



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
رمضان کے سو اسی کریم ہفت روزہ نے بھی  
پورے سینے کا روزہ نکھیں رکھا آپ صلی  
اللہ علیہ وسلم لفظ روزہ کہتے تو کہتے  
والا کبر اٹھتا کہ بخدا اب آپ بے روزہ  
نہیں رہیں گے اور اسی طرح جب لفظ  
روزہ چھوڑ دیتے تو کہتے والا کہتا کہ واللہ!  
اب آپ ﷺ روزہ نہیں رکھیں گے۔  
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## President calls for creating specific jobs for differently-abled people

President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for the creation of specific jobs for differently-abled people (DAPs) to make them financially independent. He emphasised that DAPs needed to be trained and well-equipped with specific skill sets to make them useful and productive citizens. (Details on Page 8)



## Govt wants to hold elections after completing census: Dastagir

Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan on Wednesday said that the coalition government wanted to hold general elections after completing the most important task of census and delimitation. Without completion of the task of census and delimitation, the election results could not be made transparent, he expressed his fear while talking to a private television channel. (Details on Page 8)

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## Coalition Parties' moot

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the leaders of Coalition Parties on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Security forces conducted a major operation in Lower SW

Adam Khan Wazir



WANA: According to ISPR Security Forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Shinwar-sak, Lower South Waziristan District.

During the conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and the terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists location and 8 x terrorists including terrorist commander Jan Muhammad alias Chargh were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens.

However, during intense

exchange of fire, Sepoy Hamid Rasool (age 31 years, resident of District Rawalpindi) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat while another four personnel including two officers got injured.

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

# Mockery is being made with Constitution: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said with the recent decisions of the Supreme Court, a mockery was being made with the Constitution and laws of the country.

Addressing a meeting of the leaders of all coalition parties, the prime minister referred to a decision of the three-judge SC bench

over holding of elections in two provinces and said a mockery was being made with the Constitution and law and the fate of the nation was being decided with strange decisions.

He said he wanted to say that such kind of treatment with the Constitution and law had never been witnessed before and "such a terrible scene has never met eyes".

The three-member bench had

rejected the appeal for the constitution of a full bench and similarly, political parties' pleas were also rejected, he added.

The prime minister elaborated that last week, they held a detailed meeting, followed by two cabinet meetings and parliamentary meetings over the evolving situation.

How a decision of another bench was neglected while members of the three-judge

bench who had earlier recused themselves and again joined it, he questioned.

A circular was issued over Justice Isa's directive, followed by the formation of a six-member bench that took up the issue and decided it, he added.

The prime minister said the members of the National Assembly had debated the issue in the ongoing session and a resolution had already been passed while

tomorrow, another resolution would be tabled in the House.

He also highlighted the directive of the three-member bench with regard to the holding of elections in Punjab province and the observation over the election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister said the purpose behind holding of the meeting of coalition parties was to mull over the situation and evolve a solid response.

## Bar Association to file reference against two SC Judges

Bureau Report

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Bar Association has announced to file a reference against Supreme Court (SC) judges including Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Aminul Haq for the alleged violation of the code of conduct.

Gujranwala Bar Association President Chaudhry Pervaiz Abid said that Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Aminul Haq violated the code of conduct and interfered with the constitutional mandate of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

Pervaiz Abid further added that the reference will be filed against the judges as the role of these judges is similar to the aversion to oath.

# Imran Khan says 'nation heading towards supremacy of law after SC verdict'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan said on Wednesday that the nation is heading towards the supremacy of law after the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict in the election delay case.

While addressing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Youm-e-Tashakur event, "We welcome the SC verdict [in the election delay case] because we are hearing towards the supremacy of law."

Imran Khan said that the doctrine of necessity had been adopted to violate the Constitution in the past. "The judges were threatened and propaganda was started against their families. The powerful persons were trying to

stop the judges from backing the Constitution."

The PTI chief said that the government was bound to conduct elections in 90 days after the dissolution of the assembly in accordance with the Constitution.

Khan said that they demanded to conduct polls after the toppling of the PTI government. "I have repeatedly warned the rulers that economic stability cannot be established without political stability. The rulers are afraid of the elections due to fear of their defeat."

The former premier said that Shehbaz Sharif also became the prime minister due to a Supreme Court's order but the rulers are rejecting the SC orders now.

Khan alleged that the ruling parties started propaganda against

the families of the SC judges after the top court ordered them to hold elections in 90 days. He added that the SC verdict has put the country on the path of the supremacy of law.

He slammed Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for giving statements about 'martial law'. Khan said that those who want to see martial law are not loyal to the country.

Earlier in the day, Imran Khan unveiled the plan for awarding the party tickets to the candidates ahead of the Punjab elections.

While addressing PTI workers at the Iftar party, Imran Khan announced to select three activists from each district of Punjab and allot a number to them. He added that the selected workers will highlight the issues of their districts.

## PAC directs authorities to conduct DAC

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to conduct the Departmental Accounts Committees (DAC) of their respective institutions, departments and divisions.

The meeting, chaired by PAC Chairman Noor Alam Khan, directed the relevant authorities to promptly carry out the DAC of institutions for smooth functioning and ensure transparency to streamline the system.

## Al Aqsa Mosque:

# Presidnet, PM condemns attack on Palestinian worshippers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday strongly condemned an attack on Palestinian worshippers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli forces, terming it 'the height of barbarity'.

President Dr Arif Alvi said on Twitter, "I strongly condemn the attack on Palestinian worshippers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli Forces. Regrettably, Israel has no regard for any norms of humanity including the sanctity of religious places."

"We see the height of barbarity to attack worshippers in a vicious manner during the holy month of Ramadan. The international community must condemn this brutal and inhumane act against peaceful worshippers," the president posted in a related tweet.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned Israel-

li police attack on Palestinian worshippers in Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem.

In a Tweet today, he said the brutal attack is violative of sanctity of holy month of Ramadan.

The Prime Minister said the impunity granted to Israel has emboldened Tel Aviv to violate basic human rights with abandon.

A spokesperson for the Foreign Office Muntaz Zahra Baloch strongly condemned the assault on worshippers by Israeli police, especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

The act of Israeli forces have hurt sentiments of the Muslims across the world, she added.

The FO spokesperson called upon the international community to take urgent steps to protect innocent Palestinian lives, and uphold international law and principles of the UN Charter.

# Bilawal inaugurates Pakistan's first Lung Transplant Unit at Gambat

Allah Bux/Correspondent

GAMBAT: The Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday inaugurated Pakistan's first Lung Transplant Unit and the country's first Health City and Medicine Unit at Gambat in Khairpur district.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of new projects at Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani Institute of Medical Science, Gambat, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the Sindh government has built a world-class medical infrastructure, which is far ahead of other provinces.

He said that Gambat Institute is not a provincial but truly a national institution, where patients from Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, besides other provinces, also come for free of cost treatment.

PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto said that the people wouldn't have to go to India

for expensive treatment of kidney and liver because the treatment is now available in Gambat.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that if the political parties were given space and instead of the politics of hatred, division and abuse, competition was based on the politics of delivery, ideology and manifesto, then it would be useful for the country and the nation. Powerful class has played with every generation here.

Giving historical references, he said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was going to make the country a world power and during his time, there was a Pakistan that was ahead of the world.

He said that when Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the Prime Minister, the Prime Ministers and Presidents of the world used to follow the Pakistani Premier and even the personalities like Hillary Clinton also stood in a queue to get a glimpse of her.

# ECC approves proposed amendments in relevant clauses of IPO-2022

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Wednesday approved the proposed amendments in the relevant clauses of IPO-2022.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting of the ECC, said a press release issued here.

Ministry of Commerce submitted a summary on amendments in the Import Policy Order-2022 with regards to the import of live animals and animal products in line with the revised conditions/guidelines by the World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) on animal (Cattle) trade.

The ECC approved Technical Supplementary Grant of Rs. 299.997 million in



favour of the Ministry of Housing and Works for the repair and maintenance of Public buildings.

The ECC also approved a Supplementary Grant of Rs. 87.164 million in favour

of the Intelligence Bureau for payment of taxes and duties.

The ECC after discussion deferred a summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding the Amendment in IPO-2022

pertaining to used Auto Lube Oil and a summary of the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, seeking approval of NTC's budget for financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastagir Khan, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi MNA/Ex-PM, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, SAPM on Government Effectiveness Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Coordinator to PM on Commerce & Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## Business Delegation

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a group photo with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, along with a delegation of business community at Parliament House on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# President calls for creating specific jobs for differently-abled people

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for the creation of specific jobs for differently-abled people (DAPs) to make them financially independent.

He emphasised that DAPs needed to be trained and well-equipped with specific skill sets to make them useful and productive citizens of the country.

The president gave these remarks during a meeting



with the Vice Chairman of Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness (PFFB), Dr Anis-ur-Rehman, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President said that society should not neglect DAPs, adding that it was the collective responsibility of the public and private sectors to encourage and support persons with disabilities.

Dr Anis-ur-Rehman apprised the President about the steps taken by PFFB for the welfare of the visually-impaired persons in Pakistan.

He said that his organization had transformed the lives of more than 50,000 visually-impaired students

and persons at the national level, during the last ten years, through educational services, capacity-building trainings, awareness campaigns, career counselling, and Assistive Technology.

He highlighted that the major challenge being faced by the visually-impaired children was the lack of hostel facilities, particularly for the visually-impaired girls in Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Balochistan.

# Saudi Arabia signals two billion funding on IMF demand: Sources

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government sources have reported key development in US dollar three billion financing demand made by the IMF from Pakistan for bailout package.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given green signal for dollar two billion funding, the finance ministry sources said. Minister of Finance before his US visit on April 10, will also contact the UAE leadership, sources said.

The Pakistani government had approached Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to meet the conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Prime Minister's Office



and Finance Ministry officials had contacted the Saudi Arabian and UAE officials to meet the IMF demand.

The IMF had demanded of Pakistani government to get a written guarantee from the friendly countries for the deposit.

Sources earlier said that Saudi Arabia and UAE had sought some time to assure the IMF regarding the deposit.

"The IMF also have objection over annual 900 billion rupees subsidies," sources at finance ministry said.

The global lender also insisting on its demand for collection of 850 billion rupees petroleum levy and addressing shortfall of the petroleum levy and taxes, sources added.

## Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi's sons file damages suit against lawyer

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi's sons have filed damages suit against advocate Mian Dawood, claiming Rs1.2 billion for the 'loss of reputation caused by malicious campaign'.

In the legal notice, Sayyed Mustafa Naqvi and Sayyed Murtaza Naqvi — sons of Justice Naqvi — have claimed Rs0.6 billion each for the 'loss of reputation caused by malicious campaign' against their father.

Referring to advocate Mian Dawood, Justice Naqvi's sons — in the notice — stated that "during his questionable career, the lawyer has continuously defamed the individuals of high esteem and integrity, most of which are the members of the Superior Judiciary of Pakistan".

# Saad directs early payment of salaries to Pakistan Railways employees

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Wednesday directed

the relevant department of Pakistan Railways to pay the pensions and salaries of employees by April 18 for the 'Eid ul Fitr' celebrations.

While chairing a high-level meeting here, the minister directed to further improve the 'Iftar' arrangements in Green Line Train which run between

Islamabad to Karachi.

The meeting also discussed matters pertaining to the train services and the operational performance of the department.

# Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increase 17.02% in 8 months

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 17.02 percent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at US \$346.522 million during July-February (2022-23) against exports of US \$296.109 million during July-February (2021-22), showing growth of 17.02 percent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan also increased 60.49 percent from

US \$38.222 million in February 2022, against the exports of US \$61.345 million in same month this year.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan also surge 82.58 percent during February 2023 as compared to the exports of US \$33.598 million in January 2022, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 9.65 percent in the eight months, from US \$ 20.632 billion to US \$ 18.639 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from Afghanistan into the country during the period under review were recorded at US \$ 13.540 million against US \$119.328 million

last year, showing a decline of 88.65 percent in July-February (2022-23).

On a year-on-year basis, the import for Afghanistan witnessed also decreased by 98.89 percent from US \$13.723 million in February 2022, against the imports of US \$0.151 million in February 2023.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from Afghanistan into the country increased by 11.02 percent during February 2023, as compared to the imports of US \$0.136 million during January 2022, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 21.02 percent, from US \$47.336 billion to US \$37.388 billion, according to the data.

## Scheme to provide low-priced petrol being worked out: Musadik Malik

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik, on Wednesday, said that a scheme for the provision of low-priced petrol to lower-income groups was being worked out and it would be finalised in consultation with all the stakeholders.

The minister while talking to the media, here, said that there were different suggestions under consideration including the utilisation of BISP network, the issuance of specific subsidy cards or generating a one-time password (OTP) for the ease of eligible citizens. He also apprised that petroleum dealers also presented some suggestions.

# Govt decides to submit reference against CJP, other SC judges

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to submit reference against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and two other Supreme Court (SC) judges, the three-member bench which nullified the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to postpone Punjab elections, ARY News reported on Wednesday, citing sources.

The decision was taken during a meeting of leaders of all coalition parties, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Sources told ARY News that the meeting considered to submit

a reference against three-member bench, which includes CJP Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Muneeb Akhtar and Justice Ijazul Ahsan, in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

Sources further claimed that the meeting also decided to ratify federal cabinet's rejection of the Supreme Court's verdict by Parliament. During the meeting, PM Shehbaz Sharif also gave important task to legal team.

The meeting also expressed concern over the delay in signing the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).

# IK won't accept election results after defeat: Maryam Nawaz

## City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday said that Imran Khan (IK) would not accept the election results after being defeated.

Addressing the lawyer's convention here at the judicial complex, she said that general elections would be held on time according to the constitution.

Commenting on the three-member bench's verdict she said the law was being implemented only in Punjab while in KPK the situation is different.

Maryam questioned courts for not taking suo-moto notice of leaked audios of Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi and Yasmin Rashid about the role of Justice Mazahir Naqvi.

Maryam said former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Rana Sana and other PML-N leadership faced penalties in fake cases but didn't complain, adding, "I was sick for five years but didn't play the woman card for getting relief from the courts".

Maryam Nawaz also said that elected prime ministers have perma-



nently been terminated while dictators are always given relief. She also praised Justice Waqar Seth for his courage in sentencing a dictator.

The Chief Organizer of PML-N questioned why the judge had become emotional during the hearing but not when her father was disqualified as Prime Minister over an expired 'iqama'. Maryam said that if one wants to engage in politics, one should do so through the parliament.

PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz said that she came to the lawyer fraternity to save Pakistan, adding that a prime minister had never completed his constitutional term in the entire history of Pakistan.

While criticizing Imran Khan, she said that some cowards pull a black box over their mouths when they appear in the Courts.

# SC hints at forming judicial commission in Arshad Sharif murder case

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) hinted at forming a judicial commission in the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif.

As per details, the Supreme Court has issued the written verdict of last hearing of the Arshad Sharif murder suo motu case.

The written verdict stated if the court is not satisfied with the investigation, then a judicial commission will be constituted.

The counsel of Arshad Sharif's family Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui has raised objections to the court proceedings, he said that the Supreme Court can monitor and investigate matter cases related to basic rights but cannot monitor the investigation of JIT.

The court said that Attorney General informed the court about the bilateral cooperation from the



Kenyan side but they did not respond on the legal cooperation with the Pakistani officials.

The written verdict further stated that the court has granted three more weeks to JIT to conduct the investigation abroad.

Supreme Court can constitute a judicial commission, as the murder of prominent journalist Arshad Sharif is a matter of basic human rights as well.

Furthermore, the court has received more than 5000 letters for the investigation of the Arshad Sharif Murder case. The case will now resume in the month of April.

# Govt wants to hold elections after completing census: Dastagir

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan on Wednesday said that the coalition government wanted to hold general elections after completing the most important task of census and delimitation.

Without completion of the task of census and delimitation, the election results could not be made transparent, he expressed his fear while talking to a private television channel. Organizing elections with old data of population or census, would create many issues for political parties and ECP, he added.

The minister said that the incumbent government is engaged in collecting data of the population through the census. He said security has been deployed to various parts to finish the process of the census. The Election Commission of Pakistan would have the requirement of security for polling

stations and a heavy amount to bear the responsibility of the next elections in the country, he said.

In October, he said the government would provide all required security and finance to ECP to arrange polling in Pakistan.

Commenting on the court decision over the elections, he said that all the political partners would discuss the issue of early elections at the forum of parliament. Khurram Dastagir said that coalition partners had expressed reservations over the court verdict regarding elections.

He said that a larger bench could help resolve the issue being faced by the political parties about elections. He suggested that next elections could be conducted in October and the people of four provinces could elect their representatives in a befitting manner.

He hoped that Pakistan Muslim League-N, would win the next elections with thumping majority.

# Peace, stability in South Asia inescapably linked to settlement of Kashmir dispute: President AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while stressing the need for early resolution of the Kashmir issue, has said that peace and stability in the region was inescapably linked to the settlement of the lingering dispute. Addressing a special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly here on Wednesday, the president, while referring to the Kashmiris' matchless sacrifices and struggle to achieve their cherished goal of freedom, said that there was a dire need that the international community should play its role to resolve the dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

Urging the global community to take notice of India's nefarious designs in Occupied Kashmir, he said that after abolishing the special status of Occupied Kashmir, India was now hell bent on changing the region's demography. "Since 5th August 2019, Indian occupation authorities have issued fake domiciles to more than 42 million non-state Hindus", he said, adding that granting citizenship and other rights to



outsiders was a deep-rooted conspiracy to convert the Muslim majority of the state into a minority. Referring to the changes made to the region's political and electoral landscape, he said that the changes were purposefully made to pave the way for installing a Hindu Chief Minister in the state.

Reiterating Kashmiris' resolve to thwart Modi's nefarious designs in the region, the president said India must bear in mind the fact that they cannot subdue the freedom spirit of the Kashmiri people through their military might. Paying rich tributes to Kashmiris' sacrifices, the president expressed the hope that the day was not far away

when Kashmiris would achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India. Referring to his recent visit to the UK, the US, Europe, and the Middle East, the president said that during his visits he had raised the Kashmir issue effectively at every forum. Voicing his serious concern over the worsening situation in the IoK, the president said that on the one hand, Indian occupation forces have wreaked havoc in the region, while on the other, people were being displaced and rendered homeless by the occupation authorities under the guise of so-called encroachment drive in the region.

Stressing the need for raising the

issue of Kashmir voiceferously both at national and international level, the president said that Kashmiris living abroad can play an important role in seeking the attention of the international community towards the plight of Kashmiris. Expressing solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir, he said that the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir stand shoulder to shoulder with their brethren in their struggle for freedom. Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said, "Let me make it abundantly clear that Kashmiris living on both sides of the ceasefire line will not accept the partition of Kashmir under any circumstances".

## Ramadan Free Flour Scheme is going on successfully: Amir Khattak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Ramadan package free flour scheme is going on successfully in the division. Full quota has been provided to many families with the best arrangements. 2 lakh 29 thousand 225 bags of flour were distributed in the division in one day. So far a total of 39 lakh 53 thousand 833 flour bags have been distributed. These views were expressed by Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak while presiding over the review meeting on Ramadan package.

Commissioner Amir Khattak said that the administration, police, officers and employees of various departments, civil defense personnel are performing their duties. The administration worked hard to ensure the supply of free flour to the citizens. The administration should work more diligently until all the eligible people get flour. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that the food officers have been ordered to redress the flour quality complaints.

The Punjab government has given an ideal Ramadan package for the deserving class. On this occasion, DC Multan Umar Jahangir, Additional Commissioner Sarfraz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioners and officers of various departments were present on the video link. Later, Commissioner Amir Khattak made a surprise visit to various points, reviewed the arrangements and interacted with the citizens.

## Multan District Administration and police crackdown mafia of narcotic and illegal drugs

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the district administration and the police have decided to crack down on the mafia involved in the sale and purchase of narcotic and illegal drugs has also been started.

He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the Drug Control Authority. In the meeting, the cases of various medical stores were decided. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the medical stores selling medicines without cold chain should be sealed and the owners of the medical stores will be able to work only through qualified staff. To be brought under the law. On this occasion, a detailed briefing was also given by the health department

## Special Branch is actually the eyes and ears of the government: Naeem Sindhu

Menahill Rashid

FAISALABAD: SSP Special Branch Naeem Aziz Sindhu has said that the Special Branch is actually the eyes and ears of the government which provides information about good governance including political, administrative, religious and many other relevant matters. However, implementing them is not included in their scope. Addressing the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) today, he said that he belongs to Faisalabad while he also spent a long period of service here, so he understands the trends, norms & values of Faisalabad very well.

He said that they have an eye on the activities of all pressure groups including industrial, commercial, religious, communal, security, NGOs and the government prepares its future action plan based on their information. He further said that they look after divisional level matters while DSPs are appointed at district level while intelligence officers are appointed in all important organizations and institutions. He said that his staff in Faisalabad is 1526 who send comprehensive reports about all kinds of activities.

In which important and sensitive information is conveyed to the Additional IG Special Branch, which brings important matters to the notice of the government. He said that apart from the VIP movement, he also looks into matters related to the security of foreigners. He informed about Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate that its four walls are not safe, so he has recommended that it should be ten feet high and 2 feet barbed wire over it. He said adding that the intelligence committee works at the division level. He said that he will also submit a comprehensive report to the government on the problems faced by the business community as street crimes are increasing due to closure of industries.

Earlier, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq welcomed them and said that the business community is concerned about the increase in street crimes while some fraudsters are also harassing the traders, which should be addressed immediately. He said that since this department is not visible, they should be informed about their performance and responsibilities. Dr. Sajjad Arshad said that a comprehensive report will be prepared and presented on the problems faced by the traders at the chamber level. Consultations will also be sought from other associations.

On this occasion, Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad, Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Shafiq Hussain Shah, Malik Amin, Mian Muhammad Tayyab, Mian Gulzar Ahmed, Khadim Hussain Mann participated in the question and answer session. Finally, Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli thanked the guests while President Dr. Khurram Tariq presented the honorary shield of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to SSP Special Branch Naeem Aziz Sindhu. They also recorded their comments in the guest book and took a group photo.



## Iftar

KARACHI: A large number of people Iftar in the holy month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak arranged by market shopkeeper at Hassan Square area.



Photo: APP

# Tahirul Hasan calls for end of 'festering' Kashmir dispute

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: The solution to Pakistan's political problems lies in mutual understanding and negotiations. The agenda of these understanding and negotiation is to bring better reforms to serve the country and the nation in all respect without building castles in the air or keeping in views personal benefits.

The whole nation stands with the constitution and the supremacy of law & and will remain in future too.

It is the dire need of the time to Show unity for the real stability and security of

Pakistan and our Kashmiri brothers.

4th April is an historic day when Pakistan' constitution & law have really liberated despite undue pressures for sack of this nation.

Pakistan Ulema Council on April 10th I Islamabad will elaborate a comprehensive role model for this state and the progress of whole Muslim Umma.

Allama Tahirul Hasan Central Deputy General Secretary Pakistan Ulama Council and Member Provincial Ittehad Bin Muslimin Committee Punjab Government said this in his special statement



and added that the political parties in the context of Pakistan' prosperity must forget the differences and follow the law and respect the judiciary In all respect. Let's come togeth-

er clutching our hands and arrange a solid plan of action that is acceptable to all parties and the people.

He further elaborated that Message in Pakistan Ulema Council Islamabad on April 10th It will make important decisions in the conference. Under the leadership of Quaid Millat Islamia Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, the plan of action will be decided and informed to the public.

He further said that without transparent and free elections we cannot succeed in making laws in view of the basic needs of this public.

The decision of the Supreme

Court is a decision in favor of the public interests and it will itself prove the original voice as the election get contested transparently.

A political party should always be ready to contest elections. The voice of the people in the form of voting highlights the reality of the social order and this undeniable fact cannot be denied

The nation has a strong right to decide whether or not to accept this constitution made by Bhutto.

The decision of the people should be acceptable and a free and fair electoral college should be adopted.

# Tax on sugary drinks should be increased to reduce obesity and diseases: Iqbal Zaffar Jhagra

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Sugary drinks are one of the major causes of heart and many other fatal diseases. Every section of society, media shall raise their voices to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy drinks. Pakistan ranks third in the world with more than 33 million people living with diabetes. This was said in a media session organized by PANAHA at a local hotel in Peshawar. Iqbal Zaffar Jhagra, former Governor KPK was the chief guest. Among the guests were Barrister Syed Feroz Jamal Shah, information minister of KPK, Prof. Dr. Ehsanullah Khan, DHO Peshawar, Professor Dr. Umar Zaffar Jhagra, Amja Yousafzai, journalist, Technical Director KPK food authority Dr. Abdul Sattar, Nasir Hussain from Khyber union of jour-

nalist, chief municipal officer Peshawar, Sahraq Riaz, Dr. Huda, eye specialist, representatives from electronic and print media and civil society representatives. Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman, secretary general PANAHA was the host. He welcomed the participants and shared the objectives of the session.

Iqbal Zaffar Jhagra said that PANAHA is working for a noble cause. We as a nation shall reconsider its priorities and opt the healthy eating habits. We stand with PANAHA for its efforts of healthy Pakistan.

Barrister Feroz Shah Kakakhel said that Govt. of Pakistan will consider all possible steps to reduce the diseases burden caused by sugary drinks. Increasing tax on sugary drinks is effective policy steps.

Umar Zaffar Jhagra said that According to the World Health Orga-

nization, consumption of added sugars should be less than 10% of total calories. Excessive consumption of these sugary drinks poses serious risks to the health of children and adults in particular.

Munawar Hussain, Consultant, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, said that number of countries have taken several effective measures to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. Among these measures increasing tax on sugary drinks is an evidence based policy action, which reduce disease and help generating revenue for government. The evidence shows that the countries that implemented higher taxes on the sugary drinks, have not only reduced the burden of disease but also increased the revenue for the government

Mr. Abdul Sattar said that KPK food authority has already passed the regu-



lations to ban SSBs in schools vicinity but we need to do more to reduce the disease burden.

Shah Junaid said that people shall reduce the consumption of these unhealthy drinks and go for healthier

alternatives.

Dr. Huda said that people who are diabetic has more chances of having eye diseases and blindness.

Amjad Yousafzai said that Panah is working for a good cause and we stand with Panah and the media will continue to play its role to make Pakistan healthy by joining PANAHA's voice.

Sanaullah Ghumman said that Pakistan National Heart Association has been educating people about heart and related diseases for the past 40 years and the causes that lead to these diseases. Panah is also working with the government to make laws to prevent them so as to give a healthy life to our countrymen and especially children because a healthy nation is the guarantee of a country's strength. He thanked the media and civil society for raising voice with PANAHA for this noble cause.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:26 am  
Zohr ..... 12:11 pm  
Asr ..... 4:43 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:31 pm  
Isha ..... 7:56 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9276044  
Motorway Police ..... 9276061-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9276061-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway Enquiry ..... 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 ..... 5556311-4  
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

**DPO Attock review security arrangements**

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK : District Police Officer Attock Dr Sardar Ghayas Gul Khan on Wednesday further beefed up security cover along the foreigners working at all the sensitive points of the district to avert any untoward incident. Police sources said, DPO Attock along with DC Attock Rao Atif Raza also reviewed the security arrangements of Mother and Child Hospital Attock, Chinese Project Hattian, as well as Food Pickets Burhan, Jhari Kas and Ghazi Interchanges to prevent inter provincial smuggling.

During his surprise check, DPO Attock directed the law enforcement agencies to remain alert besides keeping vigilant eyes on fool proof security arrangements of the foreigners. Later on, he reviewed the measures taken to prevent flour smuggling at Food Pickets, Burhan, Jhari Kas and Ghazi Interchanges with the directions to the police officers on duty. He also instructed that the crackdown against wheat flour smugglers should be intensified.

**Friendship with China enjoys broad political support in Pakistan: Ahsan Iqbal**

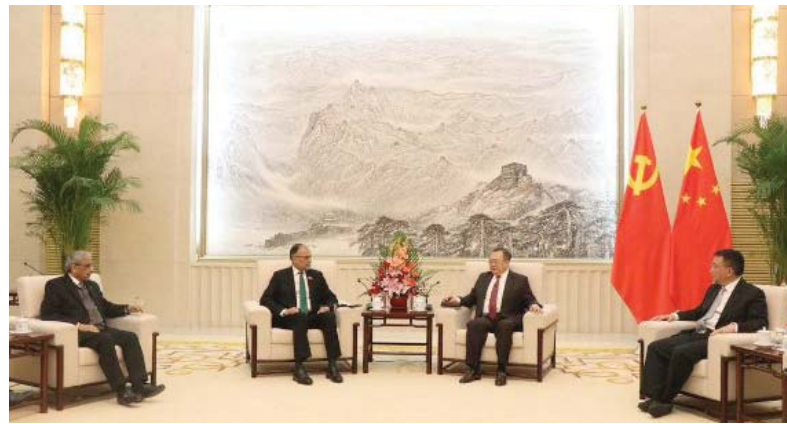
By News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that friendship and strategic partnership with China enjoyed broad political support in Pakistan and acknowledged the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC's) role in promoting better understanding and deepening relations between the two countries.

In a meeting with the Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao, Ahsan Iqbal specifically appreciated his personal contributions in cementing bilateral ties as a true friend of Pakistan.

The minister admired the role of CPEC in a peaceful rise and economic development in China.

Extending warm felicitations on the successful conclusion of the annual Two Sessions, the minister paid tribute to the vision of President Xi for launching initiatives like Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) which were contributing in creating a peaceful and harmonious world.



Hailing CPEC as the shining example of BRI cooperation, Minister IDCPC appreciated the Planning Minister's role in nurturing and developing CPEC in his current and earlier tenures. Both reaffirmed CPEC's importance as the flagship project of BRI and decided to add further impetus to CPEC cooperation along with marking the completion of one decade as an important milestone.

Recalling the successful visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing in November 2022, the two sides agreed to

work out modalities of IDCPC support for capacity-building through special training of Pakistani young political leaders and professionals, and experience sharing on CPC governance model for rural development, youth empowerment, poverty alleviation, economic growth, use of technology, enhancement of exports and industrialization.

Ahsan Iqbal also extended an invitation to Minister IDCPC to visit Pakistan to continue the discussions and cooperation for deepening bilateral ties.

**Pak-Qatar Relations**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Pakistan Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, at Parliament House in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

**LA of AJK expressed its concern over human rights violations in IOJK**

By Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD : The Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has expressed its concern over human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, rejecting the unilateral and illegal measures taken by India to change the demography of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution regarding granting the right to self-determination was unanimously approved. Resolution Leader of the House Sardar Tanviraliyas Khan, Leader of Opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar, President Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Former Prime

Minister and President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed media Khan Former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, President Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir Shah Gulam Qadir, Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Party Sardar Hasan Ibrahim Khan, was presented by former Prime Ministers Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan and Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niaz, which was presented in the House by the Prime Minister of the Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan. Presenting the resolution, Leader of the House Sardar Tanviraliyas Khan said that the Kashmir issue is the oldest

unresolved issue on the agenda of the United Nations.

This meeting of the Legislative Assembly appreciates Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support for the Kashmir cause and salutes the determination, courage and spirit of the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Rejecting the unilateral and illegal measures, expresses serious concern over the new constituencies, including issuance of fake domiciles and allowing non-Kashmiris to purchase land, to change the demography of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Any such political process cannot be a substitute for the right of the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to self-de-

termination as enshrined in the UN resolutions.

Occupied Kashmir is currently the largest military zone in the world, this House expresses concern over the presence of 9 lakh occupying forces in the occupied territory. In the name of serious human rights violations, extrajudicial killings, so-called search operations and destruction of property and belongings of citizens in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, seizure of All Party Hurriyat Conference office in Srinagar and anti-encroachment campaign in Occupied Kashmir. Strongly condemns the destruction of civilian properties and the demolition of settlements.

**Religious Ministry urges M/o Finance to intensify efforts in arranging forex for Hajj pilgrims**

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is trying to arrange foreign exchange for all the intending pilgrims who want to perform Hajj through a regular scheme this year.

According to official sources, the religious affairs ministry had urged the finance ministry to go the extra mile and provide foreign exchange for all the aspirant pilgrims. Due to this reason, the religious affairs ministry had postponed the Hajj balloting which was to be held on April 5, they maintained.

They said the ministry was expecting maximum participation of overseas Pakistanis in the Sponsorship Hajj Scheme but it could not yield the desired results as only a few thousand people had applied for Hajj through this scheme.

They also said there were some difficulties in transferring funds from the world over in foreign currency, otherwise, the ratio of Hajj applicants would have significantly increased.

They expressed their fear that if the foreign exchange could not be arranged, the ministry had to surrender the rest of Hajj quota to the Saudi government. They said the finance ministry had assured all out support to the religious ministry into the matter.

**Horticulture and Engineering Work improved in PHA Parks: Asif Khan**

By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Director General PHA Multan Asif Rauf Khan has said that horticulture and engineering work should be improved in the parks. Security measures should be improved in the parks. Flowers are being planted according to the season from the city's green belts and plants.

He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of ongoing activities in parks and green belts under the management of PHA. He further said that provision of entertainment and facilities to the citizens should be ensured in the parks in Ramadan too. Plantation of seasonal flowers should be ensured in big parks. He further said that provision of benches, dust bins and other facilities are being ensured in the parks. Mohammad Akhtar Mandhira, Director Engineering Adnan Butt and Director Horticulture Saad Qureshi were also present.

**Mariyam D. Rizwan drops all-new festive collections to take over your heart**



By News Desk

KARACHI: The couturier who's on everyone's must-have list, Mariyam D. Rizwan recently launched two new collections just in time for the Spring/Summer 2023 festive season, namely: Durefishan-Ramadan Edit and Brunch & Cake-Eid Edit.

The highly sought out designer Mariyam D. Rizwan beautifully encapsulates the essence of the Ramadan festivities in a symphony of 6 vibrant bejeweled luxe pret ensembles with intricate details and a spectrum of traditional colors in her collection 'Durefishan'; featuring the name-sake rising star Dur-e-fishan Saleem the collection is perfect for iftars and Ramadan soirées.

'Brunch & Cake' starring the sensational Ayeza Khan is the artistic designer Mariyam D. Rizwan's latest take on modern-day chic pret with 11 gorgeous festive luxury pieces that are the perfect addition to your Eid wardrobe with their scene-stealing silhouettes, exquisite craftsmanship, and tasteful colour palette.

All in all, Mariyam D. Rizwan's 2 latest festive drops Durefishan-Ramadan Edit and Brunch & Cake-Eid Edit have something for everyone and are sure to make a place in your heart and wardrobe. Both collections styled by the celebrity stylist Aneela Murtaza are now available in-store at the Mariyam D. Rizwan atelier and online at www.mariyamdewan.com

**Widow receives pensionary benefits after 10 years under Ombudsman's intervention**

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The widow of late Muhammad Latif, formerly working as Driver with National Trust for the Disabled (NTD) filed a complaint against Ministry of Human Rights through Mobile App of Wafaqi Mohtasib's Secretariat (WMS) for inordinate delay in payment of her dues admissible under the Prime Minister's Assistance Package. She stated that her husband expired during service in 2014 and she was entitled to receive full pay and allowances till the age of her husband's superannuation. Although monthly salary started w.e.f. April, 2021 but arrears of salary and PM Assistance Package was not disbursed to her. Her repeated visits, spread over many years, to NTD and the Ministry of Human Rights failed to get the lawful entitlements released to her. Hence, she filed the complaint before the Federal Ombudsman.

The NTD (later on merged with Directorate General of Special Education) and the Ministry of Human Rights replied that the widow's dues including the senior scale promotion benefits have not been paid due to shortage of funds. During hearing proceedings at the Wafaqi Mohtasib's Office, the representative of Special Education Directorate informed that an amount of Rs. 3.2 million is pending against the Agency. The representatives of Special Education and the Ministry of Human Rights made written commitments that her case is being sent to the Finance Division for provision of funds. After taking into consideration the facts of the case, the Federal Ombudsman directed the Director General, Special Education and the Ministry of Human Rights to make payment to the complainant within 45 days. The Deputy Advisor Implementation Wing of WMS Mr. Pervez Haleem vigorously pursued the implementation of the Mohtasib's decision which culminated in the payment of all dues to the widow.

**Security arrangements finalized for Baisakhi Mela**

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK :The district administration Attock on Wednesday finalized security arrangements for the upcoming Baisakhi festival at Gurdwara Panja Sahib, Hassanabdal. A special session of all stakeholders was held at Gurdwara Panja Sahib Hassanabdal which was presided over by deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza along with District Police Officer (DPO) Ghayas Gul Khan. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Adnan Anjum Raja, Assistant Commissioner Dr Sana Ramechand, officials of ETPB, auqaf department and other administrative officers were also present on this occasion. The main ceremony of Vaisakhi, a New Year's celebration as well as a critical day in the



formation of the Sikh religion, will be held at the Gurdawara Panja Sahib on April 14. Talking to newsmen, deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said, "We have finalized plans for security, food and accommodation at the

Gurdwara for the pilgrims." He said that the Sikh pilgrims from around the world especially neighboring India will visit Gurdwara Panja Sahib to participate in the Baisakhi festival. He said that the protection of all religious

places and followers is the top priority and they would not any miscreant to spread unrest.

According to the Sikh religion, the festival of Baisakhi marks the beginning of the new year. In this context, Sikhs living all over the world participate in the celebrations held on Baba Guru Nanak.

In the sitting room, they read and listen to Granth Sahib with great devotion, while Prasad is cooked inside the Gurdwara and various religious rituals are performed, come to do Tobaruk or Prashad is also distributed during the ceremony which is received by the devotees with great respect.

After finishing the ceremony at Gurdwara Panja Sahib, the Sikhs proceed to Lahore and Nankana Sahib.

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# ZAB remembered as champion of democracy

## Spokesman Report

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 Zulfikar 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.

He said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto did not bow before dictatorial forces and refused to beg for mercy for a crime that he had never committed. "When Bhutto Sahib heard about his death sentence as a result of an unfair trial, he said, 'I am not afraid of death. A Muslim's fate is in the hands of God. I can face Him with a clear conscience and would tell Him that I rebuilt His Islamic State from ashes into a respectable nation,'" Malik Azmat recalled.

He said the strong courage and determination of Shaheed Zulfikar Bhutto

were also reflected throughout his life and political career besides giving ordinary Pakistanis a voice.

"Quaid-e-Awam has earned dignity for the country at regional and international levels due to his great political stature, intellect and vision," said former MPA, Nighat Yasmin Orakzai while talking to this news agency.

She said Zulfikar Ali Bhutto broke all the shackles and rejected a compromised foreign policy. She said that Bhutto Shaheed, in a short time, had made Pakistan a strong, progressive and independent nation of the Muslim World.

"He had managed to unite Muslim leaders in the historic Islamic Summit Conference hosted in Pakistan in Lahore in 1974 and also spoke about the Kashmir issue in the UN and always defended the oppressed Kashmiris at all international forums," she said.

Orakzai said ZAB started the nuclear programme of Pakistan and saved Pakistan from all external and international threats and made Pakistan's defense impregnable.

She said that even today, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was remembered as a man of principles, true statesman, real reformer and a great master of dialogue, adding that he brought together people from across the political spectrum and developed consensus on the 1973 constitution.

Besides his land, labour, industrial, corporate, legal and economic reforms, Nighat Yasmin said that Z.A. Bhutto health and education reforms had provid-

ed quality services to millions of Pakistanis, besides significant relief under peoples' work reforms and national volunteer development program.

She recalled that Bhutto Sahib managed to bring back around 93,000 Pakistani war prisoners and ceased territories exchanged after the 1971 war, without compromising on the interests of Pakistan.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who came from a comfortable background, attended Christ Church College, Oxford, and briefly practiced law in London. After returning to Pakistan, he started practicing law in Karachi. He was a well-off young lawyer who turned into a politician and won people's hearts due to his pro-poor policies.

Despite the pro-US policies of Ayub's government, she said Z.A. Bhutto as a foreign minister gave a new spirit to the Pak-China relationship and later resigned as a foreign minister and founded the Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

After Bhutto's untimely death, she said his legacy was passed on by his wife Begum Nusrat Bhutto and daughter Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed in difficult times. Following the footprints of her illustrious father, Benazir Bhutto fought for the supremacy of democracy in Pakistan and became the first woman prime minister in the Muslim world.

She said both the leaders considered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as their second home and loved Pashtoons from the core of their hearts. On December 1, 2007, when BB Shaheed came to Peshawar, she

was welcomed by hundreds of thousands of PPP supporters and said, "I seek your help and cooperation to turn this land of Pakhtoons who suffered greatly in the war against terrorism, into a peaceful zone."

The untimely death of Z.A. Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was a great loss to the country and had these leaders been alive today, the existing economic, political and geopolitical challenges would not have confronted Pakistan," said former Senator Sardar Ali Khan while talking to APP.

Sardar Ali said that Benazir's martyrdom had weakened the dictatorship and restored genuine democracy in the country. After her martyrdom in Rawalpindi on December 27 outside Liaquat Bagh, the torch of Bhutto's political legacy was now with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who was determined to carry forward his grandfather and mother's legacy.

The Pakistan People's Party is still an undeniable force in national politics. Despite the passage of four decades to Shaheed Bhutto's murder, he still lived in the hearts and minds of people and those who wanted to wipe him out from Pakistani politics themselves are not remembered in good words in today's political landscape.

Although ZAB and Benazir Bhutto Shaheed are not among us today, however, their guiding principles and visions are a great source of inspiration for people, political workers and future generations to take the country to the safe shore of democracy.

## IBCC National Inter-boards bilingual declamation competitions

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) organized the Inter-Board Bilingual Declamation Competition in three different phases i.e on Board Level, Province Level and on National Level. The closing ceremony of the event was held on April 5, 2023, at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, where students from all over Pakistan participated.

The theme for the competition was "My Constitution-Guarantee of My Freedoms," which aimed to promote awareness among students about the importance of the Constitution and how it guarantees their fundamental rights and freedoms. The competition was held in both English and Urdu languages, and the participants presented their speeches with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain, who attended as the chief guest. The Minister congratulated the students for their outstanding performance and emphasized the significance of the Constitution in safeguarding the rights of the citizens. He encouraged the students to continue their efforts to promote awareness about the Constitution and its role in shaping the country's future.

Addressing the closing ceremony, the Minister said that, "The Constitution of Pakistan 1973 guarantees fundamental rights to the citizens of Pakistan, including the right to life, liberty, and education. He said that, Pakistan is among the top five countries with the highest figures for out-of-school children globally. He added, as per NCRC report, Pakistan has 22.8 million children between 5 and 16 years old—world's second highest number of out-of-school children".

He further said that, "By June 2023, no child in Islamabad will be deprived of the basic right of education". The IBCC Secretary, Prof Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, appreciated the efforts of the students and expressed his gratitude to the Minister for his support in organizing the event. He highlighted the importance of such competitions in promoting the culture of public speaking and instilling a sense of responsibility among the youth towards their country.

Dr Mallah, also expressed his gratitude to Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor AIOU, Dr. Ikram Malik, DG FDE and Ms. Zia Batool, Chairperson PEIRA for their kind support in making this competition a memorable one. The closing ceremony was also attended by, Ex-Senator Farhat Ullah Babar, Ms. Zeb Jaffar Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Wajiha Qamar Parliamentarian, Vice Chancellors, Chairmen BISE's, Professors, Teachers and students. The competition concluded with the announcement of winners. The participants were awarded shields, for their outstanding performance. The event was a huge success and served as a great platform to promote awareness about the Constitution and its significance in guaranteeing the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens.



## The Tablighi Jamaat-I

### Syed Sharfuddin

The ideology of Tablighi Jamaat (TJ), the largest Islamic revivalist movement of our times is best described by Sadruddin Ansari's introduction of the six points of Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Khandahlawi, the founder of TJ as follows:

"We all know that this world is mortal. Everyone who is born here is destined to die one day, and everything that flourishes here is to meet its decay sooner or later. We are therefore bound to believe that this is not our permanent and perpetual abode; we can never succeed in living here forever. No one so far could do so and no one shall ever do so. Should we take this world as an external and everlasting home we should not be more than a fool...We are here on a journey and our original and real destination is yet to come. We are born here only to decorate our eternal home. We cannot be called wise if we prefer this mortal existence to the eternal one. It is a fact and we must bear it in mind permanently that our sole duty is to strive for the betterment of our real home. [From Six Points of Tablighi by Sadruddin Ansari, 1967]."

The Tablighi Jamaat (TJ) is the world's most popular Islamic dawah (preaching) movement without an international headquarters or secretariat.

Since its inception in 1926 in the Haryana region of Mewat in British India, TJ has remained faithful to its motto of being a puritan religious movement staying non-political, non-denominational and non-governmental in its dawah activities. Despite an impressive coordination network at the district, provincial and national levels in many countries, main-

ly in countries where the South Asian Muslim population lives as a majority, or is classified as an official minority faith community, TJ has no formal office holders or subscription paying members. Its preaching tours are carried out informally through a vast network of Deobandi mosques which open their doors to worshippers who are willing to share their mobile phone numbers with each other and take time out, including outside homestays of various duration, for visiting other municipalities and towns to talk about the fundamentals of Islam and the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) encourage people to join in congregational worship, learn about the various forms of zikr other than the Sufi tradition, and develop an understanding of how to perform and multiply good deeds.

Muslims who attend regular five time prayers at mosques are familiar with the ritual of a worshipper standing up after the end of a congregational Salat and requesting his fellow worshippers to stay behind after the sunnah prayers to listen to a short talk on making Islam work better in their everyday life. This short talk, not exceeding a few minutes consists of six points of dawah. These points were devised by the founder of TJ as the best way of achieving Islamic living and a means of attaining salvation. The six points, known to every volunteer of TJ like the back of his hand, are explained below:

#### 1. Eiman or Article of Faith

Reciting the First Kalema, having with full conviction about the oneness of Allah and following the tradition of the Prophet and his companions. It comprises a firm belief in Allah, the Angels, Divine Scriptures, His Prophets, both who have been named or mentioned in the Holy Quran and the other Divine Scriptures, as well

as those not named or mentioned in the Holy Quran and other Divine Scriptures, and the Day of Judgement.

#### 2. Salaat or Obligatory Congregational Prayer

The correct way of performing Salaat according to the Quran and Sunnah. Guarding the observance of Salaat times and achieving regularity in prayers. Keeping the heart and mind focused on the Creator during the performance of Salaat. Learning about the various types of Salaat and the difference between sunnah prayers and Nafil prayers. Understanding the correct protocols of salaat and the order and sequence of reciting Suras in the Salaat. Pre-requisites of Wudu or ablution. Keeping body and soul clean and pure. Awareness of other obligatory worship such as Fasting, Alms giving and Hajj.

#### 3. Glorification of Allah and Zikr

There are different forms of Zikr which include reciting the Third and the Fourth Kalema; sending Durood or blessings on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH); and making Astaghfar or repentance. Zikr is done for the love of Allah. Zikr is also Ilm, the knowledge of doing what is enjoined and staying away from what is forbidden. The highest form of Zikr is reading the holy Quran with its correct pronunciation, intonations, and punctuations and understanding its meaning verse by verse, knowing the context of revelation of the verses of the Quran and reading their tafseer and annotated commentary. Zikr also includes, reciting Duas from the Quran and from the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Learning Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his life events for broadening knowledge of Islam and observing good Islamic practice.

#### 4. Ikram-e-Muslim (Reverence of the Faithful)

This consists of Adab or respect; Akhlaq or good manners; knowing and fulfilling the rights and obligations of one Muslim toward another Muslim; and maintaining or restoring friendly ties within and outside one's family, tribe, community, country, and humanity. A Muslim should not bear any envy or grudge against another Muslim and should always be ready to help another Muslim in need or distress.

#### 5. Ikhlas-e-Niyat or sincerity of intention

All good deeds are done to please Allah and not for any worldly recognition or material benefit. Carrying out self-audit of one's actions and activities as a Muslim. Observing good manners and being generous and forgiving toward others. Seeking the pleasure of Allah through continuous monitoring and renewal of good intention and good deeds.

#### 6. Tafriq-e-Waqt for Dawat-e-Tabligh

Taking time out from one's busy life to invite others to follow the path of Islam both by word of mouth and by setting good example from one's best behaviour and honest dealings in the society. Taking the word of God and knowledge of Islam to other Muslims who need this information and invitation, and to display Islam to non-Muslims who have an interest in knowing and learning about Islam.

There is also a 7th point, but it is not as much a part of the Taaleem as the other prescribed six points. This point is Tark-e-La-Maani or abandoning useless pursuits which do not benefit a Muslim in securing his salvation in the hereafter. TJ does not promote monastic or hermit living by giving up on the material side of life, but it places on emphasis on worshipping Allah and living according to the life of the Prophet (PBUH).

To be Continued

## Supreme Court decision of today

### Munir M Hasan, PhD

The Supreme Court of Pakistan today (Tuesday, 4th April) has given its decision regarding the holding of general elections of the Province of Punjab on 14th of May 2023. This decision is liked by a majority of people of Pakistan.

However, in spite of liking this decision, I feel that it lacks a point which, to me, has made the elections even on the 14th of May doubtful.

Holding of elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the Assembly, is a Constitutional requirement. And if those who are responsible for not making arrangements for holding elections, are negligent in their duties and are unable to hold the elections within the prescribed number of days, on lame excuses, they in fact have committed a serious crime, violating the provision of the Constitution, and are eligible to be tried under the relevant laws.

Secondly, when on the order of the Supreme Court it was decided to hold elections beyond 90 days on the 30th April, the same functionaries did not made arrangements to hold elections on this date, violating the orders of the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court had to extend

the date from 30th April to 14th May. They in fact have committed the crime a second time and had to be tried on the charge of Contempt of Supreme Court. Mentioning the names/designations of those who are responsible for not making arrangements to hold elections, is completely ignored in the decision of the Supreme Court.

In my opinion, those violating the provisions of the Constitution and being guilty of Contempt of Court, are the following persons:

1. Finance Minister for not providing the necessary funds,
2. Defence Minister for not providing the necessary security forces, and
3. Interior Minister for not proving the election staff.

These three persons have already committed crimes mentioned above.

Not punishing them for their crimes is like encouraging them to repeat these crimes one more time. The Supreme Court should have mentioned in the decision their actions as crimes done by them, and called these three persons the very next day (Wednesday, 5th April) for hearing their lame excuses, and should have disqualified them the same day, from holding a public office. As it has not been done, the holding of election on 14th of May is once again in danger.

# Israeli police break into Al-Aqsa Mosque, forcefully remove Muslim worshippers, dozens injured and detained

Wafa

JERUSALEM: Israeli police early this morning and last night broke into Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem to forcefully remove hundreds of Palestinian worshippers who were holding an all-night Ramadan prayer vigil at the Muslim holy compound.

Witnesses and medics said the Israeli police used excessive force to remove the worshippers who closed the gates to the Qibli building in the compound to prevent the police from entering it.

However, the police shot tear gas into the building after breaking windows causing serious suffocation cases.

Medics said they were prevented by the police from entering the compound to help the worshippers, many of whom were detained while others were beaten and forced to leave the walled compound.

The Israeli police removed the Muslim worshippers in order to prepare



the way for Jewish fanatics to storm the holy compound in the morning.

The fanatics intend to sacrifice offerings at the Muslim holy place as Jews mark the Passover holiday, which starts tonight.

As a result of this call, Palestinians have called on Muslims to remain at Al-Aqsa Mosque to prevent the fanatics from desecrating the site, which according to the decades-old status quo is a Muslim-only worship area.



## Arab League Council calls on UN to halt Israel's aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque

Wafa

CAIRO : The Arab League Council today called on the United Nations (UN) and its Security Council to halt the Israeli occupation aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

During an extraordinary session at the level of permanent representatives in Cairo, the Council of the League of Arab States urged the UN and the Security Council (UNSC) to uphold their legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities towards the aggression against the mosque compound ensure international protection for the Palestinian people and safeguard their right to freedom of worship.

Discussion in the session focused on the sacrilegious Israeli attacks against the mosque compound and affirmed that such attacks constitute a flagrant and condemnable violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

Discussion also tackled the actions that should be taken at the Arab and international levels to confront the brutal Israeli crimes and attacks on the lives of the Palestinian people and their sanctities in the occupied city of Jerusalem.

In the final communiqué, the Council condemned the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against defenseless worshippers in the mosque, which alarmingly escalated during the past days of Rama-

dan fasting month and resulted in hundreds of injuries and arrests and caused considerable destruction in the mosque.

It expressed rejection and condemnation of all forms of Israeli violations against the holy sites and attempts aimed at altering the historical and legal status quo in and spatially and temporally divide the mosque compound, the attempts to control the administration of the Jordanian Islamic Endowment Department, assault and obstruct the work of its employees, in addition to the attempts to impose Israeli law on the mosque.

It held Israel, the occupying power, responsible for the outcomes of these crimes and

measures that undermine freedom of worship in Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city of Jerusalem, which constitute flagrant violations of United Nations resolutions, international law and international humanitarian law.

It affirmed Palestinian Muslims and Christians' right to safe, unimpeded and unrestricted access to their places of worship. The Council warned that these attacks and crimes are a flagrant provocation to the feelings of believers everywhere, and threaten to ignite a spiral of violence that threatens security and stability in the region and the world.

It stressed the importance of Jordan's historical custodi-

anship over the Islamic and Christian holy places in the city of Jerusalem, and its role in protecting them and safeguarding the legal and historical status quo while emphasizing that the Jordan-run Islamic Endowments Department is the only entity authorized to manage all the affairs of the mosque compound. It as well called for the implementation of Palestine-related decisions issued by the Executive Council of UNESCO and its World Heritage Committee, which confirmed that the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, with its entire area of 144 dunums, is a pure place of worship for Muslims only, and an integral part of the world cultural heritage sites.

*NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker strongly condemn brutal attack on Muslim worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque and by extremist Hindus in India*



ABC

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani strongly condemned the attack on Muslim worshippers by brutal Israeli forces in Al-Aqsa Mosque and the attack of extremist Hindus on Muslim worshippers in Eight Indian states.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that these atrocious attack on Muslim worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque during the holy month of Ramadan is tantamount to gross violation of basic human rights. He also sought the attention International humans' Rights organisation to take cognizance of these gross violation of basic human rights in India.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured as a result of the attack by Israeli forces in Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Speaker also said The attack by extremist Hindus on Muslim worshippers in eight states of India is condemned in every sense of word. He said that The Parliament and people of Pakistan express full solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Muslim community in India.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani said that OIC needs to take immediate notice against atrocities against Muslims in Al-Aqsa Mosque and Indian states. He also said that the international community should take notice of the atrocities committed against Muslim worshippers in Palestine and Indian states. He added, "The world must break the silence on the violence and atrocities against Muslims in Al-Aqsa Mosque and Indian states."

## Iran hails Mauritania's support for Palestine

News Desk

TEHRAN :The foreign minister of Iran praised the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for supporting the Palestinian cause.

In a meeting with Mauritania's Minister of Islamic Affairs Dah Ould Sidi Ould Amar Taleb, held in Tehran on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian congratulated the African country's government and people on the holy month of Ramadan.

Amirabdollahian also thanked Mauritania for participating in the International Exhibition of the Holy Quran in Iran. He also extended warm greetings on behalf of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Mauritanian Presi-



dent Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.

The Iranian foreign minister further hailed Mauritania's government and people for their support for the Palestinian cause.

The Mauritanian minister, for his part, conveyed warm greetings to the Iranian president and people on behalf of his country's high-ranking officials.

He said Mauritania welcomes the agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, expressing hope that the people of both countries as well as regional and Muslim nations would benefit from the blessings of this deal.

He also praised Iran's support for the Palestinian people and said the Palestinian issue is not exclusively about the people of Palestine, but is related to the entire Muslim community.

## Arabian Travel Market

# World leaders to shape the future of sustainable tourism at ATM 2023

DUBAI: Travel professionals and policymakers from across the globe will explore how the tourism sector is "Working Towards Net Zero" at the 30th edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), which will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from Monday 1 to Thursday 4 May 2023.

The four-day event will feature over 150 speakers across 63 sessions, as policymakers and industry figures from around the world outline how they are working to drive decarbonisation within the sector. Ministers from the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Jamaica and Spain will join a host of senior figures from the private sector to showcase sustainable innovations, share knowledge and best practice, and explore opportunities and challenges along the road to net zero.

Exhibitor participation in ATM 2023 will be 27% higher than last year, with growth across all show sectors. These include regional upticks for the Middle East (15.1% larger), Europe (30.9% larger), Asia (18.6% larger) and Africa (44.7% larger), as well as representation from Travel Tech and hotels, which has expanded by 57.9% and 23.5%, respectively.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Trav-

el Market, said: "We intend to use the 30th edition of ATM to address one of the most significant challenges facing our sector, in line with our theme of 'Working Towards Net Zero'. Increased participation in this year's show not only reflects the seriousness with which global tourism professionals and policymakers are taking sustainability, but also rising demand for leisure and business travel across the Middle East and beyond."

ATM 2023 will host an array of regional policymakers, including HE Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy; Hoor Al Khaja, Associate Vice President of International Operations at Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET); Mahmood Khaleel Ahmed Al Sayed Alhashmi, Director General of Ajman Department of Tourism Development; Sujit Mohanty, Chief of UNDRR for Arab States; HE Fatima Al Sairafi, Bahrain's Minister of Tourism; HE Salem bin Mohammed Al Mahrooqi, Oman's Minister of Heritage and Tourism; and HE Nayef Al Fayed, Jordan's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities.

This year's show will also feature a raft of private-sector leaders, including Sir Tim Clark

KBE, President of Emirates; Kim Hardaker, VP Loyalty & Partnerships at Etihad; Brian Moran, Vice President - Global Sustainability Policy & Partnerships at Boeing; Mohamed Abdalla Al Zaabi, Group CEO of Miral; Jerry Inzerillo, CEO of Diriyah Gate; Robert Willock, Director MENA & Regional General Manager at The Economist Intelligence Corporate Network; Jochem-Jan Sleiffer, President, Middle East, Africa & Türkiye at Hilton; Haitham Mattar, Managing Director of IHG Hotels & Resorts; Sandeep Walia, Chief Operations Officer - Middle East at Marriott; Timothy James Cordon, Chief Operating Officer - Middle East & Africa at Radisson Hotel Group; Guy Hutchinson, President and CEO at Rotana Hotel Management Corporation; and others.

Speakers will address a broad range of sector-critical issues throughout the four days of the event, exploring a variety of approaches, policies and technologies with the potential to shape an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable travel sector for future generations.

"We are delighted that such a diverse selection of ministerial and industry speakers will be joining us for the 30th edition of



ATM 2023," said Curtis. "We look forward to learning how they are working to achieve net zero within their respective tourism markets, as our industry comes together to showcase the cutting-edge innovations and solutions that are driving the next generation of sustainable travel in the Middle East and beyond."

In total, ATM 2023 will feature more than 2,000 exhibitors and in excess of 34,000 attendees from over 150 countries. To mark the 30th edition, Curtis and her team will unveil a dedicated sustainability pledge that has been designed to reinforce RX's commitment to the delivery of sustainable events. In addition to setting out the ATM's journey towards net zero, this pledge will be supplemented by a

new playbook that will offer participants a framework within which to mitigate their environmental impact before, during and after the show, while offering an operational guide for ATM as it works towards net zero by 2030.

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

To supplement ATM 2023's sustainable theme, the Global Stage will host a range of sessions focused on pivotal industry issues such as hotels and hospitality, aviation and transport, MICE

and business travel, investment, responsible tourism, workforce diversification, and emerging sectors such as attractions, cruises, wellness and cultural tourism. This year's show will also see the return of the ATM Travel Tech Stage, which will showcase how cutting-edge innovations including artificial intelligence, the metaverse, cryptocurrency and big data are driving environmentally responsible tourism.

ATM's brand-new Sustainability Hub, meanwhile, will feature sessions dedicated to the latest sustainable travel trends and innovations. It will also offer the backdrop for the ATM 2023 Startup Competition, an event hosted by conference partner Plug and Play that will see entrepreneurs

go head-to-head in a 'Sustainable Tech Pitch Battle'.

Additional highlights will include the International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM) Arabia, as well as sessions from the International Tourism & Investment Conference (ITIC), the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA). Other highlights include sessions focused on the key markets of India, China and the GCC, as well as informal speed networking.

The 30th edition of the show aims to explore how innovative sustainable travel trends are likely to evolve, allowing delegates to identify growth strategies within key vertical sectors, while providing a platform for regional experts to explore a sustainable future ahead of COP28, which will take place in November 2023 at Expo City Dubai.

ATM 2023 is held in conjunction with Dubai World Trade Centre and its strategic partners include Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) as the Destination Partner, Emirates as the Official Airline Partner, IHG Hotels & Resorts as the Official Hotel Partner and Al Rais Travel as the Official DMC Partner.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
39,717.15	39,687.26
Day's High	Day's Low:
39,910.05	39,664.98
Index Value	Change
2,040,169,658	+29.89
Percentage	Time
-0.08%	5 Apr, 2023 1:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,662.94	+28.42
Percentage	Time
+0.37%	5 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,449.19	+46.81
Percentage	Time
+0.14%	5 Apr, 1:38 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,813.26	-474.16
Percentage	Time
-1.68%	5 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193	195
Bahrain Dinar	764.95	772.95
Canadian Dollar	212.5	214.5
China Yuan	41.8	42.2
Danish Krone	42.29	42.69
Euro	314.5	317.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.64	36.99
Indian Rupee	3.5	3.61
Japanese Yen	2.3	2.35
Kuwaiti Dinar	938.25	947.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.26	65.86
New Zealand \$	181.31	183.31
Norwegians Krone	27.9	28.2
Omani Riyal	746.99	754.99
Qatari Riyal	77.87	78.57
Saudi Riyal	77.2	78
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	27.96	28.26
Swiss Franc	317.09	319.59
Thai Bhat	8.44	8.59
U.A.E Dirham	78.5	79.2
UK Pound Sterling	359	362.5
US Dollar	289.5	292

**Meta and Poynter partner to provide fact-checking course for journalists**

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Meta has partnered with the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) at the nonprofit Poynter Institute, to create a free introductory fact-checking course serving journalists in the Asia Pacific region, including Pakistan.

Composed of three modules focusing on fact-checking, verification and debunking and health mis- and disinformation, the course will prime journalists on how to find fact-checkable claims, the methodology for fact-checking and tools and techniques to assist in their journey.

This self-paced course is currently available in 15 languages, including English and Urdu, and is designed to be completed in 2 to 3 hours. Journalists, academics and aspiring fact-checkers throughout the region are encouraged to participate. All participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate honoring their commitment to improving the global information ecosystem.

"Fact checking is an essential pillar of our work to address misinformation at Meta, and we believe upskilling people in Asia Pacific with courses like this, is critical to help develop and strengthen the entire system," said Aya Lowe, Meta's Integrity Partnerships Manager for the Asia Pacific region. "By partnering with Meta and offering this free fact-checking course to journalists, the IFCN is taking a crucial step in empowering individuals with the necessary tools to combat misinformation and strengthen journalistic excellence in the Asia-Pacific region," said Interim Director of the IFCN Ferdi Özsoy.

Meta and the IFCN are key partners that work together to support the information ecosystem through Meta's Third Party Fact-Checking Program. These programs support journalists, and strengthen and boost the credibility of fact-checkers in the fight against misinformation in the Asia Pacific region. In Pakistan, Meta's fact-checking partners are AFP and SOCH Fact Check, independently verified by IFCN.

To take the course in Urdu, please visit: <https://www.poynter.org/courses/fact-checking-fundamentals-urdu>

**Dar chairs 6th meeting of NTC**

**Commerce desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired 6th meeting of National Tax Council. Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Finance Minister Balochistan, S.M Ahsen Tanveer, Minister for Industries Punjab, Himayatullah Khan, Adviser to the CM KP on Finance, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Special Secretary Finance, Chairman FBR, Provincial Finance Secretaries and other senior officers from Finance Division and FBR attended the meeting.

The meeting considered and approved the recommendations of Executive Committee of the NTC dated 28.03.2023, regarding draft



Place of Provision of Service Rules, which is a major milestone towards GST harmonization across the country.

The approval will help achieve the prior actions for the World Bank funded RISE program.

The NTC decided with the consensus that the Place of Provision of Service Rules will take effect from May 1, 2023 after approval by the respective provincial cabinets.

However, exclusion of electric power transmission from the list of goods by FBR, for which Sales Tax Act is required to be amended through Finance Bill, will take effect from July 1, 2023.

In conclusion, Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar appreciated the stakeholders for building consensus and for settlement of the harmonization of GST in the country.

**Oil importing nations will have to raise interest rates: Mian Zahid Hussain**

**Tariq Khattk**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said oil-producing countries have decided to reduce oil production to increase their profits.

The decision will make oil more expensive and inflation will increase in the whole world including Pakistan, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that rich countries are plunging the world into a new crisis to acquire additional wealth.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Russia has recently announced a reduction in oil production by 500,000 barrels with the aim of increasing its profits, providing resources for war, and punishing countries working against it.

Soon after Russia, OPEC Plus also announced a reduction in oil production of more than one million barrels per day, which will increase inflation and people's



problems all over the world and further reduce global growth.

The move will also undermine global efforts to reduce inflation, he said, adding that according to an estimate, reducing production by oil-producing countries may increase the price of oil per barrel by up to ten dollars, which will increase the burden on oil-importing countries.

The business leader noted that by the end of this year, the price of oil will be 95 dollars, while in 2024 it will increase to

100 dollars.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that inflation had started to decrease in many countries and the people were breathing a sigh of relief but the oil-producing countries had taken a unilateral decision that surprised the world.

As oil becomes more expensive, inflation will increase, bond markets and currencies of many countries will be affected, and many countries, including the United States and Europe, will have to raise interest rates further.

He said that the recent one percent increase in the interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan will increase the base interest rate to 21 percent and the bank spread to 25 percent, which will make it impossible to do business.

Businesses will start going bankrupt while bank loans in the industry, business, home finance, and car leasing, etc. will be stuck.

To get out of this difficult situation, Pakistan will have to develop its agriculture and make rapid progress on solar and wind power to reduce the oil import bill, he said.

**Shopping**

RAWALPINDI: A large number of people are busy in shopping at Bara Market as people start preparation for the Eid-ul-Fitr in City.



Photo: Online

**Govt. working hard to put economy back on track: Baligh ur Rehman**



**Tariq Khattk**

ISLAMABAD: The economy of Pakistan was achieving good growth in 2013 and work on CPEC projects was going well, but after 2018, the work on CPEC projects slowed down due to which the economy suffered. However, the current government is working hard to put the economy back on track in order to stabilize it. The opening of Khunjar Pass is a good sign for a better economic future of Pakistan. This was said by Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Governor Punjab while addressing an iftar dinner hosted by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in his honor. Many dignitaries including Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Chairman NA Standing Committee on Finance & Revenue, former Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia attended the iftar dinner.

Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman said that

the business community has a key role in the economic development of the country and the government is determined to support them. He said that countries are run through taxes and lauded the role of the business community in paying taxes and contributing towards the welfare activities to help the poor and needy.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI is working for a new industrial zone in the region and the Punjab Government should cooperate in identifying a suitable land for this important project to promote industrialization. He said that the pace of work on IJP Road should be expedited for its timely completion. He said that Rawalpindi Ring Road is very important to address the traffic congestion issues in the twin cities and stressed that the Punjab Government should expedite this important project.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President, ICCI

said that Pakistan needs to boost exports to improve its forex reserves, but the SBP has further increased interest rate to taking it to 21 percent that would create more problems for industrial sector and urged that the SBP should reduce interest rate to facilitate the private sector.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the private sector is the backbone of the economy and the government should engage it in consultation for revival of the economy that would yield win-win outcomes.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Chairman NA Standing Committee on Finance & Revenue, former Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia, Muhammad Ahmed President Islamabad Industrial Association, Khalid Iqbal Malik and Zafar Bakhtawari former Presidents ICCI also addressed the Iftar Dinner.

**Zong4G and Shaukat Khanum's Partnership**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication company, has recently partnered with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) to launch an SMS Broadcast campaign aimed at creating cancer awareness and for encouraging donations from people to support the cancer patients.

The campaign started on the first day of Ramadan and lasted almost a week, reaching over 45 million people across Pakistan.

Interested individuals can donate by sending an SMS to 7770 for only Rs. 20+tax.

SKMCH & RC, a leading cancer treatment and research institution in Pakistan, provides state-of-the-art facilities to patients nationwide. The hospital

relies on the generosity of donors to continue its work and provides free treatment to those who cannot afford it.

Tariq Azam from SKMCH & RC expressed gratitude for Zong 4G's commitment to social responsibility during the holy month of Ramadan, calling it a commendable example for corporate entities worldwide.

The SMS Broadcast campaign is just one of many CSR initiatives that Zong 4G has launched in recent years, highlighting the company's strong commitment to supporting social causes and creating a positive impact in the communities it serves.

For more information about the SMS Broadcast campaign and how you can support the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre.

**SECP seeks comments on draft amendments to NBFC Regulations, 2008**

**Commerce desk**

ISLAMABAD: The SECP has proposed amendments in the Non-Banking Finance Companies and Notified Entities Regulations, 2008 to facilitate adoption of new technologies, improve ease of doing business and enhance investor protection. The draft amendments have been placed on SECP's website for public consultation.

The key proposed amendments include provisions to enable the launch of digital fund management, lending, and trustee services. Provisions also include to enable Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to promptly notify unitholders of account activity and maintain confidentiality of client information. Redundant and superfluous provisions were also

removed. Additionally, the 100% equity cap on total unsecured exposure has been eliminated. Lending NBFCs that have recently received licenses have been given a year to meet the minimum investment requirement in their primary business. Investment Advisors can now provide portfolio management services to all investors in accordance with global best practices, as are countries like Canada, India, and Malaysia. The deadline for submitting CEO applications has been increased from 10 to 30 days.

Furthermore, enabling provisions have been introduced to allow certain financial institutions to distribute units of CIS/VPS without obtaining a license, subject to compliance with S&FA Regulations.

**Sastaticket.pk offers consumers a range of opportunities**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Sastaticket.pk, one of the leading e-ticketing platforms in Pakistan, is proud to offer consumers a range of opportunities and benefits when booking their travel and event tickets online, including tickets for airlines such as AirSial, SereneAir, Air Blue and Saudi Airlines.

With the growing popularity of e-ticketing platforms in recent years, Sastaticket.pk has emerged as a preferred choice for consumers, offering them easy and convenient booking, a wide range of tick-

et options, competitive pricing, real-time updates, and secure and safe transactions. "At Sastaticket.pk, our mission is to empower our customers to travel, experience, and connect. We are committed to offering our customers a seamless booking experience with a range of opportunities and benefits that cater to their unique needs. From competitive prices to personalized recommendation, we strive to exceed our customers' expectations and deliver exceptional service every step of the way," said Shazil Mehkri, CEO at Sastaticket.pk

# MCC awards Mohammad Hafeez with Honorary Life Membership

By A Sports -

LONDON: Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez was named in the list of renowned men and women cricketers, awarded with honorary life membership by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) on Wednesday.

Taking to Twitter, Hafeez expressed his gratitude to MCC for awarding him with honorary membership and acknowledging his services for the sport.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to @MCCOfficial honouring life membership acknowledging my services to this beautiful game of cricket. Looking forward to meet new friends & add value as member of MCC," wrote Hafeez.

Besides Hafeez, England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan and five Indian players including legendary



skipper MS Dhoni were also acknowledged by the MCC.

Guy Lavender, Chief Executive & Secretary of MCC, said: "We are thrilled to be able to announce our newest cohort of Honorary Life Members of MCC, as we prepare for the new international summer.

"The names that have been announced today are some of the greatest international players of modern times, and we are privileged to now count them as valued Members of our Club.

"We are also pleased to be able to announce two individuals who have been awarded this honour for their monumental contributions off the pitch."

It is worth mentioning here that Hafeez represented Pakistan in 218 ODIs, 119 T20Is and 55 Tests. The seasoned all-rounder was also a part of the national squad which won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017.

## First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 continue

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The trials activities for the selection of all divisional teams in connection with upcoming First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 remained continue on Wednesday on the directions of Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail.

It is pertinent to mention here that the First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 will be

organized from April 7 to 11, 2023 in which the competitions of hockey, football, kabaddi, badminton, tape ball cricket and table tennis will be organized.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement on Wednesday said all the Divisional Sports Officers (DSOs) have been issued strict directions to pick their sports teams purely on merit. "Ramzan Sports

Series is a major sports event and there will be no compromise on merit especially in the trials process," he added.

About the significance of Ramzan Sports Series, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that country's leading sports stars will partake in Ramzan Sports Series events. "The participation of top athletes and sports figures in Ramzan Sports Series will definitely be

a great inspiration for emerging athletes and sports lovers as well," he elaborated.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that a large number of athletes are participating in the trials with keen interest. "There is plenty of sports talent in Punjab province in all games and young male and female players are showing marvelous performance in the trials of their respective games."

## Second Mehtab Chawla Floodlights Ramadan Veterans Hockey Tournament starts from April 6

News Desk

KARACHI: The second Mehtab Chawla Floodlights Ramadan Veterans Hockey Tournament will start from April 6 at the Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy. According to Olympian Islahuddin and Chairman of Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy, Olympian Islahuddin, 8 teams are participating in the tournament, including Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club (Green), Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club (White), Nazimabad Mujahid Hockey Club, Noor XI Hockey Club, See Hawks Hockey Club, Baldia Hockey Club, Central Fitness Hockey Club and Karachi Fitness Hockey Club are included.



The opening match of the tournament will be played between Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club (Green) and Nazimabad Mujahid Hockey Club at 11 pm on April 6, the semi-finals of the event will be played on April 8 and the final on April 9.

Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy Vice Chairman Olympian Syed Sameer Hussain

provided kits to the managers of all eight teams on Tuesday and also presided over the manager's meeting. Lataft Hussain Shah has been appointed as the tournament director, while former international Hockey Player Mubasher Mukhtar will be the assistant tournament director, Syed Sagheer Hussain will be the organizing secretary, former umpire Masood ur

Rehman has been appointed as the umpire manager of the event.

Tariq Khan, Farhan Ahmed and Mohammad Wahid Hussain are included in the technical officials while Nadeem Saeed, Uzeer Ahmed, Umair Ahmed and Talha Ghori have been appointed as umpiring. Olympian Samir Hussain told all the managers that there will be no compromise on discipline and all the teams should also ensure that their players are not less than 40 years of age.

He said that the duration of the matches will be 40 minutes consist of four quarters of 10 minutes each. On this occasion, for late Mehtab Chawla

Prayers for forgiveness were also offered.

## Pakistan-born pacer spearheading USA's World Cup assault

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The plaudits continue to roll in for quick Ali Khan after the Pakistan-born pacer picked up a seven-wicket haul to help USA defeat Jersey on Tuesday and keep their dreams alive of featuring at this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Khan used his sheer pace and ability to bowl fast yorkers to tear through the Jersey batting line-up and collect sensational figures of 7/32 from 9.4 overs as the USA booked their place at June's Qualifier tournament and moved one step closer to claiming a place at this year 50-over World Cup, the ICC reported on its website on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old picked up five wickets alone during a blistering opening spell at the United Cricket Club Ground and then returned at the death when his team needed him most to wrap



up the Jersey tail just when they threatened to claim an unlikely victory.

Khan's haul was the seventh best figures achieved in Men's ODI cricket, with Sri Lanka great Chaminda Vaas the only bowler to have previously taken more than seven wickets in a 50-over ODI contest.

It also helped Khan catapult to the top of the list of wicket-takers at the Qualifier Play-off, with the dynamic right-arm now having taken 16 scalps at the event as a miserly average of just 12.37 from five matches.

That's four more wickets than any other bowler at the event, with Papua New Guinea pacer Semo Kamea (12 wickets) and fellow American Nisarg Patel (11) the only other players to have claimed more than 10 wickets heading into the final matchday on Wednesday.

Khan is a relatively late bloomer in terms of professional cricket, first making waves in American cricket in the mid-2010s. Upon Cricket World Cup League 2 success in 2019, the exciting quick made his ODI debut

for his adopted country of the USA when he featured against Papua New Guinea in 2019.

It has been a long road to the top for the Punjab-born pacer, who only moved to the USA as a teenager and started to display his capabilities in various T20 leagues around the world last decade when turning out alongside the likes of Adam Zampa, Martin Guptill and Chris Lynn when playing for the Guyana Amazon Warriors in the Caribbean Premier League last decade.

But it seems we are only going to see more of the exciting fast bowler, who will now be expected to spearhead USA's assault on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tournament in Zimbabwe during June and July, where the emerging cricketing country will get the chance to battle it out for a place in the 10-team event that is scheduled for the end of the year.

## Mushfiqur ton, bowling attack gives Bangladesh edge in Ireland Test



Spokesman Report

DHAKA: Bangladeshi left-arm spin duo Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul Islam made quick work of Ireland's top order on Wednesday to leave the tourists flailing at 27-4 on day two of their one-off Test in Dhaka.

Mushfiqur Rahman's knock of 126 put the hosts on the front foot after early wobbles in the first innings and the hosts were still 128 runs ahead at stumps.

Andy McBrine claimed 6-118, becoming only the second Irish bowler to take five Test wickets, to help close out the first innings in the final session.

But Ireland's batsmen spoiled his party with four quick wickets before the day was done of the event.

Murray Commins (1), James McCollum (0), Andy Balbirnie (3) and Curtis Campher (1) wilted in front of Taijul and Shakib, who claimed 2-7 and 2-11 respectively.

Herry Tector was batting on eight alongside Peter Moor, 10 not out at the end of play to leave Ireland staring at the prospect of an innings defeat.

Bangladesh resumed on 34-2 and looked shaky after losing Mominul Haque, bowled round his legs for 17, in the third over of the morning.

But Shakib and Mushfiqur turned up the aggression to quickly claw back the deficit with a 159-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Shakib was at his mercurial best until he chased a ball from McBrine wide outside the off stump to get a feather touch on the bat.

He was caught behind after an impressive 14 fours from his 94-ball knock. Liton Das joined Mushfiqur to continue on the front foot, adding 87 runs for the fifth wicket.

Mushfiqur finished his hundred from 135 balls with a four off Mark Adair before Ben White dismissed Liton for 43 runs.

McBrine finally dispatched Mushfiqur — with Commins taking a fine diving catch at long-on — and cut short the tail with three wickets in three consecutive overs.

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

## How much salary has Saudi club Al Hilal offered to Messi?

Saudi Pro League club Al Hilal on Tuesday offered Paris Saint-Germain star Lionel Messi a salary of more €400m a year which could make him the highest-paid footballer.

However, Messi's priority is to continue in Europe for the foreseeable future despite the massive offer made to him, said renowned journalist Fabrizio Romano.

If Messi signs with the Saudi Arabian club, it will make him the highest-paid footballer player in the world surpassing legendary Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo currently sits at the top of the list after he signed for Al Nassr last year in a deal believed to be worth more than €200m.

It must be noted that Messi is "much more likely" to leave PSG at the end of the season than sign a new deal, a source close to the club told a news agency on Tuesday.

"The dynamics have completely changed with PSG less pushing to renew (his contract)," the source said, adding that there was "no deal, no exit yet. But exit is much more likely."

## DG Sports Punjab visited the CCTV control room



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Deputy Director Tariq Wattoo and Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmed briefed Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail about the working and functions of different departments.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was briefed that foolproof security is being provided in all parts of Nishtar Park Sports Complex through CCTV control room. "Nishtar Park Sports Complex has the top standard security arrangements and best security measures will be made for the upcoming Ramzan Sports Series, T20 cricket series and other sports events."

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail also visited the newly constructed hostel at the National Hockey Stadium and inspected the available facilities there. "Top class facilities have been provided in the new hostel. The construction of the new hostel is definitely a great facility for all visiting squads for participation in different sports events."

## Hasan Ali joins Warwickshire for County Championship 2023



By A Sports -

KARACHI: Pakistan's experienced right-arm pacer Hasan Ali joined Warwickshire County Cricket Club for the upcoming season of the County Cricket Championship 2023.

Taking to Twitter, Warwickshire CCC announced the arrival of lanky pacer Hasan.

"I've arrived. You Bears," wrote Warwickshire as they shared a picture of Hasan holding a phone.

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

The right-arm pacer represented Lancashire in the previous edition of the County Championship and cherished the opportunity to play alongside seasoned pacer James Anderson.

## Iran women football team defeats Myanmar



IRNA

TEHRAN: Iran's women's football team beat Myanmar 1-0 in Group B of the 2024 Paris Olympic Women's Football Tournament Asian Zone Qualifiers.

Afsaneh Chatreanor found the back of the net for Iran in the 52nd minute of the match against Myanmar.

Myanmar is hosting the 2024 Paris Olympic women's football tournament in the first round of the Asian zone qualifiers.

Host Myanmar was in the first stage of Group B of the 2024 Paris Olympic Women's Football Tournament Asian Zone Qualifiers with Iran, Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh and the Moldovan teams withdrew from the tournament, the host Myanmar and Iran will continue to compete.

Myanmar and Iran will compete in two matches as the home and away matches system.

## Pakistan lose in AFC's Qualifiers opener



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Philippines downed Pakistan by 4-0 in the opening game of the AFC's Women's Olympic Qualifiers 2024 at Tajikistan on Wednesday.

According to details received here, in the first half, Hali Long opened the account for the Philippines on the 22nd minute and then Sarina Bolden doubled the lead in the 25th minute.

Maria Khan-led green shirts, tried their best to score a piece but Eva Madarang helped her side complete a hat-trick of goals, providing their side a 3-0 lead.

In the second half, green shirts started the game with high spirits again, but the Philippines players didn't let them play freely rather put them under pressure to add one more goal to their tally through Chandler McDaniel in the 85th minute help their side win the opener by 4-0.

Pakistan Women's Team would play its second game against Hong Kong on April 8.