 14 as the Punjab Assembly election and also issued a new schedule.

He said as per the Constitution, only the Election Commission has the authority to conduct elections. For the first time in the country's history, the Commission had to cancel its earlier election schedule and then give the new date of October 8 due to financial and security reasons."

He said initially a nine-member bench was formed to hear the election delay case and then it was squeezed to three members, who gave the verdict. The elected representatives kept demanding the formation of a full court, which was not accepted, he added.

President for speedy relief to citizens against maladministration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has underscored the need for expeditiously addressing the complaints of the people so as to provide them with timely relief against the maladministration of government organizations.

Highlighting the importance of the institutions of Federal and Provincial Ombudsmen, he said that ombudsmen played a significant role in providing justice to the people, adding that ombudsmen needed to be strengthened so that the maximum number of people could benefit from their services.

The President expressed



these views while talking to the Provincial Ombudsman of Balochistan, Nazar Muhammad Baloch, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Nazar Muhammad Baloch also

presented the Balochistan Ombudsman's Annual Report for the year 2021 to the President.

Talking to the Ombudsman, the President empha-

sized the need for expanding the outreach of ombudsmen to far-flung areas to provide justice to the people at their doorsteps. He further stressed that the Provincial Ombudsman should continue to ensure the timely implementation of his findings by the concerned agencies to maintain public trust in his office. He said that an effective awareness campaign should be started to sensitize the people of Balochistan about the workings and role of the Provincial Ombudsman.

The Provincial Ombudsman briefed the President about the role and performance of his institution in 2021. He highlighted that the number of registered

complaints had doubled since he had assumed the charge. He added that the Provincial Ombudsman received 1321 complaints in 2021 whereas 999 complaints were carried forward from the previous year.

He said that 1043 complaints were resolved in 2021 out of the total of 2320 complaints, adding that most of the complaints were related to education and health departments. He further stated that Khuli Katcheries (Open Courts) were held for the facilitation of the general public in seven different districts of Balochistan to provide relief to the people against administrative injustices at their doorsteps.

Imran asks PDM to explain away possible delay in Punjab Assembly elections

Bureau Report

LAHORE : Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan asked on Tuesday the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to explain away possible delay in Punjab Assembly elections.

Addressing a speech via video link, Mr Khan commended the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict regarding the holding of the Punjab Assembly elections on May 14. He said, "We need to celebrate the SC's verdict. Today marks a victory for the constitution".

Claiming that his party was "subjected to torture", Mr Khan said, "None of the polit-

ical parties witnessed such torture as we did. Even now, 3,100 of the PTI workers are in jail."

Firing a fresh salvo at the Sharif family, Mr Khan said, "The Sharif family is widely responsible for dividing the judiciary. They stand against those courts, that delivered verdicts against their will".

He said, "I heard that the government has now started to talk about not accepting the SC's verdict. Even if we tweet, our companions have to face imprisonment. But the government is openly targeting the judges."

Lamenting that it was unfortunate that the country's

law could not "bludgeon" the powerful, Mr Khan said, "The meaning of justice is that in connection with the law both the powerful and weaker are equal."

Expressing his reservations over the inflation, Mr Khan said, "Today the country is witnessing record inflation. When we left, the inflation rate was 12 per cent, but now it reached 36 per cent. Even the agricultural production of the country is declining on a persistent basis."

He accused the coalition government of "not having a plan" to take the country out of the quagmire. "How will they manage the expenses of

the elections in October, if they say that they have no money," he questioned.

Mr Khan reiterated that there were no other solutions, but elections that could merely take the country out of its current crisis.

Underscoring the significance of justice, Mr Khan said, "The country where there is justice, will lead to prosperity in no time. But in the country where there remains no hope of justice, the rule of jungle reigns. Prosperity is linked with the supremacy of the constitution and law."

Drawing a line of demarcation between Denmark and Pakistan, Mr Khan said, "The

average per capita income of Denmark is \$66,600, while that of Pakistan is just \$1,600. In terms of justice, Denmark stands out. While, Pakistan ranked 129th out of 140 countries in line with the prevailing of justice."

Recounting the dissolution of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, Mr Khan said, "We dissolved assemblies after consulting with all the lawyers. Some of the people told me the incumbent government would not hold elections. One thing stuck in mind that how would they not hold elections despite it being written in the constitution to hold elections."

News Desk

PESHAWAR : Many politicians die in bed and some in exile but a few make their way to the hearts and minds of the people and become immortal by fighting for the rights of the people, supremacy of the constitution and democracy.

Former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was considered among such leaders and a charismatic politician

of Pakistan, who accepted gallows 44 years ago on April 4, 1979, but did not compromise on the rights of people and supremacy of the constitution and democracy.

"Death was meaningless for Z.A. Bhutto, who gave the 1973 constitution and devoted his entire life to the people of Pakistan and died for them," said Malik Azmat Khan, former Minister of State and PPP leader while talking to media on Tuesday.

NIH confirms one death from Coronavirus in Punjab

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Tuesday confirmed that one death was reported in Punjab from COVID-19 during the last 24 hours.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health, 47 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

The case positivity ratio was 1.60 percent, while 20 patients were in critical condition. As many as 2,946 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

485 tests were conducted in Lahore out of which, 19 cases were confirmed with a ratio of 3.92 percent, while 193 tests were conducted in Islamabad out of which six cases were reported confirmed with a ratio of 3.11 percent.

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

The minister said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports.



There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports, he added.

He said the situation was completely under control and asked the general public to avoid listening to rumours. He added 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine.

"An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19," the minister added.

He said the Border and Health Services Pakistan was ensuring the implementation of international health regulations.

He said that in case of any untoward situation, the health system was fully prepared to deal with any sub-variant of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 including BF.7 in the country.

APTMA delegation calls on Ishaq Dar

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday held a meeting with the delegation of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) headed by its Patron-in-Chief Dr. Gohar Ejaz.

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Pasha, Governor SBP, Chairman FBR, Secretary Power, Additional Secretary Commerce and senior officers from relevant ministries attended the meeting, said a press release issued here.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomed the delegation, highlighted the economic and financial outlook of the country and expressed the resolve of the government to overcome these challenges and set the economy



towards growth.

The delegation briefed the finance minister about its contribution to the revenues, employment generation and exports of Pakistan despite the challenges being faced by the APTMA members.

The delegation further apprised the finance minister about the issues being faced by the textile industry in terms of gas and electricity supply and their prices, and regarding imports and exports.

The major issues being faced

by APTMA members included liquidity crunch due to hold-up sales tax refunds, stuck import of raw materials due to LC opening issues and regionally competitive energy tariff.

The APTMA delegation extended their all-out support to the government in the economic development of the country and stated that they realize the tough situation being faced by the Finance Ministry.

The finance minister acknowledged the contribu-

tion of APTMA to the economic growth of the country and committed to providing maximum support of the government to the textile industry in order to boost the export-led growth of Pakistan.

Moreover, the finance minister directed the relevant authorities to address and resolve their issues on a priority basis.

The delegation APTMA thanked the finance minister for providing support and addressing their issues.

Political govts in two provinces to compromise general election's credibility: Saad

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Tuesday said the presence of political governments in two provinces would compromise the credibility of the general election.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister said his party wanted free, fair and transparent elections across the country, but it would not be possible in the presence of political governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The minister said the general election should be held simultaneously across the country to restore political and economic stability. Collective wisdom was needed to avert the looming constitutional crisis and end the prevailing economic and political ones.

Free and fair elections were not



came at a time when the country was already facing financial and security challenges.

She said unfortunately a full court bench was not constituted to hear the important case despite the demands from political parties, civil society and bar associations. "We stand by the Constitution of the country," she added.

She said 44 years had lapsed but the Bhutto family, the Pakistan Peoples Party, and the nation had been waiting even today on his death anniversary when justice would be served in the judicial murder of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto (ZAB).

Former president Asif Ali Zardari, she said, filed a reference in 2011 to get justice in ZAB's judicial killing. "For the last 12 years that reference is buried under files in the court," Sherry Rehman regretted.

Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman said today's judgment

Strict measures taken for security, law and order of month of Ramadan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that strict measures are being taken for the security and law and order of the holy city during the month of fasting. It has also been decided to deal with mischief and hatred with iron hands with the help of the business community and scholars. He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the peace committee. On this occasion, CPO Mansoorul Haq Rana and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Abida Fareed was also present.

Qari Mohammad Hanif Jalandhri, Allama Farooq Khan Saedi, Prof. Mazhar Gilani Ali Raza Gardizi, Muzain Chavan, Asghar Naqvi, Khawar Bhatta, Mazhar Javed and business representatives also participated in the peace committee meet-



ing. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that 21 Ramadan is martyrdom day. There will be strict security on the occasion of Hazrat Ali Karamullah Rabiyyah, while arrangements for lights and repairs have been started on the routes of the congregations and rallies.

CPO Mansoorul Haq Rana said that the police will make full-proof arrangements throughout the district regarding the 21st of Ramadan and strict accountability will be given to the persons and organizations guilty of mischief and incitement. There is no room for division in the name of religion in the dear country. Every class has discouraged those who disturb the peace and order. Later, in the peace committee meeting, a special prayer was also made for national security and for the forgiveness of late prominent journalist Mumtaz Tahir.

Funeral Prayer

KOHAT: A large number of people are participating in the funeral prayer of a murdered police personnel (Qasim) by terrorists as they killed 2 police personnel during Tarwahee Prayer last night in City.



Photo: Online

Excessive use of colistin in food animals increases antibiotic resistance in human

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The last-resort antibiotic colistin is still being traded and widely used for growth promotion and disease prevention in food-producing animals in some low- and middle-income countries that would provoke health crisis especially making highly infectious diseases (pneumonia, diarrhoea etc) treatment impossible, said a recent study published in world The Lancet Microbes, one of the world's leading medical journals.

This study was carried out by researchers at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan and the University of Oxford, UK.

Dr Mashkoor Mohsin, the Associate Professor at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and lead author of the study said that colistin is extreme-



ly important antibiotic for humans and its use in animal farming has been banned by the WHO and many

high-income countries in a bid to halt the spread of its resistance among deadly superbugs.

However, study found that many of these countries still export colistin to low- and middle-income countries such as Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

Furthermore, the study found high level resistance to colistin due to a gene called MCR-1 was frequently present in bacteria from human, animals (poultry production) and the environment in Pakistan.

It has been observed that farmers using colistin have limited understanding of the public health consequences of its use and highlights the importance of better hygiene farming practices. These findings highlight the need for strong regulation and political commitment regarding reducing colistin import, manufacturing and use in the animals to avoid a health crisis

Tributes to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Tributes paid to the martyrs of Pakistan Army who were martyred by terrorists on the Iranian border. With the families of the martyrs we share our grief equally. Eradication of terrorism is our national agenda. The central cloth board Etihad Group is standing by the side of Pakistan Security Forces and Pakistan Army.

The entire nation salutes the Mujahideen who sacrificed their lives for the country. These views were expressed by Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, President of the Central Cloth Board Alliance Group, while addressing the "Iftar Dinner" held at a local hotel.

He said that they will never forget their families whose youths sacrificed their lives for the security of the Pakistan.

Vohra further expressed that they will not allow the nefarious objectives



of the terrorists to succeed under any circumstances. With the help of Allah Almighty, we will die only by ending terrorism. The time of Sehr-o-Iftar is of special importance in Ramadan.

The work of service is a means of attaining the forgiveness of sins and the pleasure of the Lord. We should love and sympathize with the needy

people and help them to fulfill their needs so as to get the pleasure of Allah. On this occasion Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan, Mian Tanveer Riaz General Secretary Anjuman Tajran Punjab, Haji Adil Chief Executive Koh Noor City, Mian Yasin President Developer Division Faisal-

abad, Tariq Qadri Senior Vice President Anjuman Tajran Allied Group, Chaudhry Zafar President Kunal Road, Arif Butt President Chen One Road and a large number of businessmen including political and social figures from across the country participated and a special prayer was also offered for the martyrs.

PTI decides to file plea against KP elections delay in SC

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has decided to file a plea against the delay in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections in Supreme Court.

As per details, the former information minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shaukat Yousafzai said that Barrister Ali Zafar and Barrister Gohar Khan will file the plea in the Supreme Court tomorrow.

He further said that the governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali announced May 28 as the election date in KP and then changed the date to October 8 without any reason.

Earlier today, the Supreme Court (SC) declared the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) March 22 order on Punjab elections null and void. The Supreme Court declared the ECP's order postponing the provincial assembly elections until October 8 as "unconstitutional" and ordered the government to release Rs21 billion funds for elections in Punjab by April 10.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the date for general elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The election date was announced in response to the letter in which the KP governor proposed ECP to conduct general elections in the province on October 8 citing a rise in terrorism incidents.

Punjab Govt provide funds for civil secretariat South Punjab. Qasir Saleem

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Acting Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Qaiser Saleem has instructed Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab (IDAP) to accelerate the pace of work on Civil Secretariat project and has directed to set a phased timeline for the completion of the project. He has also announced a committee comprising on the officers of civil secretariat to monitor the project. He was presiding over a review meeting to check the progress on the Civil Secretariat South Punjab project. Secretary Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, Additional Secretary Muhammad Farooq Dogar, Deputy Secretaries Ali Butar, Abdul Saboor Thakur and officials of IDAP, MEPCO, NTC and SNGPL attended the meeting.

Acting Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Qaiser Saleem said civil secretariat building project was very important because the offices of the administrative departments will be established under one roof which will increase the efficiency of the departments. He directed to get electricity, Sui gas and telecom data connection soon and to start landscaping work immediately. On this occasion, Secretary Services South Punjab Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen said Civil Secretariat is a mega project and, therefore, number of labour and machinery be increased on the project.

He ensured IDAP to provide full support to speed up the work on the project. While briefing the meeting, it was told that 3.5 billion rupees were spent on the Civil Secretariat project and all the required funds have been provided. It was told that this project covers an area of 500 kanals. Meeting was also informed that the offices of 9 departments are being established in the Civil Secretariat and space is available for the construction of more departmental offices in the future

KP Gov't is trying to promote reproductive health throughout the province

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: District Population Welfare Officer Tank Dr. Muhammad Tariq has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has taken a very good initiative for the welfare of the people in reproductive health care and promotion of reproductive health rights throughout the province.

The provincial government is trying to promote reproductive health care and reproductive health rights throughout the province for the welfare of the people.

In 2020, under the approval of the implementation of the law for the welfare of the people under the supervision of the Department of Welfare for the protection of reproductive health rights, the implementation of the relevant act to provide the best medical facilities and rights related to reproductive health without any discrimination, the need to ensure is emphasized.

He expressed these views while briefing the media in his office. He said that in the light of this act, any government or non-government organization providing reproductive health services will be subject to the prior permission of the Department of Population Welfare and will strive to deliver quality reproductive health facilities to the people across the province at their doorsteps.

He further said that these powers have also been assigned to the Department of Population Welfare in this act.

Ombudsman Punjab mediates to provide 25.15 mn financial relief to 19 plaintiffs

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: As a result of the prompt action taken by the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab, led by Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, on applications of aggrieved persons against government departments, 19 such plaintiffs have received a total financial relief of Rs.2,51,57,097 along with redressal of their issues.

The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab noted this in a statement issued on Tuesday.

While giving details, the spokesman reported that the education department paid employment dues worth Rs.38,16,160 to Lahore's Farzana Arif, whose husband had passed away; Rs.24,09,154 to the sister of a Sheikhupura-based widow; and arrears of dues amounting to Rs.5,86,715 to one Shamim Akhtar by the Khushab municipal committee after they approached the ombudsman office for payment of their long-awaited amounts.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has also resolved the complaints from various districts about the non-provision of different kinds of dues and family pensions and provided a total relief of Rs.78,82,210 to the plaintiffs, the spokesman added.

As a result of the action taken by the ombudsman office on the requests for payment of services and work done by business organizations, one Bassam Ahmad Latif has been given Rs.9,52,400 by the Punjab Institute of Cardiology, Lahore; Muhammad Humayun Zaib Malik has been paid Rs.5,19,234 by the Jhelum municipal committee, and Malik Muhammad Imran has been given Rs.16,24,677 by the PHA Rawalpindi, the spokesman noted.

Additionally, the ombudsman office has also interceded on requests for the payment of salary arrears and the creation of OSD posts, made by Shamim Akhtar and Sidra Javed from Multan and the widow plaintiff of Bhakkar namely Haseena, and facilitated them by providing a total relief worth Rs.23,66,547, the spokesman stated.

Further, the local government & community development department has paid the financial relief of 4.4 million rupees to widows of its deceased employees from Bhakkar and Faisalabad after the involvement of the ombudsman office. Also, the education department has paid six lakh rupees to Waqar Hashim of Sargodha as financial aid amount for his deceased wife, the spokesman concluded.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:27 am
Zohr 12:11 pm
Asr 4:42 pm
Maghrib 6:30 pm
Isha 7:55 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 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

Target of planting campaign spring 2023 completed soon: Sarfaraz Khan Magsi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the chairmanship of Secretary Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries South Punjab Sarfaraz Khan Magsi, a meeting was held to review the progress of the development projects of the Department of Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries South Punjab, in which Additional Secretary Fahad Haider Buzdar, Director General of Forests, Director General of Wildlife and Fisheries and other officers participated. On this occasion, Secretary Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries South Punjab reviewed the utilization of funds under the development plans of the current financial year. Sarfaraz Khan Magsi directed that there should be no lapses in the quality of development projects and the development projects should be completed on time. He directed that the target of planting campaign spring 2023 should be completed soon.

Parliamentary exchanges are important for regional development: Raja Pervez

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday said that parliamentary exchanges are an effective tool for regional development.

During a meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, he said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have always enjoyed strong fraternal ties deeply rooted in our shared religion, culture, traditions and mutual goodwill. "Both nations have stood by each other in the testing times," he added.

During the meeting, they renewed their commitment to further enhance cordial relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Pervez Ashraf remarked that the people and Government of Pakistan have deep respect for



the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Saudi leadership.

He added that Pakistan remains fully committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia as the country attaches immense importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia.

for mutual interest would be mutually beneficial.

Pervez Ashraf said that Pakistan's Parliament has always been proactive to improve brotherly relations. He added that Parliamentary exchanges would further boost bilateral relations between the countries. Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said that Saudi Arabia also attaches great importance to its deep-rooted ties with Pakistan and considers it a sincere friend.

He assured the Speaker that Saudi Arabia would continue to cooperate in the social sector in Pakistan. He commended the role of Pakistani expatriates in the economic development of Saudi Arabia.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the current level of cooperation in diverse areas and stressed the need to further strengthen mutual ties.

Media Talk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar is talking to media persons after hearing in election suo motu case at Supreme Court, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

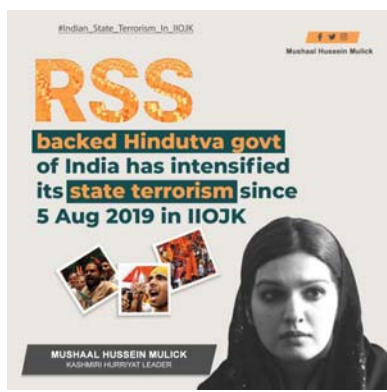
India soon to be disintegrated, predicts Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Instead of holding unlawful occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) anymore, Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick predicted that India would soon be dismantled and disintegrated due to notorious Narendra Modi-led government's Hindutva-driven policies that created unbridgeable fissure within the various communities living in India.

Mushaal, wife of senior hurriyat leader jailed Yasin Malik, in a statement on Tuesday said that fascist Indian government's belligerent policies put the regional and international peace and security at risk.

She said that people of scenic valley continued facing deepening discrimination and injustice at the hands of New



Delhi-led apartheid regime led by notorious Modi, who made life a hell for Kashmiris for their crime to resist the Indian unlawful subjugation.

The Chairperson stated that Indian fascist government was using all brutal tactics to crush the ongoing freedom

struggle in the IIOJK. However, she vowed that Indian could defeat Kashmiris' spirit for freedom come what may.

She said that Modi must remember that bullets and guns have never been able to suppress people's aspirations, as justice had been eluding the Kashmiris who were witnessing oppression and bloodshed on a daily basis for over seven decades.

Mushaal went on to say that India was treading on the path of Nazi Germany instead of paving the way for peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute as per UN resolutions.

She said that gravity of the situation could be judged that over 18,745 Kashmiris were detained and over 2,330 tortured since article 370 revocation in IIOJK, adding that Modi regime was using every kind of oppression to subdue Kashmiris' freedom struggle but these tactics would not work.

FESCO to provide latest facilities to Faisalabad district customers: Mian Farrukh

Bureau Report.

FAISALABAD: All available resources are being utilized to provide latest facilities to consumers in eight districts of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) region said convenor Customer Services Committee (CSC) FESCO Board of Directors (BODs) Mian Farrukh Iqbal, He was addressing a meeting of the Board's Customer Services Committee held at the FESCO Headquarters here today.



He made it clear that uninterrupted power supply to consumers as well as immediate resolution of their problems is the top priority of the board. He further said that a satisfied consumer is the symbol of the success of the company for which all FESCO officers and officials should use their best abilities and work diligently for the welfare of the company.

Earlier, Chief Engineer Customer Services Muhammad Aamir during his briefing to the committee said that a modern queue Management Machine has been installed at the Customer Care Center established at FESCO headquarters for the convenience of customers; meanwhile, a separate counter has been set up for immediate redressal of electricity-related problems of senior citizens and overseas Pakistanis. He said that 171 Customer Care Centers have been set up for customers in 140 Sub-Divisions, 26 Divisions and five operation circles of FESCO. In these Customer Centers, consumers are enjoying the facilities of installments of bills under one window operation, extension of date, facility of online bill validation, issuance of duplicate bill, online registration of new connection and registration of complaints through kiosk machines.

At this occasion, Director Public Relations Tahir Sheikh briefed the committee about the role and performance of the Public Relations Directorate. He said that in order to promote the consumer friendly image of the company among FESCO consumers, a campaign is being conducted through social media about the facilities available at FESCO's state-of-the-art Customer Care Centers and the use of FESCO Light application.

On this, Convenor Committee Mian Farrukh Iqbal and committee member Raja Ameer Hamza issued instructions that a comprehensive strategy should be introduced in collaboration with the Information Technology Department to increase the number of social media users so that consumers could benefit from modern facilities provided by FESCO.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed, Members of Customer Services Committee Raja Ameer Hamza, Iftikhar Ahmed Ansari, Muhammad Ali Ranjha and Director Commercial/Coordinator Committee Muhammad Iqbal Khan Niazi were also present during the meeting.

PBS extends closing date of Digital Census 2023



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Tuesday extended the closing date of 7th Population and Housing Digital Census 2023 for completing the remaining work to ensure 100 percent coverage by 10th April, 2023.

According to a statement, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) received a proposal from Provincial Census Commissioners (PCCs), requesting more time to complete the 'leftover census work'.

"Keeping in view the proposal of the PCCs, Chief Census Commissioner has extended the date to complete the remaining work to ensure 100% coverage by 10th April, 2023," the statement noted.

The statement pointed out that the bureau 'successfully collected data of 95 percent listed households within the stipulated timeframe through tablets across the country'.

"Only 5 percent census field work left either in big-blocks, where work started with some delay due to logistic arrangements or was withheld for a couple of days due to some technical glitches," it added.

In case enumerators have not visited, the PBS said, all citizens of Pakistan are being requested to inform the bureau using the toll free number is 0800-57574 which will be functional 24/7.

"The citizen can also send their complete address through SMS on 9727 for lodging complaints of non-coverage. They can also visit or contact PBS Regional Offices or the 495 Census Support Center established at the tshil level for registering their complaints regarding non-coverage," it added.

During the listing phase all the residential and economic units have also been geo tagged along-with categorisation/classification of economic activities as per international standards. As per data received, the total numbers of listed households to date are over 39.62 Million in the country.

PBS launched self-enumeration portal from 20th February, 2023 to 10th March 2023 whereby the citizens enumerated themselves by using the portal launched and this method was optional.

NAB issues instructions for persons who cleared probe process

City Desk

KARACHI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has issued key instructions for those persons who have cleared the probe and investigation processes, ARY News reported on Tuesday.



The NAB officials issued a letter to all director generals (DGs) and ordered them to hold meetings with the persons who were given clean chit in the probe and investigation processes.

The anti-corruption watchdog stated in the letter that the DGs should ask the persons whether they faced any mistreatment by the NAB teams or not.

The DGs have also been directed to ask the persons whether any probe team demanded extortion from them or not. Moreover, the DGs will also issue certificates to the persons who have cleared the probe process.

The letter read, "In continuation of above referred letter, the competent authority has desired that all DGs will randomly meet the accused persons whose inquiry/ investigation has been closed and enquire if any mishandling/ extortion or unwarranted treatment was done by the investigation team."

"Certificate by the DG that the accused was not mishandled/ mistreated during inquiry/Investigation proceedings," it concluded.

Mastercard partnership with Illusions Online

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan: Mastercard and Illusions Online, a global leader in enterprise solutions for hospitality industry, have partnered to launch a unique online platform to bring tailored travel offers to Mastercard cardholders.

"Our partnership with Illusions Online will provide our cardholders with personalized and unique Priceless experiences that will elevate travel experiences to new levels. After two years of suppressed travel, people are eager to explore new horizons with their loved ones, from planned family trips to spontaneous minibreaks. At Mastercard, we are committed to support the continued recovery of the travel sector through technology-led innovative solutions," said Gaurang Shah, Executive Vice President, Products and Engineering, EEMEA, Mastercard.



Recent surveys show that consumers would rather spend on experiences as opposed to purchasing physical goods. 74% of UAE affluent travelers want to come back from holiday having learnt something new. The Mastercard travel platform powered

by Illusions Online will become the go-to place for people's next travel adventure with attractive hotel offers and value-added services.

"Illusions' suite of solutions simplistically adapts and responds effectively

to the ever-changing market requirements and conditions of the travel industry. Our collaboration with Mastercard will allow its select card holders to get access to the best hotel offers and experience a level of service that will be extremely unique in its offerings.

In return, our global hotel partners will get access to a lucrative customer base, as an extension of their direct marketing strategy - all connected and seamlessly booked via Illusions booking engines, iWIX marketplace platform and payments powered by iOL Pay," said Faisal Memon, Founder & CEO, Illusions Online.

The new travel platform will enable Mastercard Titanium, Platinum, World, and World Elite cardholders to experience the benefits of the Illusions partnership that will provide them with value-added services and offers gained through its network of the biggest hotel chains worldwide.

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Answers to Modi II

Then further during his speech, Modi says to Pakistanis that East Pakistan was part of Pakistan and Pakistan could not keep it. Then he said that you can't take care of your provinces. The answer to Modi is that, India was involved behind separation of East Pakistan. It was your Mukti Bahni and interventions which resulted into separation. Pakistan is fully taking care of its provinces and the situation is fully under control in Pakistan. You and India are trying your best to weaken our country by supporting and patronizing Anti-State elements but all such shameful attempts have been failed so far and Inshaallah will never succeed in future as well. Sarabjit Singh, Kashmir Singh, Ravindra Kaushik, Sheikh Shamim, Kulboshan Jadhev and many more spies like these are eye-opener for the world to show your interference in our country. Pakistan is a peaceful country and situation & environment all over the Pakistan is remarkable. It's a challenge that if you have firm control on your country then come and address with a free public gathering in occupied Kashmir or Indian Punjab. On the other hand all Pakistani leaders are freely holding big public gatherings all over Pakistan.

Then, he says that he is friend and well wisher of Pakistani people which is totally wrong and ridiculous. You are not friend and well wisher of the Muslims and other minorities of your own country then how you can claim it about us.

Then you said that both countries liberated together but India is at better position than Pakistan. This is also completely wrong. Pakistan initiated its journey with limited and unjust resources while you had everything.

our people, talk about the situation of Muslims, Dillats and other minorities of your country. Is a Muslim in India is free to follow his religion? Are you giving them equal rights?

Then Mr. Modi, look at the voices

Srinagar and adjoining areas carrying the text of the Army Chief's statement, which reads: "The world must ensure justice and deliver what is promised to the Kashmiri people as per UN resolution". "India would never succeed in its nefarious designs and any misadventure would be responded to befittingly." One poster quoted the following words: "Let me make it categorically clear; Pakistan's armed forces are ever-ready, not only to defend every inch of our motherland, but also to take the fight back to the enemy, if ever, war is imposed on us" The posters, displayed by Kashmiri Youth, Soldiers of Islam, also carried the famous slogan coined by the late veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani 'Hum Pakistani Hain Pakistan Hamara Hai', were pasted on walls, pillars and poles in Srinagar and several areas of the valley. The posters were also posted on social media, including facebook and twitter. Mr. Modi before giving us advises go and look at the situation within your own country. If people of Pakistan are not happy then can you give any example in which appreciation for you and your Army Chief have been appeared in Pakistan and AJK?

The posters were also posted on social media, including facebook and twitter. Mr. Modi before giving us advises go and look at the situation within your own country. If people of Pakistan are not happy then can you give any example in which appreciation for you and your Army Chief have been appeared in Pakistan and AJK?

Pakistan is not a failed State as with limited resources, we are putting our eyes in your eyes. We are an atomic power and despite of yours and your friends evil attempts, we are still on the globe.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Then you said to Pakistanis that come to fight against hunger and poverty. Mr. Modi! Your words are not matching with your intentions. History clearly shows that you and your Hundutva ideology is behind all evil activities in Pakistan and region. We are having an equipped army and nuclear assets just to cope with that mental approach. Before addressing

from within your country. Your own people are not happy with you. Don't close your eyes on celebrations in India on Pakistan cricket team's wins. And if the people of J&K are happy with you then why they don't display posters of yours and your Army Chief.

In your illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, recently, posters have appeared with quotations and pictures of Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir, praising him for showing solidarity with the Kashmiri people, championing the just cause of right to self-determination. The posters have been installed at many places in

Readers, Modi's speech is out of facts and is based on false stances. Modi can't mislead his people, Pakistan and entire world by telling such lies. The truth is in front of whole world which clearly shows his Hindutva approach of crushing minorities and show off their so-called supremacy.

Concluded

UN chief urges action to rid world of landmines

Landmines still lay hidden in nearly 70 countries that continue to kill or maim innocent people, despite the destruction of millions of booby traps globally by UN personnel over the past two decades, the world body said Monday.

Marked annually on April 4, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, draws awareness to why landmines are one of the most insidious and indiscriminate weapons of war.

The latest estimates show that in 2021, more than 5,500 people were killed or maimed by landmines, most of them were civilians, half of whom were children. More than two decades after the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty, about sixty million people in nearly 70 countries and territories still live with the risk of landmines on a daily basis.

The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), created by the treaty, launched the campaign "Mine Action Cannot Wait" to mark the International Day, as countries like Angola, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam, continue to suffer from decades of landmine contamination.

Landmines can lie dormant for years or even decades until they are triggered, it was pointed out.

"Even after the fighting stops, conflicts often leave behind a terrifying legacy: landmines and explosive ordnance that litter communities," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his message for the International Day.

"Peace brings no assurance of safety when roads and fields are mined, when unexploded ordnance threatens the return of displaced populations, and when children find and play with shiny objects that explode."

"Landmines, which can be produced for as little as USD 1, do not distinguish between combatants and civilians," the UN said. "Their use violates international human rights and humanitarian laws."

"They not only cost lives and limbs but also prevent communities from accessing land that could be used for farming or building hospitals and schools as well as essential services such as food, water, health care and humanitarian aid."

"There are more than 600 different types of landmines grouped into two broad categories – anti-personnel (AP) and anti-tank landmines. AP mines come in different shapes and can be found buried or above ground. A common type, known as the "butterfly" mine – comes in bright colours, making it attractive to curious children."

"UNMAS and its partners have made progress on various aspects of achieving a mine-free world, including clearance, educating people, especially children, about the risks of mines, victim assistance advocacy and the destruction of stockpiles."

"Since the late 90s, more than 55 million landmines have been destroyed, over 30 countries have become mine-free, casualties have been dramatically reduced and mechanisms, including the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, have been established to support victims and communities in need."

"Today, 164 countries are parties to the Mine Ban Treaty which is considered one of the most ratified disarmament conventions to date. However, despite the progress, broader global efforts are needed to safeguard people from landmines," according to the UN Secretary-General.

"Let's take action to end the threat of these devices of death, support communities as they heal, and help people return and rebuild their lives in safety and security."

Reforms are remedy for effective Education system

An active education system is the guarantee of the development of the country. There is no denying that the quality education system is the backbone for the development of the countries. Is the means of development of the society and increasing the intellectual abilities? With best experiences acquiring it opens the best way for the future. Education develops qualities like tolerance, independence, patience, discipline and perseverance. Is important for our success, and for our society. An educated society is a more serious, prosperous, knowledgeable and responsible society. Its importance is also important because due to the rapid change in the times, non-experts in the category of technology and experience. It is not possible to be left behind. As the era of change in the world is increasing, education is becoming an indispensable part. This one positive thinking is a sign that one can enhance one's abilities by conforming to a characteristic or tradition.

In terms of education, the countries of the world are engaged in improving and protecting the quality of their education system. Some countries such as Finland, Japan, Singapore, Canada, Switzerland and many other countries are constantly struggling to improve the quality of their

education system. The education system in Singapore has undergone many changes, whereby education is assessed on more general standards and students get maximum opportunity to study according to their strengths. These countries are famous for attracting students from all over the world. On the contrary, some countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, African countries and in Asian countries some there are many flaws in the education system low salaries, lack of educational institutions and qualified and experienced staff. Many other countries also have different quality education systems. This is a common problem, so there is a need to struggle to improve the education system. There are many shortcomings in the education system of our country; among them are some common problems which can be best understood by mentioning. Lack of capital has always been a problem in the education system of Pakistan, which is a great need in education. The importance of a uniform curriculum throughout the country has been neglected since. Besides, the educational quality of some government schools is very low. Due to lack of schools and qualified teachers in remote and backward areas, there are many difficulties in this regard. And by this the educational needs of the students are not met. Lack of modern facilities

such as computers, internet and other trained and experienced teachers and there is also an excess and difficult curriculum. Our education system was not good before and nor today. Earlier, in primary schools, few books containing few pages used to study and in high schools also the courses were shortened. But the inclusion of a difficult curriculum at the college level was a hindrance to completing the education.

Due to which the majority of students had to change their future paths, which was a huge abuse.

Now it is felt that first class children are being taught the course of colleges and universities today. Admission of three year child to school has become the standard of education and then it is included that children will be tested otherwise he will not be admitted. The developed countries of the world, including Germany, Australia and Canada, where the age of school-going children is not three or four years, but five years.

Regarding the difficult and heavy curriculum, the educationists believe that the first class student does not need to be taught difficult books. One should try to make their studies interesting along with explain-

ing the basic concepts. That the interest of reading should arise in the child's heart and they start to consider reading as a funny and useful activity. It is wrong to teach them difficult books while talking about the ease of training children. Because doing so have a bad effect on the child's psychology. Children should be given books that are appropriate for their age and understanding. And which is easy for children to read and understand. Children's education should be made interesting and useful.

Actually, our education system from primary classes, school and college to The PhD is different from developed countries. Lets example in foreign countries The PhD classes are less needed. There are universities teaching through classes, seminars and workshops. Which usually consist of vocational education? In some countries, The PhD major changes are being made in the PhD programs such as study of modern roles of content and teaching about axioms. While In our country many courses are being taught in classes in the same way as they are taught in school colleges. While The PhD is the goal of education is usually the ability to conduct

new research in a specific field. To acquire such abilities, the cognitive skills possessed by the students are improved. And they are prepared for new investigations. Despite this, higher education is being imparted in our universities on the style of schools and colleges.

Educational reforms have not been paid attention. Children should be taught academic subjects of their level. Educational plans also need to be changed and modernized to correct the changes in their building era and modern educational requirements should be included. By which the interest of the students remains and they can remember it as much as possible. It is very important that the same curriculum is taught throughout the country, it is necessary. By this it will improve the level of academic performance of the children. A uniform curriculum will give equal opportunities to children. And children from poor families will also be able to study in good institutions. Apart from this, the same curriculum will remain at the same level of education across the country. So people of different classes will not feel inferior. Because it is a means of providing a uniform, and equal educational content. Which is important for student development and professional training? Having an appropriate and equitable curriculum will ensure that all students have the same level

of academic progress. Having a uniform curriculum ensures that all students have the same level of academic progress. A uniform curriculum provides a common point of educational quality. Which is the standard of educational institutions and students own development and educational success. Also it saves students from an extra role. Which rises due to differences in educational standards among the students of different regions or cities? The courses being taught nowadays are difficult as well as very expensive which is not suitable for every class. The government should consider this matter and one important step should be to reduce the price of books as well and take steps to make books available. In the small towns of our country, where there are few colleges, when students from government and private institutions are gathered in one place, it is difficult for the students who come from government schools to walk among them. The main reason is different curriculum in schools. People who want to teach their children in good institutions must teach them. But their quality should be taught by qualified teachers. Private institutions have different curriculum and fees to get ahead of each other. Mar is highlighting the difference between rich and poor. Education in the country has become a business that needs to be addressed.

Letter to the Editor

SDGs and Social corporate responsibility in Real estate

Pakistan's economic crisis is at its peak with inflation highest in urban areas. Whereas, the far-flung areas have their own set of unique problems. Take northern areas for example, where long power outages of more than twenty hours and strikes in Skardu are becoming a norm. Social conditions are already difficult for the inhabitants of such areas, but where the government is unable to provide any relief, the private sector has its own advantages.

Real estate in Pakistan is seen as a pure business for profit. But it is not well known that it also takes part in providing a lot of social relief. One of the examples is Yusaacid, which is an NGO of AAA Associates and is running social relief campaigns. It is supportive of many causes such as sustainable development goals.

The company wants to expand its horizon further and can contribute to the social causes of health, education, gender equality, and raising awareness about philanthropy for the environment as well. All of these are part of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) which are to be implemented in peripheral areas such as Skardu as well.

Real estate companies are supportive of the SDGs and are willing to contribute. Yusaacid is an example of that. More social campaigns can take place if the potential of real estate companies is recognized in this field as well.

Tooba Rizvi (Skardu)

Report on 7th Enlarged Plenary Meeting of 8th WPK Central Committee

Spokesman Report

The great Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) is leading the revolutionary struggle to a new victory while overcoming the harsh situation, invariably holding aloft the banner of independence in politics, self-sustenance in the economy and self-reliance in national defence. This struggle is the greatest cause of making a fresh change and development in the course of certainly building Korean-style socialism, in which all the people live with nothing to envy.

The Party Central Committee, which is bringing earlier the future of socialist construction in our own way and with our own efforts from A to Z, set forth a medium and long-term strategy for the final solution of the rural question assuming the protracted and multi-faceted character at the historic Plenary Meeting in December Juche 110 (2021). After setting a grand economic development goal for national prosperity, it has confidently led the purposeful and phased struggle for its realization.

The plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee had a discussion of historic significance to comprehensively analyze and review the work for 2022, the first year of implementing the programme for the rural revolution in the new era, and further concretize the important tasks and long-term objectives for putting the agricultural production on a stable and sustained growth track and the urgent tasks arising at the present stage of the national economic development and the practical ways for carrying them out.

The 7th enlarged plenary meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the WPK took place at the office building of the WPK Central Committee, the supreme headquarters of the Korean revolution, from February 26 to March 1, Juche 112 (2023) to provide the guidelines for struggle that will dynamically accelerate the innovative development in Korean-style socialist construction.

Attending it were Kim Tok Hun and Jo Yong Won, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK, and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and members and alternate members of the C.C., WPK. And present as observers were officials of departments of the C.C., WPK, officials of the Cabinet, ministries, national institutions and leadership bodies of provincial, city and county level and officials in the agricultural field and relevant sectors and units.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, was present at the plenary meeting.

When General Secretary Kim Jong Un took the platform, all the participants broke into cheers of "Hurrah!", looking up to him who is developing the WPK into invincible vanguard ranks and dynamically opening up a bright future of the socialist cause with his profound ideo-theoretical wisdom and distinguished leadership activities.

The plenary meeting elected its presidium with relevant members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee authorized Kim Jong Un to preside over the plenary meeting.

Kim Jong Un clarified the purpose of discussion at the 7th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the WPK and made an analysis and evaluation of the WPK Central Committee on the first year's work for implementing the new programme for rural revolution.

He stressed that it is urgently necessary to find out and remove in time the internal factors that have negative effect on the development of agriculture, in order to definitely put the agricultural production on a stable track of development in the near future and substantially strengthen the political, ideological, material and technical foundations of the countryside.

Therefore, at the current plenary meeting the Party Central Committee should make a correct assessment of the whole course of last year's farming from the scientific, anatomical, subjective and objective point of view to draw up relevant measures, and clearly decide once again on the urgent and essential tasks and ways for this year's farming and for laying a foundation for the long-term development of agriculture, he said.

He declared the plenary meeting open, saying that all the participants should make the meeting an important turning point in opening up a definite prospect for the development of agriculture and a decisive occasion of making a breakthrough in the economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standard, mindful of its importance.

The following agenda items were brought up at the meeting:

1. On the first year's struggle for the implementation of the programme for the rural revolution in the new era and on some important tasks
2. On thoroughly establishing a discipline of implementing the national economic plan
3. On the immediate matters arising in improving the state financial work
4. Organizational matters

The plenary meeting unanimously approved the presented agenda items. It heard a report on the work for 2022 to implement the programme for the rural revolution in the new era over the first agenda item.



The report referred to the successes made in the first year's work for implementing the Party's rural development strategy and the deviations and lessons to be corrected and overcome.

Secretaries of the Party Central Committee made speeches and senior officials in various sectors made written speeches.

The plenary meeting listened to and analyzed the report and speeches and made a relevant evaluation.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made an important concluding speech "On the Immediate Tasks Arising in This Year's Farming and the Long-term Objectives for Agricultural Development" over the first agenda item.

In his concluding speech, he said that the WPK has attached importance to the rural question as a strategic one which should be settled without fail in accomplishing the cause of building socialism and communism and has consistently paid deep attention to its correct solution, and clarified the plan to vigorously

climatic phenomena, and dynamically push ahead with the irrigation project planned for this year and perfect the irrigation system of the country in the period of the five-year plan.

The machine-building industry and agricultural sectors should produce and supply to the rural communities more new and high-efficient farm machines which are the most necessary and effective in putting the agricultural production on a modern and advanced basis, while steadily propelling the work for renovating the farm machine sector in an innovative way.

Another crucial task which should be dynamically hastened nationwide for the agricultural development of the country is to reclaim tidelands and extend the cultivated areas.

The Agricultural Commission, the Academy of Agricultural Science and the State Hydro-meteorological Administration should play their role in a responsible manner and it is important to dynamically push ahead with the work to put the foundation for development

In order to attain the gigantic long-term objectives of rural development, it is necessary to decisively strengthen the Party guidance over the agricultural sector and improve the rural Party work.

Saying that nothing is impossible as long as there are the powerful leadership system established throughout the Party and the united strength of all the people, he ardently called for attaining this year's grain production goal without fail and successfully achieving the long-term objectives of agricultural development for the sake of the comprehensive development in socialist construction and the self-dependence of the state and well-being of the people.

The historic concluding speech by the General Secretary, which comprehensively deals with the practical strategies for achieving the sustained and systematic development of agricultural production and turning the countryside into civilized and rich socialist ideal villages under the uplifted banner of rural revolution, was fully supported and approved

headquarters of the country, and thoroughly orient and subordinate the Party work to the implementation of the Party's policies, thus getting their working efficiency verified in the practical struggle for attaining the 12 major goals for the development of the national economy this year.

The plenary meeting heard a report on practical measures for thoroughly establishing the discipline of implementing the national economic plan.

The plenary meeting discussed the third agenda item "On the immediate matters arising in improving the state financial work". Premier Kim Tok Hun made a report.

The report referred to urgent practical issues, including those of strengthening the country's financial foundation and financial discipline, improving banking and putting the state financial system on a more scientific basis, all of which will render financial support to the comprehensive development of the Korean-style socialist construction.

The plenary meeting held sectional study and consultative meetings to draw up a thorough and correct plan for implementing the strategy for rural development set forth by the General Secretary in his important concluding speech and further accelerating the economic development.

Cadres of the Party and government guided the sectional meetings.

The meetings, held divided into eight sections, heard open, innovative and progressive opinions based on deep study of agenda-related issues according to the main idea of the historic concluding speech and worked out scientific measures, substantial operational plans, of which feasibility has been thoroughly examined through serious discussion.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee examined the draft resolution reflecting new goals and ways for attaining them to bring about fundamental innovations and substantial change and development in agricultural production and economic construction, and presented it to the plenary meeting for approval.

The plenary meeting unanimously approved the development-oriented resolution for brilliantly materializing the great programme for socialist rural revolution.

And an important issue for developing economy was adopted as a resolution.

The plenary meeting decided to amend and supplement some provisions of the resolution of the 6th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Party Central Committee.

The plenary meeting discussed the organizational matters as the fourth agenda item.

It recalled and by-elected members and alternate members of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Song Jun was by-elected as member of the WPK Central Committee from alternate member, and Choe Tong Myong, An Kum Chol, Choe Kun Yong and Jong Myong Do were by-elected directly as members of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Kwang Un, Jang Yong Chol and Sonu Yong Hyok were by-elected as alternate members of the WPK Central Committee.

It dismissed and appointed a department director of the WPK Central Committee.

Choe Tong Myong was appointed as department director of the C.C., WPK.

Cadres of the government organs were dismissed and appointed.

An Kum Chol was appointed as minister of Metallurgical Industry and Choe Kun Yong as president of the Central Court.

Kim Jong Un made a closing address.

Noting that the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, held in the period of key importance in the development of our revolution, is of great significance in the struggle of our Party and people, he said that the plenary meeting set more definite proposals for decisively putting agriculture, one of the two major fields of socialist economic construction, on a stable and sustained development track in a few years to come and provided a turning point for accelerating the overall prosperity of the state.

For each sector and unit to give mental and moral, material and technical support and assistance to the rural communities should be a trend of the whole society, he said, mentioning once again the important principles and ways for bringing about a fundamental change in the development of agriculture.

Expressing expectation that all the officials including members of the leadership body of the Party Central Committee would creditably perform their duties as the banner of struggle and standard-bearers of advance in overcoming the obstacles lying on the way of socialist construction, deeply aware of the great trust of the people, he declared the plenary meeting closed.

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK will serve as a milestone of new leap which is of epochal significance in ushering in a great new era of rapid development of the socialist countryside, a heyday of the self-supporting economic development, and as an important political occasion of markedly elating the enthusiasm and vigor for struggle of all the people indomitably advancing with confidence in the validity of the socialist cause and our potentiality and spirit.



usher in a new era of the rural development as required by the stage of the overall development of socialist construction.

Saying that in order to successfully solve the rural question, it is necessary to set a scientific stage and goal and wage a purposeful struggle as to attain the goal for the socialist rural construction is a gigantic and serious revolution, he stressed once again the historic significance and importance of the programme for the rural revolution in the new era.

The programme for the rural revolution is an expression of the unshakable faith and will of the WPK to clearly indicate the important stages for transformation of the rural communities and the goals to be attained in conformity with the changing times and the requirements of the revolution after the publication of the socialist rural theses and to build rich and highly-civilized socialist rural communities with advanced technology and modern civilization which will be translated into reality in the near future.

The concluding speech raised again the revolutionary change of the rural communities at the present stage of struggle as an important revolutionary task for achieving the prosperity and development of the state and the promotion of the people's well-being, and put forward the principled matters to be maintained in implementing the programme for the socialist rural revolution in a perfect way.

It referred to the intention of the Party Central Committee which set the attainment of the grain production goal as the first target of the 12 major goals for the national economic development and the main purpose of the current enlarged plenary meeting, and raised the main goals and tasks for agricultural development.

It is necessary to set it as a priority task in ensuring the stable development of agriculture at present to accelerate the completion of the overall irrigation system to cope with abnormal

of the agricultural science and technology on a high level, including the work to make scientific research units up-to-date.

Stressing the importance to improve the guidance on farming, the concluding speech clarified the principled matters to be maintained in the agricultural production guidance and the ways for carrying them into practice.

In order to increase the nationwide agricultural output, attention should be paid to overcoming the lopsidedness in the guidance on farming and keeping the balance to be responsible for farming as a whole and it is important to concentrate on increasing the per-hectare yield at all the farms. This is an important principle for guidance on the agricultural production.

The General Secretary stressed the need to enhance the role of the provincial, city and county guidance organs and all the farms in attaining the long-term objectives of agricultural development.

Last year, in the course of pressing ahead with the construction of modern rural houses on a full scale throughout the country, true to the resolutions of the Eighth Party Congress and the programme for rural revolution in the new era, we gained valuable experience and lessons and found an effective methodology for dynamically pushing ahead with the rural construction on a nationwide scale. They serve as a precious springboard and asset in our struggle to bring about epochal changes in the rural development.

The concluding speech put forward the measures for further expanding the rural construction this year and the policy-oriented tasks to be prioritized and pushed forward by cities and counties.

by all the participants.

His concluding speech based on profound originality and scientific accuracy is a weapon of change that provided a springboard for an epochal leap in pushing forward with the gigantic process for implementing the programme for rural revolution in the new era, and the militant banner and immortal great programme encouraging the historic advance of the whole Party and all the people full of confidence in their own ideals and strength to a great victory.

The plenary meeting discussed the second agenda item "On thoroughly establishing the discipline of implementing the national economic plan".

The General Secretary mentioned the intention of dealing with the issue of discipline for implementing the national economic plan as a major agenda item at the plenary meeting, and the positive changes and deviations in the economic sectors and units have made in the course of carrying out their plans to implement the resolutions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Once the national economic plan is worked out, no one has the right to change, he said, adding that officials in the economic field should make strenuous efforts to carry it into practice with a correct viewpoint on its implementation while foreseeing possible difficulties and finding ways to overcome them.

He stressed the need for all Party organizations to intensify the struggle against the practices of weakening the organizational and executive power of the Cabinet, the economic

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
39,687.26	39,889.90
Day's High	Day's Low:
39,920.35	39,482.17
Index Value	Change
1,781,585,455	-202.64
Percentage	Time
-0.51%	4 Apr, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,634.52	-38.48
Percentage	Time
-0.50%	4 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,355.57	-245.58
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	4 Apr, 12:48 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,287.42	+99.27
Percentage	Time
+0.35%	4 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.1	195
Bahrain Dinar	754.07	762.07
Canadian Dollar	211.5	214.5
China Yuan	41.26	41.66
Danish Krone	41.49	41.89
Euro	311.5	315
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 \$	177.46	179.46
Norwegians Krone	27.16	27.46
Omani Riyal	736.39	744.39
Qatari Riyal	77.87	78.57
Saudi Riyal	76.5	77.25
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	27.35	27.65
Swiss Franc	309.91	312.41
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	78.3	79
UK Pound Sterling	355	359
US Dollar	288.5	291

World Bank's report released

Sustained reform commitment is needed to overcome Pakistan's economic crisis

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by only 0.4 percent in the current fiscal year ending June 2023. According to World Bank's latest Pakistan Development Update: Recent Economic Developments, Outlook, and Risks, released today, the slower growth reflects subdued private sector activity amid deteriorating confidence, import controls, belated fiscal tightening, and the impacts of the unprecedented floods of summer 2022.

Over FY23, Pakistan faced devastating floods and increasing global commodity prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. An inconsistent policy response, involving monetary tightening, new subsidies, and an informal exchange rate cap, saw the depletion of foreign exchange reserves and undermined progress with planned fiscal consolidation. Rising macro risks and tighter global liquidity conditions curtailed Pakistan's access to international capital markets. Facing increasing debt, rapidly eroding foreign exchange reserves, and delays with the IMF-EFF 9th program review, the Government recently course-corrected. It reduced subsidy spending, further increased energy tariffs, and allowed the exchange rate to float leading to a sharp depreciation and alignment between the interbank and open rates. However, with limited financial inflows, foreign reserves remain at precariously low levels and inflation is at a record high. Private sector activity has slowed sharply with deteriorating consumer and investor confidence and disruptions arising from administrative import controls. With slowing activity, the



lower middle-income poverty rate is expected to increase to 37.2 percent in FY23.

"The resolution of Pakistan's economic crisis requires a commitment to sustained macro-fiscal and structural reforms," said Najy Benhas-sine, the World Bank's Country Director for Pakistan. "This is needed both to unlock fresh financing and avoid a balance of payments crisis and lay the foundation for a recovery of private investor confidence and higher growth over the medium term."

The report notes that the outlook and progress with the IMF-EFF program depends heavily on securing new official external financing, with ongoing delays contributing to a further deterioration in confidence. To facilitate new external financing, regain stability,

and establish a base for medium-term recovery, the Government must maintain overall sound macroeconomic management, including a flexible exchange rate and controlling inflation through adoption of an appropriate monetary policy stance; increase revenues and rationalize expenditure (including reducing untargeted energy subsidies); and implement trade and private sector reforms to support improvements in investment, competitiveness, and productivity.

According to the report, if the required reform agenda is rapidly implemented with strong political ownership and adequate external support, output growth could gradually recover in FY24 and FY25. Growth will remain below potential, however, while exter-

nal adjustment continues. Due to higher energy and food prices, inflation is projected to rise to 29.5 percent in FY23, but moderate as global inflationary pressures decrease. With dampened imports, the current account deficit is projected to narrow to 2.0 percent of GDP in FY23 but widen to 2.1 and 2.2 percent of GDP in FY24-FY25 respectively as import controls ease. The fiscal deficit, excluding grants, is projected to narrow to 6.7 percent of GDP in FY23 and further over the medium term as fiscal consolidation takes hold.

"Downside risks to the outlook remain very high," said Adnan Ghumman, author of the report. "They include, inter alia, politically-driven slippages in fiscal policy in the context of upcoming elections, constraints on foreign exchange liquidity and uncertainties around external funding inflows, rising levels of public debt, growing exposure of banks to the public sector, and political instability."

The Pakistan Development Update is a companion piece to the South Asia Economic Focus, a twice-a-year World Bank report that examines economic developments and prospects in the South Asia region and analyzes policy challenges faced by countries. The Spring 2023 edition titled Expanding Opportunities: Toward Inclusive Growth, launched on April 4, 2023, shows that South Asia's growth prospects have weakened due to tightening financial conditions, with large downside risks in most countries given limited fiscal space and depleting reserves faces. It also analyzes the high level of inequality of opportunity in the region and offers recommendations to achieve more equitable and inclusive growth.

Samosas' preparation

LAHORE: Workers busy preparing samosas before frying at their workplace during the Holy Month of Ramazan-ul-Mubarak.



Photo: APP

Unity Foods collaborates with Nutshell Communications for communications and strategic engagements



Commerce Desk

KARACHI : Unity Foods Limited, a leading food producer and supplier to the nation's food security system, entered into a Communications and Strategic Engagements partnership with Nutshell Communications (Private) Limited.

An agreement in this regard was signed by both parties recently, at Nutshell Group's Head Office, by Farrukh Amin, CEO, Unity Foods Limited, and Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & CEO, Nutshell

Group. Senior officials from both organizations were also present at this ceremony, including Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman (Rtd), Chief Executive Strategic Engagements, Nutshell Group; Lt Gen Omar Mahmood Hayat (Rtd), Chairman, Unity Foods Limited; Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar (Rtd), Adviser Taqatwar Pakistan Program; Maj Gen Shahzad Naeem Khan (Rtd), Chief Public Affairs Officer, Nutshell Group; and Rabia Shoaib Ahmad, Director & Chief Operating Officer, Nutshell Group.

ICCI asks Minister of State for NHSRC to help address issues of pharma industry

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation called on Mahesh Kumar Malani, Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC) in his office to seek his help in resolving the key issues of the pharmaceutical industry.

Addressing the delegation, Mahesh Kumar Malani, Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination said that the pharmaceutical industry is playing an important role in meeting the domestic demand of medicines and promoting exports of pharma products and assured that

he would cooperate in facilitating this industry. He also exchanged views on the importance of promoting interfaith harmony in the country and said that he would keep playing his positive role in this regard.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the Minister of State about the major issues of the pharmaceutical industry. He said that the survival of many pharma companies is in danger due to unaffordable production costs caused by the restrictions on imports, rupee's devaluation, and rising inflation. He said that the manufacturing of medicines has declined by over 20 percent due to the issue of LCs for the import of raw materials and



stressed that the government should address this issue on priority basis to save this industry from further problems. He said that Mahesh Kumar Malani should also play an active role

in promoting interfaith harmony as our country is in dire need of national unity to cope with the economic and other challenges.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President

ICCI said that though the banks have resumed issuing LCs for imports, but due to the shortage of foreign exchange reserves, banks are approving only around half of requests for LCs and this situation is affecting the growth of the pharma industry.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan has great potential to enhance the exports of pharma products and urged that the government should provide maximum facilitation to this industry.

Khalid Iqbal Malik and Zafar Bakhtawari, former Presidents ICCI also highlighted the important role of the pharma industry in the economy and hoped that the government would resolve its issues on urgent basis.

ZEM Builders hold Spring Fest to promote small businesses

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : ZEM Builders hosted the Bahria Royal Riding Club Spring Fest 2023 to support entrepreneurs and small businesses.

The Spring Fest 2023 provided an excellent opportunity for small vendors to participate in the event to support their small businesses.

The event was a huge success as hundreds of people from all walks of life participated in the event and enjoyed the festivities and food, shopping, and music throughout the day.

ZEM Builders also held a lucky

draw for the attendees giving away 2 free iPhones and other gifts.

This family festival kicked off in the afternoon with stalls offering delicious food, clothing items, jewelry, and a kid's play area. Attendees enjoyed a live performance by Young Stunners.

The lucky draw winners were Sahibzada Qamar Ali and Inzamam ul Haq received iPhones from Mr. Sajid Ilyas, Deputy Chief Executive Bahria Town, Air Marshal (R) Athar Hussain Bukhari, and Mr. Khawaja Kamran, GM Marketing ZEM Builders.

The event created a sense of

community spirit, entertainment, and educational value, making it a perfect occasion for bringing people together and promoting community and cultural values.

At the occasion, visitors and artisans said that majority of the artisans cannot directly approach the market to sell their products therefore they should be provided marketing opportunities through expos.

Such moves will improve the lives of poor artisans as they would have an opportunity to showcase their products in potential market areas and this much needed exposure can change their lives.



PCB announces team names against New Zealand cricket team Pakistan tour

By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Shaheen Shah Afridi is all set to return to international cricket after four months when he was named in the Pakistan T20I and ODI squads for the series against New Zealand, which will be played in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi from 14 April to 7 May.

Shaheen had missed five Tests and three ODIs against England and New Zealand post the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 as he was completing his rehabilitation following a knee injury he had sustained during the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle in July. He had subsequently missed the second Test against Sri Lanka, ODI series against the Netherlands, ACC Asia Cup in the UAE and seven-match T20I series in Pakistan.

The 22-year-old, who has taken 99 Test, 62 ODI and 58 T20I wickets, staged a remarkable comeback in the HBL Pakistan Super League 8 when he inspired Lahore Qalandars to become the first side to successfully defend the title. Not only that, Shaheen's own performance



was outstanding both with the bat and the ball – he scored 133 runs at a strike-rate of 168.35 and grabbed 19 wickets at an economy-rate of 9.13. He was rightly named captain of Team of HBL PSL 8.

Apart from Shaheen, also returning to both the squads are Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Rizwan. All these players had rested for last month's three-T20I series against Afghanistan in Sharjah.

This means Babar Azam will resume his normal services as captain in the ODI and T20I series against New Zealand, while

Shadab will return to his original position as vice-captain.

Three young guns – Ihsanullah, Saim Ayub and Zaman Khan – have been retained in the T20I squad following stellar performances in Sharjah, while Ihsanullah has also been added to the ODI squad for the first time in his career.

The squad will assemble in Lahore on 6 April where the training camp will commence on 7 April.

SQUADS:

T20I: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Faheem Ashraf,

Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Ihsanullah, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Zaman Khan

ODI: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haris Sohail, Ihsanullah, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Usama Mir. Reserves: Abbas Afridi, Abrar Ahmed and Tayyab Tahir

Series schedule (T20Is to start at 9pm; ODIs to begin at 3.30pm):

14 Apr – 1st T20I, Lahore
15 Apr – 2nd T20I, Lahore
17 Apr – 3rd T20I, Lahore
20 Apr – 4th T20I, Rawalpindi
24 Apr – 5th T20I, Rawalpindi
27 Apr – 1st ODI, Rawalpindi
29 Apr – 2nd ODI, Rawalpindi
3 May – 3rd ODI, Karachi
5 May – 4th ODI, Karachi
7 May – 5th ODI, Karachi

KPT Six Red Snooker Tournament started, Faisal Kashmiri won opening match



Sports Desk

KARACHI: KPT Six Red Snooker Tournament 2023 has started in the snooker arena of KPT Sports Complex, 32 players are participating in the snooker event under the supervision and management of KPT Sports Department. Top ranked 16 snooker players from Sindh and the best 16 players from the snooker clubs of Karachi are included in this event. The chief guest of the opening ceremony of the tournament was Brig Tariq Bashir General Manager Administration KPT, who formally inaugurated the event. On this occasion, Major Mehmood Riaz sports head of KPT sports department and others were also present. Blackball Club's Faisal Kashmiri won the opening match of KPT Six Red snooker tournament by 3-1. In the first match, he defeated Sindh's Ian Mark John by three frames to one. Faisal Kashmiri's winning frame score was 43-22, 50-10, 15-31 and 28-22 in his favor. The semifinals are scheduled for April 12 while the final is scheduled for April 13.

Photo Caption: Chief Guest GM Admin KPT Brig Tariq Bashir inaugurating the KPT Six Red Snooker Tournament, Sports Head KPT Major (Rtd) Mahmood Riaz is also present.

Amir Khan handed two-year ban after positive doping test

By Zahid Noor

LOUGHBOROUGH: Former light-welterweight world champion Amir Khan has been banned for two years from all sports after returning a positive dope test result, UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) said on Tuesday.

According to the details, Amir underwent a dope test following his defeat against Kell Brooks in February, last year, which returned a positive result for the anabolic agent ostarine.

Ostarine – present on the World Anti-Doping Agency's prohibited list – is a drug designed to have similar effects to testosterone and is prohibited in all sports at all times.

Amir, who received a two-year ban over the doping violation, had already retired from professional boxing in May last year, accepted a violation of anti-doping rules but said he had not intentionally ingested the substance. His argument was accepted by an independent panel following a hearing in January.

His ban began on April 6, 2022 and will expire on April 5 next year.

"The amount that was in my system could have come from shaking peoples' hands. I don't know what the drug was in my system. I will give my views, but, like I say, I have never cheated in my life. I would never cheat.

"I am a retired fighter, and I have got this two-year ban now, which is quite strange. I have already retired anyway. No comeback plans at all."

SG of Pakistan Hockey Federation called on Adviser to CM Punjab

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary General of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Haider Hussain called on Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz at the National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday. Revival of hockey and other relevant measures were discussed in detail during the meeting.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz on this occasion said that Sports Board Punjab is fully cooperating with Pakistan Hockey Federation for the development and revival of hockey in the country. "The revival of country's national game is one of the top priorities of Sports Board Punjab."

He said that all possible measures will be taken for players' development with the collaboration of private sector. "There are more than 20 hockey turf grounds in Punjab. All possible support will be provided to the hockey players to attract fresh talented hockey players from all parts of the province."

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz further said that the first Ramzan Sports Series is being played from April 7 to 11, in which more than Rs 4 million cash prizes have been allocated for the hockey event.

Secretary General of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Haider Hussain on this occasion lauded the efforts of Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz for hockey revival. "PHF and Sports Board Punjab will make collective efforts to secure the future of hockey in the country," he added.

Lionel Messi unlikely to extend PSG deal, refuses to take pay cut: sources

Lionel Messi is unlikely to reach an agreement with Paris Saint-Germain to extend his stay at the club, sources told ESPN.

French outlet L'Equipe were first to report the story. Negotiations between the two parties are at a standstill, casting major doubts over the World Cup winner's future in Paris, according to sources. The French champions want Messi to take a 25% pay cut from his existing salary, which is worth €40 million gross a year, sources have told ESPN.

A new meeting between the club and Messi's father and agent, Jorge, is still scheduled for later this month to find a solution.

Sources have told ESPN that Messi was likely to sign a new deal before the World Cup but the situation has changed since then. Messi has failed to replicate his excellent World Cup form with PSG and the club doubts whether Messi can still deliver in big Champions League matches.

The Argentina captain was disappointing as PSG were dumped out of the competition by Bayern Munich last month.

Sources told ESPN that Messi, 35, is not prepared to reduce his wages and was upset after his name was jeered by a section of the club's supporters in the previous two home matches.

The first Ramadan Sports Series 2023 will start from April 7

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement on said that top level arrangements are under process for the smooth holding of First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 competitions.

It may be noted here that the First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 will be organized from April 7 to 11, 2023 on the directives of Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi. The teams from all divisions will participate in the competitions of hockey, football, kabaddi, badminton and table tennis whereas 12 teams of Lahore cricket clubs will compete in the tape ball cricket event.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that all the participating teams will be provided best facilities during the 5-day Ramzan Sports Series. "Ramzan Sports Series will provide a suitable platform to potential athletes of the



province to exhibit their talent in the six games".

Unveiling the detail of all participating divisional teams, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that overall 768 men and women athletes from all divisions will take part in the 5-day Ramzan Sports Series. "Besides there will be 135 team officials to look after multiple team affairs

of their respective squads," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail informed that as many as 72 players (8 players per team) and 15 officials will participate in Punjab Badminton Championship of Ramzan Sports Series. "156 players (13 players per team) and 25 in Lahore Cricket Championship, 162 players (18 play-

ers per team) and 30 officials in Punjab Hockey Championship, 162 players (18 players per team) and 25 officials in Punjab Football Championship, 144 players (16 players per team) and 25 officials in Punjab Kabaddi Championship while 72 players (8 players per team) and 15 officials will feature in Punjab Table Tennis Championship of Ramzan Sports Series".

Ireland strike after making 214 in Bangladesh Test

Sports Desk

MIRPUR: Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed 5-58 for Bangladesh on Tuesday to help bowl out Ireland for 214 but two early strikes left the one-off Dhaka Test in the balance.

Bangladesh took to the crease not long after drinks and were 34-2 at stumps, with Andy McBrine sending back Tamim Iqbal for 21 on the last ball of the day.

Mark Adair bowled Najmul Hossain for a duck in the first over of the innings. Mominul Haque was unbeaten on 12 at the end of day's play with Bangladesh trailing Ireland by 180 runs.

Harry Tector earlier top-scored with 50 for the tourists, who otherwise struggled to build partnerships after electing to bat first.



Shoriful Islam struck early to trap opener Murray Commins for five before Ebadot Hossain and Taijul

scalped James McCollum (15) and Andy Balbirnie (16) respectively. Tector, one of the six debutants for

Ireland in their first Test since July 2019, put on 74 runs with Curtis Campher for the fourth wicket to steady the innings, rescuing the side from a precarious 48-3.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz bowled Tector to break the stand before Taijul made two quick strikes to dismiss Peter Moor (1) and Campher (34), derailing Ireland again.

Cameos from Lorcan Tucker (37), McBrine (19) and Adair (32) took the visitors past the 200-run mark.

Taijul trapped Adair leg-before to complete his 11th five-wicket haul in Tests and Mehidy wrapped up Ireland's innings in the next over to finish with 2-43.

Ireland have lost all three of their previous Tests since becoming a full member of the International Cricket Council in 2017.

'Sarfaraz is our hero and will remain our hero,' says Nadeem Omar

By A Sports -

KARACHI: Quetta Gladiators' owner Nadeem Omar backed his franchise skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed after his side's dismal campaign in the recently-concluded Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight.

The Gladiators, who were considered the underdogs of the marquee league, won the title in 2019 after beating Peshawar Zalmi in the final.

The former champions, however, have been struggling since then to emulate their domination and failed to make it to the playoffs for the next four seasons.

The Gladiators' dismal performance in four straight seasons resulted in their fans questioning Sarfaraz's credibility as the



franchise captain and criticised his individual performance.

Meanwhile, the Gladiators' owner Nadeem, spoke to a private sports channel on the sidelines of a local event here and backed his franchise's captain Sarfaraz

despite all the ongoing criticism surrounding the wicketkeeper batter.

"I always say one thing, Sarfaraz is our hero and will remain our hero. Sarfaraz grew up in front of me, he won us

U19 World Cup and Champions Trophy. Unfortunately, we unceremoniously dump players with lots of services for the country," he lamented.

"Sarfaraz is a very good human and a cricketer. Recently, he proved himself during the Test series against New Zealand. We can't throw him out just because people are saying,

"He is our trademark and Quetta will never leave him. We have time till next PSL, we will sit with Sarfaraz and discuss. I am sure Sarfaraz will never want Quetta's downfall," he highlighted.

Earlier, Sarfaraz also opened up on his future with the Gladiators, speaking in a YouTube podcast, said he has no plans to

leave the side.

"I am associated with Quetta for the last eight years but my relationship with them is too old. I think since 2003 or 2004, I am with them. I guess I was just 17 when I first played for Nadeem Bhai's team Omar Associates," he recalled.

"I played for the Pakistan club and Nadeem Bhai saw and supported me during my growth as a cricketer. He is just like a father figure to me. I will not leave Quetta until they do," he said.

It is pertinent to mention that Sarfaraz has been leading the Gladiators since the inception of the PSL in 2016. He represented the Gladiators in all their matches before finally missing two straight matches due to an injury.