

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے ہم ایک بے پروا قوم تھی کسی قوم نے ہمیں نہ لگتا جانتے ہیں نہ حساب کرتا۔ ہمیں یوں ہے اور یوں ہے۔ آپ کی مرد ایک مرتبہ ایتس (دونوں سے) تھی اور ایک مرتبہ تیس سے۔ (آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے دسوں انگلیوں سے تین ہارتایا)۔  
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## Mockery is being made with Constitution: PM

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## Pakistan supports trade with China in RMB: Ahsan Iqbal

Pakistan had been a long-time supporter of China's efforts to expand the use of the Renminbi (RMB) as a global currency, said Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal. Talking to China Economic Net (CEN) during his visit to Beijing, he said that recently, China had been ramping up support for RMB clearing and settlement in its foreign trade... (Details on Page 8)

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## Inaugurations

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Islamabad Lawyers Complex on Thursday.



Photo: Online

# Govt to accept decision of full bench of SC: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said the government would accept the decision of the full bench of the Supreme Court in the case for elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Islamabad Lawyers Complex here, he said however, those judges who recused themselves should not be made part of that bench.

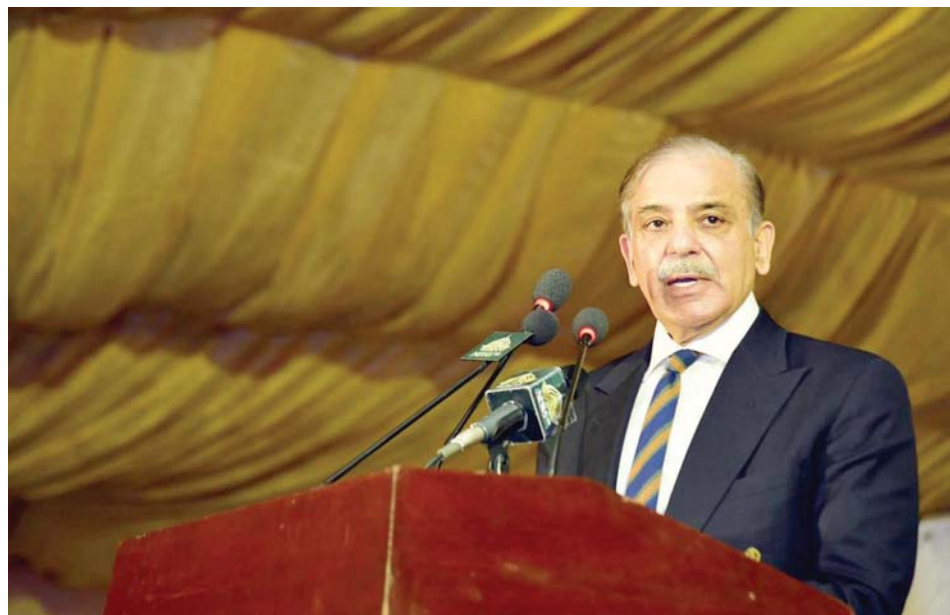
He recalled that Justice Munir was the creator of the principle of necessity which took Pakistan in a certain direction.

He said, "We respect Supreme Court and justices and their decisions should apply to everyone."

Talking about proceedings of the Supreme Court in the case for elections, he mentioned that a nine-member bench was formed which was later shortened to three members as some judges recused.

In the same case, political parties were not made part of the proceedings despite requests, he noted.

Shehbaz Sharif said if the



demand for a full bench of the Supreme Court was accepted in the case for elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa then everybody would have accepted the decision.

He said the decision of Supreme Court Justice Qazi Faez Esa was invalidated through a circular in a case then a six-member larger bench was formed for

the same case. Article 63A of the constitution was rewritten and the appeal filed by the government in the Supreme Court was still not heard, he continued.

He said no political party could evade elections as it would bury its politics.

He said a court verdict was given that a prime minister was nothing without his federal cabinet

but this principle was not applied to others.

He said all the stakeholders should look at their conduct and decide whether they wanted to protect the future of coming generations or they wanted to indulge in fights for their personal interests and take Pakistan in a direction from which nobody could come back.

"We have to protect the future of Pakistan which is faced with many challenges. We should take decisions with a cool head and stay united for the interest of Pakistan."

While expressing happiness at the construction of Lawyers Complex, he said the project would be built at a cost of Rs 1.8 billion.

Earlier, the project was only on paper and nothing was done on it, he told. He directed that a sports complex comprising swimming pools should also be made part of the lawyers complex.

He said lawyers were a prominent section of society and they played an important role for the rule of law, restoration of judiciary, and justice since the creation of Pakistan.

Lawyers bore baton charge and physical violence as they held demonstrations and rallies for the restoration of the judiciary, he added.

Earlier, Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah and Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar also spoke and highlighted measures taken for the welfare of lawyers.

## President advises children to work hard for progress, success

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday advised the children to work hard as it was inevitable to achieve progress and success in the life.

The president, addressing an Iftar reception he hosted for the orphan children here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, urged them to inculcate in them the characteristics of compassion, love as well as showing respect to their elders.

He told the gathering that in the Holy Quran, Allah Almighty had asked for treating the orphan children well.

He reiterated that hard work would open up new avenues for progress in their practical lives.

Drawing a similarity with Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), the president said the Holy Prophet had also lost his father in his childhood.

He also cited a Quranic verse saying, "Did He not find you an orphan and give [you] refuge? referring to the orphanhood of the Holy Prophet in the childhood."

The president, who mixed up with the children told them



that the Presidency was actually belonged to them as he was there for a specified term.

Earlier, in his address, Chairman of Pakistan Orphans Care Forum Abdul Shakoor told the gathering that 15th of Ramazan was observed as Orphans Day.

He said around 18 welfare organisations were supporting the education, health, food and other needs of over four million orphan children across Pakistan.

He also called for the coordinate efforts at government and national level to support the orphan children in their upbringing and providing them maximum opportunities to excel in their respective lives.

## US Ambassador calls on Finance Minister



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome Thursday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The minister, during the meeting, spoke about the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts, said a news release.

Finance Minister Dar briefed the envoy about the country's economic outlook and the challenges being faced by it.

He shared the pragmatic policy decisions being taken by the government in order to arrest the economic decline and to steer the economy

towards a positive trajectory leading to economic stability and growth.

The finance minister also informed the envoy on the progress in talks held with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and reiterated the commitment of the government to complete the programme.

Donald Blome on the occasion expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government being taken for the economic sustainability of the country and the socio-economic uplift of the masses.

He extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between both countries.

## Martyr Sepoy Hamid Rasool laid to rest with full military honour

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The funeral prayers of Sepoy Hamid Rasool, who embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Shin Warsak, South Waziristan District, was laid to rest in his hometown Jaswal, Rawalpindi district with full military honours on Thursday.

His funeral prayers were initially offered at the Frontier Corps (FC) Headquarters, Wana and subsequently in his hometown, which were attended by senior serving and retired officers and soldiers, including the injured comrades of the same operation, relatives and a large number of people from civil society, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

## Bilawal, Asif Zardari reach Islamabad to chalk out 'next plan of action'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) top leadership Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari has reached Islamabad to chalk out 'next plan of action' following the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict, nullifying Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) order to postpone Punjab elections.

Sources told that Bilawal Bhutto has summoned the PPP's top leadership for consultation on the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict nullifying Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) order to postpone Punjab elections on May 14.

The PPP leadership will take party into confidence regarding the decisions taken during meeting of coalition parties.

The party leadership will also consider to summon central executive



committee (CEC) or core committee meeting. The consultative meeting will also chalk out the future plan of action.

A day earlier, the federal government 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.

The decision was taken during a meeting of leaders of all coalition

parties, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

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).

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).

## NSC likely to take important decisions today

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) tomorrow (Friday) amid ongoing political, economic and terrorism challenges, ARY News reported on Thursday citing sources.

Sources privy to the matter told ARY News that the prime minister has convened NSC meeting at PM House on Friday. "The NSC huddle would be briefed on the recent terror wave in Pakistan, sources say. The high-level huddle would be attended by the defence, interior ministers, other cabinet members and services chiefs."

Pakistan has recently witnessed a rise in terror incidents in Balochistan, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

## Imran Khan says 'PDM wants to get out of elections'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has said that "it is now clear what wants - any which way to get out of elections."

While slamming the rulers, Imran Khan wrote on Twitter, "They brought in an unconstitutional bill on SC [Supreme Court] & an NA [National Assembly] resolution against judiciary. Now tomorrow an NSC meeting is called to try & use security as pretext for postponement of elections. This will pit armed forces directly against not just judiciary but also the nation."

Condemning Ali Amin Gandapur's arrest, Khan tweeted, "Today complete law of the jungle prevails in Pak. PDM & handlers have a one point agenda - that is to go after

PTI workers & leadership. It was decided preemptively to arrest Ali Amin Gandapur despite bails. But they will still be decimated in the elections InshaAllah."

Yesterday, Khan said 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."

## Iftar-Dinner

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to orphan children from different organizations at the Iftar Dinner hosted by him on the occasion of Orphans Day, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.



Photo: APP

## 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.

## ECP issues code of conduct for Punjab, NA by-polls

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday has issued a code of conduct for political parties and candidates contesting Punjab Assembly and subsequent by-elections in different National Assembly constituencies.

According to the details, all candidates shall open an exclusive account with any branch of a scheduled bank for election-related expenses.

No candidate or party will be able to campaign at the public's expense. Candidates will not be able to use posters larger than 18x23 inches and



portraits larger than 2x3 feet.

Moreover, the pamphlet size has been fixed at 9x6 inches, and the banner size at 3x9

feet. It is also mandatory to print the name and address of the printer of pamphlets and banners.

The code has also made it mandatory for candidates to avoid the use of verses and hadiths on banners and posters.

Wall chalking, panaflex, and billboards will be completely banned, and photos of government officials cannot be used in the election campaign.

There will also be a ban on hoisting party flags at public places and government buildings, and meetings and processions can only be organised at the designated places of the local administration.

The candidates will be bound to fix the route of the rally with the local administration, and there will be a

prohibition on burning effigies and flags of opposition leaders and parties. There will be a ban on divisive and hate speech as well.

The candidates and polling agents are bound to cooperate with the election staff, and the polling agent must have the authority letter and original identity card with them.

According to the code, the candidates and political parties could not provide transport facilities to voters, and election camps in urban areas will be 400 meters away from the polling station. In rural areas, electoral camps can be set up at a limit of 100 metres.

## Pakistan supports trade with China in RMB: Ahsan Iqbal

## Monitoring Desk

BELJING: Pakistan had been a long-time supporter of China's efforts to expand the use of the Renminbi (RMB) as a global currency, said Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

Talking to China Economic Net (CEN) during his visit to Beijing, he said that recently, China had been ramping up support for RMB clearing and settlement in its foreign trade, especially with Belt and Road Initiative countries and Pakistan was one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement.

## D I Khan: PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur surrenders to police

## Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Amin Gandapur surrendered himself to the police outside the Peshawar High Court Dera Bench building here on Thursday evening.

A heavy contingent of police led by District Police Officer Dera Rauf Qaisrani and a van of prisoners were present outside the High Court building as the former federal minister had arrived along with his lawyer to move the court of law against his possible arrest by the police.

The police team headed by District Police Officer (DPO) Dera shifted Ali Amin Gandapur to an unknown location.

Earlier in the day, Ali Amin Gandapur's lawyer Ghulam Muhammad Sappal told media that Ali Amin Gandapur had been granted protective bail till April 8 by the Peshawar High Court Dera Bench on March 22 in the case of scuffle and firing with the police in Bhakkar district of Punjab. He has to appear in court on April 12.

Further he said his client appeared in the sessions court on Thursday to get BBA (pre-arrest bail), adding Ali Amin



Gandapur's protective bonds had been approved in all cases in the Sessions Court.

"When we came out of the courtroom, the doors of the session court were closed and the police were there to arrest Ali Amin Gandapur," the lawyer said.

Mr. Sappal said that after approaching the Sessions Judge again who sought an explanation from the DPO and it was informed they had received directives from high ups for arresting the PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur.

After that he had immediately submitted an application in the Peshawar High

Court Dera Bench that the police should tell how many and which cases there were registered against Ali Amin.

While before arrest, Ali Amin Gandapur alleged that police were bent upon arresting him despite the fact that he had got protective bails from the court of law in all cases against him.

He said that his lawyers asked for the details of the FIRs against him in Islamabad and Dera Ismail Khan and the session court was approached and obtained a bail. He said that he had trust in the courts that was why he was appearing in all cases.

## Meeting held to review security arrangements for Youm-e-Ali

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: An important meeting regarding the security of Youm-e-Ali, marking the commemoration of the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Ali (AS), was held at Karachi Police Office, on Thursday, presided over by Additional Inspector General-Karachi Javed Alam Odho.

The meeting was attended by scholars, organizers of processions and Majalis, and others concerned representative, according to a spokesman for Karachi Police.

The meeting reviewed and discussed the security arrangements in detail for the day. Zonal DIGPs, DIGP - Traffic, District SSPs, and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The scholars and organizers of the

processions appreciated the previous arrangements and cooperation of the police. They also apprised the city police chief of the issues.

The additional IGP - Karachi issued instructions to the officers concerned to coordinate with district administration to resolve the issues.

He issued orders to make the security foolproof and ensure the security of scholars on the occasion of Youm-e-Ali.

Meanwhile, Javed Alam Odho directed to form a committee consisting of police officers who would coordinate with the district administration to resolve the problems being faced by the scholars and organizers of processions.

The Karachi Police Chief also assured full cooperation to the organizers of processions.

## NA Speaker, Deputy Speaker pay tribute to security personnel

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durani on Thursday paid tribute to the security personnel who successfully conducted operations against terrorists in North Waziristan.

Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker NA expressed their deep sorrow for the loss of lives of the brave security personnel during the operation and offered their heartfelt condolences to their families. They also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured personnel.

They emphasized that the entire nation stands with its security forces

in its fight against terrorism and that the sacrifices of these brave men and women in the war against terror could never be forgotten.

They noted that the terrorists engaged in the bid to establish their evil agenda of the enemy must be dealt with iron hand.

The Speaker, meanwhile, extended his sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and expressed his admiration and respect for the martyred officials who made the ultimate sacrifice for the defense of the country.

"May Allah Almighty grant the martyred officials a high rank in Jannah and give patience and solace to their families during this difficult time," he prayed.

## IHC extends Imran's bail in eight cases

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has extended the bail of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan in eight cases till April 18.

As per details, the Islamabad high court also accepted PTI chief Imran Khan's exemption plea.

The Advocate General asked the court if Imran Khan did not appear before the court at the next hearing how will the court proceed then.

The Chief Justice Islamabad High Court remarked that the petitioner has to appear before the court to file the bail petition but if he did not appear before the court then action will be taken against him as per the law. The court does not want to confine him by mentioning this in the order, CJ added.

The IHC Chief Justice asked if the security is beefed up after the analysis of the threat by the Assessment Committee. He said that the IG Islamabad gave him a bulletproof vehicle but he refused.

He maintained that a notification regarding PTI chairman Imran Khan's full proof security was submitted

in the court but security was not given to him as a former prime minister and it will be considered as taking back his security.

The Additional Attorney General informed the court that IG has the power to increase security so the PTI chief should inform the police before he comes to Islamabad.

Earlier yesterday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) fixed the hearing of eight cases against former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan at 1: 00 pm on Thursday (today).

The LHC also rejected the plea to seeking removal of Imran Khan as the party head. The petition was filed by the provincial president of the ANP, Aimal Wali Khan, in the PHC through Qazi Jawad Ihsan and Muhammad Waqas, Advocate.

The writ petition stated that former prime minister Imran Khan should be disqualified from holding any public office for submitting false statements about his assets.

The petition maintained that the PTI chief did not mention the amount he got after selling gifts from Toshakhana in his assets while submitting nomination papers for by-polls in NA-45 and six other seats.

## NA Speaker, Deputy Speaker pay tribute to security personnel

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They noted that the terrorists engaged in the bid to establish their evil agenda of the enemy must be dealt with iron hand.

## Asad Qaiser offers conditional talks to PDM government

## News Desk

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has offered 'conditional talks' to the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government.

While speaking to the ARY News programme "Sawal Yeh Hai", Asad Qaiser said that the PTI leadership is ready to hold talks but the government had to dissolve the assembly.

He said that the PTI will prioritize working for Pakistan's future as they did before instead of targeting individuals which are also against the policy. He said that the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) suffered the most in the "Regime Change Operation".

The former speaker termed the resolution against the Supreme Court "unconstitutional" and said that the parliamentarians who signed the resolution should be charged with contempt of court.

# Head's acts should reflect collective thinking of institution: Azam Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday said the head of an institution should through his acts reflect that he was pursuing the collective thinking of the institution.

The demand of the political leadership, bar councils and civil society would be heeded as a larger apex court bench would settle the constitutional matters, he said while addressing the opening ceremony of the Lawyers Complex.

The Lawyers Complex was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif while Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan and other cabinet members were also present at the ceremony.

Azam Tarar said today he was happy to see the gathering of the members of Islamabad Bar Association, Islamabad Bar Council and Islamabad High Court Bar Association.



The lawyers' leadership had congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on taking over the charge of the office in April 2022 and the prime minister had thanked them for supporting the democratic forces, he added.

peaceful transfer of power and the government was continuing its journey.

He said the coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was promoting lawyer-friendly policies. For the first time in the country's history, the prime minister allocated an amount of Rs 500 million in the 2022 budget on account of grants for bar councils, he added.

Azam Tarar said the president had signed the Lawyers Protection and Welfare Act which was pending for many years, under which the package of Grade 18 employees would be given to the martyred lawyers.

He said the lawyers' community played a positive role in the constitutional crisis. They demanded that a full court Supreme Court bench should be formed for hearing the constitutional case regarding the holding of the election in two provinces.

## Embroidery work

KARACHI: Workers busy in embroidery work on traditional women cloth as per demand of customers for celebration of upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.



Photo: APP

# President AJK seeks OIC's proactive role to help resolve Kashmir dispute

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the OIC should redouble its efforts to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. While talking to the ambassadors of Islamic countries during an Iftar dinner hosted by him here today, the president thanked the friendly countries for their all-out support for the Kashmir cause.

"The OIC has always supported the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people and adopted a principled stand on the issue by condemning India for the violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir". Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation



in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the president said that at this crucial point of time there was a dire need that the Muslim body should raise the issue voice ferociously and play its much needed role in ending rights violations in the region.

Terming Kashmir as an issue of the entire Muslim Ummah,

Barrister Chaudhry said that the OIC countries should take a united stand to stop the blood-bath of innocent civilians in the region.

He said that Muslims in Occupied Kashmir were being barred from offering Friday prayers in mosques. "Kashmiri youths are being killed day in and day out in fake encoun-

ters, women are being harassed and humiliated and children orphaned", he said, adding that along with Hurriyat leadership, human rights defenders and members of civil society have been booked under sedition charges and thrown behind the bars.

"It is therefore imperative that the Muslim Ummah

should discharge its moral and legal responsibilities and play its due role in granting the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination guaranteed to them by the international community", he said. Urging the OIC member countries to revisit their policy vis a vis the establishment of ties with India, Barrister Chaudhry said that the OIC must take a bold initiative and mount pressure on India to resolve the Kashmir issue and stop the ongoing atrocities in Occupied Kashmir.

On this occasion, the ambassadors of Muslim countries, including Turkey, Palestine, Cyprus, Bahrain, Lebanon, Sudan, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Malaysia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Syria, Somalia, Libya, Afghanistan, Jordan and others were present.

# 31st online Int'l Children's Health Conference

Bureau Report

KARACHI: the most effective way of providing access to safe drinking water, adequate food, shelter, hygienic conditions, and healthcare facilities is for the state and community to establish (and keep running) a Primary Health Care (or PHC) system. Without this, the dream of Universal Health Coverage (or UHC) - in other words the aim of WHO: "Health for All" does not have any hope of being achieved.

These views were expressed by Ms. Sadia Rashid President, Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) yesterday in her opening remarks, at the 31st online International Children's Health Conference, on the theme "Health for All" organized by Hamdard Public School (HPS) in collaboration with HFP to mark the 7th April World Health Day 2023. Sadia Rashid attended the event from Hamdard Corporate Head Office. She was accompanied by the president of the conference Sara Salman Zuberi, Head, World Health Organization (WHO), Sub-Office, Sindh. The conference was also attended by Dr. Jamshed Ahmad, Head of WHO Office, Punjab as a Guest of Honour from Lahore online via Zoom.



Ms. Sadia Rashid further said nothing can replace an official healthcare infrastructure - not just buildings and machines, but trained personnel, and

proper and free or subsidized training for them. And the establishment of institutions is not enough; there must be maintenance and quality-controlled administration.

In addition, there is a need for a sizable health worker force from the highest to the lowest level, for no level is unimportant, and each plays its part: the doctor, the nurse, the midwife, the ward boy, the cleaner, she concluded.

Dr. Sarah Salman said: WHO is committed to supporting HFP's ini-

tiative of regularly organizing the International Children's Health Conference every year as it is an excellent opportunity for children to showcase their vision for this year's theme "Health for All".

She also said "Health for All" envisions all people having good health for a fulfilling life in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. The right to health is a basic human right. Everyone must have access to efficient and affordable healthcare services when they need them without financial constraints. Approximately 30 percent of the global population is not able to access essential health services.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General WHO in his recorded message applauded the efforts of Ms. Sadia Rashid and Hamdard Pakistan for active initiatives and social awareness campaigns regarding general health in the country.

## Multan District Admin crack down against illegal LPG refilling centers: DC

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The district administration has cracked down on illegal LPG refilling across the city on public complaints, on this occasion 8 LPG shops in the city have been sealed and the owners have been fined heavily. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, action was taken under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner City Samil Mushthaq

During the operation, Assistant Commissioner City also sealed 5 units of illegal petrol pumps, while Civil Defense has seized the LPG equipment and started the operation. The task of stopping refilling has been given. Mini neighborhood pumps in the city are not tolerated under any circumstances. Umar Jahangir said that LPG refilling is a threat to the precious lives of citizens. In the next phase, fire and safety systems will be installed in plazas and commercial places. Full inspection will be done

## University of Education, Lahore signed Memorandums of Understanding

News Desk

LAHORE: In a move to promote educational and professional development, the University of Education, Lahore (UE) signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with four esteemed organizations, including the Autism Resource Centre, Lahore, Al-Andalus Institute of Languages Pvt. Ltd, Century Paper and Board Mill, Lahore, and CA Affiliates Toastmasters Club on April 6, 2023. The MoUs were signed by the UE Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I., H.I.) and the representatives of each organization in a ceremony held at the university's main campus in Lahore.

Under the MoU with the Autism Resource Centre, Lahore, the UE will collaborate with the organization to provide training and education to students and professionals in the field of special education and autism. The collaboration will also include research activities and joint projects to enhance the understanding and management of autism. The MoU with Al-Andalus Institute of Languages Pvt. Ltd will focus to enhance the public speaking, leadership, communication and professional development skills of the university students and employees with an effective utilization of mutually collaborative resources.

## HWSK, LUMHS signs MoU to provide world-class treatment



Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: A historic MoU was signed between Haemophilia Welfare Society Karachi (HWSK) and Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) to provide treatment to hemophilia patients in Civil Hospital Hyderabad.

Efforts to establish a haemophilia centre in Hyderabad were being made by the Haemophilia Welfare Society for last several years.

A delegation of HWSK visited Hyderabad under the leadership of Founder and CEO Raheel Ahmed. Other members of the delegation included founder member and treasurer Fakhar Alam Zaidi, general secretary Mohammad Shahid Dawood, vice president Rana Asghar Ali, Abbas Ali and Arif Jamal.

On arrival at Civil Hospital Jamshoro, Assistant Professor and Focal Person Dr. Arshi Naz, Dr. Kiran and Dr. Mariam received them with a warm welcome. They gave them a tour of the Department of Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, Department of Hematology, Department of Molecular Biology and Virology, Cytogenetics, Children's Emergency, Thalassemia, Hemophilia Wards and other sections.

Later, the delegation led by Dr. Arshi Naz called on to the Vice Chancellor of LUMHS Prof. Ikram Deen Ujan.

# Koreq Cultural Heritage Foundation Researcher Visit at Bahawalpur



Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation Researcher and Conservator Miss Yi Yunjung along with the delegation visited Bahawalpur yesterday where Deputy Director Rashid Ahmad Arshad, Chemist Sadia Noreen, Public Relations Officer Nadia Noreen and Librarian Benish Sabah welcomed the delegation. And briefed them about the museum artefacts. In this delegation of Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, Assistant Director National Museum Islamabad Asadullah Khan, translator Nimal. And Conservator Saida. Jilani was involved. The delegation greatly appreciated the role of the museum in promoting culture and preserving the antiquities of Bahawalpur state.

Taking special interest in the museum's archeology gallery, Miss Yi Yunjung said that Bahawalpur Museum has a rich cultural heritage. The archeology gallery of the museum is the best representative of the evidence of human and communal

life, while the Gandhara section of the museum is the best example of carving and sculpture of Indo-Greek and other periods. He said that Gandhara is not just the name of art.

Rather, it is a complete civilization spread over a vast area that extended to Taxila, Peshawar, Mardan, Dir, Afghanistan and even Central Asia. He said that these sculptures of Gandhara art displayed in the museum are the witness of the rise of Buddhism in the region. The delegation accompanied by Yi Yunjung visited the museum's conservation laboratory on this occasion and learned about the equipment there. Chemist Sadia Noreen gave the delegation a visit to the laboratory and told about its aims and objectives and the measures taken to protect the museum artefacts from degradation.

Later, a training session was also organized for museum officers and laboratory staff in the conservation laboratory. The delegation also expressed their determination to organize more workshops in the future.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:24 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	4:43 pm
Maghrib	6:32 pm
Isha	7:57 pm

## EMERGENCY

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

## Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

## ENQUIRY

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

## HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7

## PEMRA authority in its 176th meeting approves IPTV Licensing through bidding

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: 176th Authority meeting held today at PEMRA Headquarters. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Muhammad Saleem Baig. While approving IPTV (Licensing and Operations) Regulations 2023, the Authority approved IPTV licensing across the country through bidding.

Authority also approved transfer of shares, change of chief executive officer, directors of M/s Sohail International Media (SMC-PVT) Limited Lahore, M/s MNA Media & Productions (SMC-PVT) Limited Lahore and M/s Times Communication (Pvt) Limited /Lahore RANG and M/s EL SAT (Pvt.) Limited /Zaiqa TV to existing CEO/Director/Shareholder Chaudhry Abdul Rehman.

The Authority also approved grant of Non-Commercial FM License to University of Malakand.

Request of Land-ing Rights Permission to M/s Saeed & Noshaba Sons (SMC-Pvt.) Limited Lahore for foreign TV Channel "South Asia Global TV" under General Entertainment Category was also approved by the Authority.

Moreover, regular appointments for the families of deceased employees (who die during their service) under the Prime Minister's Assistance package of Federal Government was also approved by the Authority.

Furthermore, the Authority has also approved its budget for the Financial Year 2023-2024.

## NDMA holds summer contingencies' coordination conference

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday organized the summer contingencies' coordination conference.

NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, who presided over the conference, outlined the key areas for discussion.

The representatives of the ministries of Climate Change (MoCC), and National Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination, provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), emergency services, PMD, WAPDA,

SUPARCO, NHA, armed forces, Islamabad Capital Territory, emergency response agencies and academia attended the conference, a news release said.

The conference was organized with a proactive approach to foster coordination among all stakeholders. It aimed to allow them to take preventive measures to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure from the potential impact of disasters and hazards over the next 5-6 months, including early heat waves, locust attacks, forest fires, droughts, GLOFs, and floods.

The NDMA chairman emphasized development of models and projections for a near-probabilistic approach to enhance preparedness for potential hybrid disasters. It would streamline relief oper-



tions through localized research and need assessments to cater to local needs effectively, he added. He informed the participants

about successful simulation exercises (SimEx's) conducted by the NDMA during March 2023 and suggested two addition-

al (SimEx's) on summer contingencies and hybrid hazards with pandemics in the forthcoming months.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) officials shared a three-month weather outlook, indicating that most parts of the country were likely to expect normal to slightly above-normal precipitation levels.

In addition to the conference, the NDMA plans to hold a three-day interactive session in the last week of April with government departments, universities and humanitarian partners.

The focus is to discuss the key findings of the conference on the Summer Contingencies Plan and minimize the impact of potential natural disasters in the upcoming months. The goal is to drive collaboration among stakeholders and develop coordinated approaches for unforeseen future events.

## Turk Art

ISLAMABAD: A skilled painter is making traditional art on a truck at Pirwadhai area as the Truck Art of Pakistan is famous around the world and truck art is a form of art seen in the South Asian culture for presenting vibrant and exuberant over-the-top designs that are colourful and shout out its boisterous designs to the intricate carvings on the body of the trucks.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## UAJK Mass Comm Dept's workshop on film production techniques concludes

## Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The two-day workshop on Film Production Techniques concluded at the Mass Communication Department of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir here on Thursday, leaving an indelible mark on the pioneer batch of its BS program.

The workshop was a perfect blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience that provided students with valuable insight into the intricacies of film production.

The Resource Person, Syed Almas Shah, a young film producer who recently produced a short movie "Aatish-e-Chinnar" on Kash-



mir, was the keynote speaker at the workshop. He shared his hands-on experience and expertise on various stages of

film production, while also providing students with a map to follow when designing their projects. He also

gave them possible solutions to the hurdles they might face during their production stages.

The second session of the workshop was conducted by Mr. Mubashar Naqvi, Public Relations officer UAJK.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Dr. Shahida Khalique, the Head of the Department of Mass Communication, thanked the trainers and presented souvenirs to them. She particularly appreciated the faculty members Ms. Sundas Hameed, Saima Qudoos, Nosheen Minhas, Mahasan Gillani and others for organizing such a wonderful workshop and urged students to utilize all the skills they gained during the workshop in their final projects.

## Strongly condemned the statement of the Indian Defense Minister: Sardar Attique

## Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has warned that the Indian Defense Minister has exposed India's aggressive ambitions by openly threatening to reach Sharda in the Neelum Valley of Azad Kashmir. We strongly condemn this dangerous warning of Indian Defense Minister Amit Shah. We are always

alert at the national level to counter Indian aggression on any part of the country.

Commenting on the open threat of Indian Defense Minister Amit Shah here today, the head of the Muslim Conference said that we already know why India has gathered its one million regular and three lakh security forces in Occupied Kashmir. India has been an aggressive country since the beginning.

Not only did it invade a large part of Jammu and Kashmir during the Kashmir wars of 1947 and 1948, but in 1971 it invaded the former East Pakistan and separated it from Pakistan. These wounds are fresh in our hearts. Sardar Attique Khan asked the government of Pakistan to immediately raise the serious issue of the latest Indian offensive ambitions in the Neelum valley in the United Nations Security Council. And also inform all other international organizations he added

## Divisional Administration takes steps against Dengue on a war footing: Amir Khattak

## Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The divisional administration has decided to take steps against dengue on a war footing. In this regard, an anti-dengue campaign review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak. Commissioner Aamir Khattak while ordering a crackdown against the violators of Dengue SOPs, said that notice should be given to the building, Sarbmehar, FIR should be registered. He said that it is the determination of the Punjab government to rid the province of dengue. All departments should be proactive about dengue control campaign. Teams should be visible in the field, fake reporting will not be tolerated.

In control, Multan Division should be in the top position across the province. Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the activities against dengue should be uploaded on the portal under the modern Android system. The relevant departments will face strict action on the activities less than the fixed target. The district administration, departments should take steps on a war footing regarding the success of the dengue control campaign. Exemplary cleaning arrangements should be made at the bus stations. Dengue awareness documentaries should be run at the public transport stations. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the performance of the health department and other departments regarding dengue will be counter-checked.

Awareness should be raised about Corona. The risk of dengue outbreak has increased due to rains. Dengue danger can be avoided by following dengue SOPs. Aamir Khattak also appealed to the citizens that instead of fearing dengue, citizens should take precautionary measures. It is possible to prevent dengue by keeping a dry environment. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said. It was said that the Punjab government has also been informed about the problems of dengue works, it will be resolved soon. Deputy commissioners, COs, health related officers were present in the meeting.

## Careem introduces new app

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In the spirit of the auspicious month of Ramadan, Careem, the pioneer of ride-hailing services in Pakistan, enables customers to donate to multiple charities directly from the app. Embodying the literal meaning of its name in Arabic, 'generous', Careem also introduces a special Ramadan car type which channels donations to a good cause.

Mudassar Sheikh, CEO and co-founder of Careem commented, "Many communities in our region are in desperate need of our support and we feel a deep sense of responsibility towards them, especially during Ramadan. We're humbled at the opportunity to empower and encourage our colleagues and customers to give back during the Holy Month by leveraging the capabilities of the Careem Super App, and we're grateful to collaborate with local and regional organizations to make it happen."

Mr. Syed Asaad Ayub Ahmad, President & CEO of TCF commented, "Every child has the right to go to school and build a better future. Yet, education remains a distant dream for millions of less privileged children in Pakistan. We are proud to partner with organisations like Careem who share our belief in the power of education and take action to help resolve the education crisis in Pakistan. This collaboration will offer the citizens of Pakistan an opportunity to play a part in bringing change through their contributions and the collective impact will help bring many children to school."

Truly celebrating the spirit of Ramadan, iftar meals will be provided to Captains at least three times a week during Ramadan and colleagues across all markets will participate in different volunteering activities, including meal distribution and hospital visits with young cancer patients. Customers can also donate their Careem reward points to multiple charities on the Careem app including SOS Children's Villages Pakistan and Saylani Welfare Trust to feed people in need and to NOWPDP for helping people with disability.

To book a Ramadan car option or make a monetary donation to communities in need, download the Careem app on the App Store or Google Play and update the app to the latest version.

## Bank Alfalah and NOWPDP team up to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities

## News Desk

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, one of Pakistan's leading commercial banks, has announced a strategic partnership with Network of Organizations Working For People With Disabilities Pakistan (NOWPDP), a non-profit organization to empower persons with disabilities by creating employment opportunities for them and promote financial inclusion in the banking sector.

Under the partnership, Bank Alfalah will fund the running costs of the Centre of Excellence for Financial Inclusion (CEFI) against an amount of PKR 4 million. The goal of the center is to improve financial inclusion and literacy among persons with disabilities by providing them with access to financial products and creating income opportunities for them.

Through this partnership, the Bank will collaborate closely with NOWPDP to create specialized modules and



provide training on financial management, budgeting, and saving at the center.

"This partnership is a significant step towards promoting financial inclusion and literacy among persons with disabilities in Pakistan. We are excited to work with Bank Alfalah, a leading financial institution, to provide access to financial services and products to persons with disabilities," said Amin Hashwani, President of NOWPDP.

"We are proud to partner with

NOWPDP in this important initiative that aligns with our commitment to create job opportunities to promote financial inclusion in Pakistan for the differently able persons. By supporting the CEFI, we aim to empower persons with disabilities and enable them to become financially self-sufficient," said Faisal Farooq Khan, Chief Human Resource Officer, Bank Alfalah.

To date, the Bank has successfully installed ramps at all branches, and it has designated 16 branches specifi-

cally for PWDs customers. The Bank has also made Braille forms available at its branches and ensured that talking ATMs are fully functional to cater to customers with visual impairments.

According to a report by UNDP, an estimated 6.2% of people in Pakistan have some form of disability, ranging from cognitive, developmental, mental, physical to sensory impairments. They face barriers that are bigger than physical obstacles, such as physical environment that is not accessible, services, systems and policies that are non-existent.

The partnership between Bank Alfalah and NOWPDP is a significant step towards promoting financial inclusion and empowerment for persons with disabilities in Pakistan. Through this collaboration, both organisations aim to create an inclusive financial ecosystem that provides equal opportunities to all individuals, regardless of their disabilities.

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# I am a Politician, but where do I stand in the field of Politics?

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

**Y**es, undoubtedly I am a Pakistani. My Pakistani pride, whom I will not hide & my Pakistani race I will not disgrace, In my veins my Pakistani blood flows hot & true even I will stand by you through thick & thin till the day we die, undoubtedly Our Pakistani flag always stands high. I know Pakistan is the best! Pakistan is our Pride in our minds. Pakistani blood is my kind So step aside and let me move straight through because it is all about the Pakistani Nation.

Why did Iqbal like the symbol of Shaheen?  
 "The simile of the Shaheen is not just a poetic simile, this Bird has all the characteristics of Islamic properties, Self-righteous and proud, he does not eat the victim if he is killed by another's hand. It is irrelevant that it does not make a nest. High flying. It is a recluse with a sharp eye.

According to Iqbal, these are the qualities of a man of faith. He also wants to see these qualities in the youth. Apart from Shaheen, there is no other bird that can be a role model for the youth. No Urdu poet has seen Shaheen from this aspect.

I am not hungry for pigeons  
 That is the zahadana of life.

Iqbal's sayings;  
 Flip, flip, flip  
 It is an excuse to keep the blood warm  
 Yeh Purab, Yeh Pachham, the world of Chakurs  
 My sky is boundless  
 I am the dervish of the world of birds  
 That does not make kings or Asia-  
 Did I avoid this dust?  
 Where the name of sustenance is water and grain  
 I like solitude in the wilderness  
 From eternity, nature is dead nun  
 No spring wind, no gullies, no bubbles  
 No disease love song  
 It is necessary to avoid the streets  
 The payments are very generous  
 The wind blows from the desert  
 The young man was beaten  
 I am not hungry for bath and pigeon  
 That is the lifer's asceticism  
 Flip, flip, flip  
 It is an excuse to keep the blood warm.  
 This is Purab, this Pachham Chak-  
 uron ki world.  
 The sky is barren  
 I am the dervish of the world  
 That kings do not make nests.  
 Engaging in illicit elements inshore or offshore till election by all self-beneficiaries, they might engender Khan's life.  
 Numerous elements from all corners cannot allow Khan's life to survive because they have mistakenly thought

that if this prominent leader is washed away, then all will be easier to surpass. But it is an impossible task to get success by means of an inhumane way!  
 Let's concentrate; Surah At- Taubah (The Repentance) demonstrates "But as for those in whose hearts is a disease (of doubt, disbelief and hypocrisy), it will add suspicion and doubt to their suspicion, disbelief and doubt, and they die while they are disbelievers.  
 Further concentrate" See them not that they are tried once or twice every year (with different kinds of calamities, disease, famine, etc. )? Yet, they turn not in repentance, nor do they learn a lesson (from it).  
 Go ahead, there is much clear "And whenever there comes down a Surah (chapter from the Qur'an), they look at one another (saying): "Does any one see you?" Then they turn away. Allah has turned their hearts (from the light) because they are a people that understand not.  
 Allah Almighty says Verily, there has come unto you a Messenger (Muhammad) from amongst yourselves (i. e. whom you know well). It grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty. He (Muhammad) is anxious over you (to be rightly guided, to repent to Allah, and beg Him to pardon and forgive your sins, in order that you may enter Paradise and be saved from the punishment of the Hell-fire), for the believers (he is) full of pity, kind, and

merciful.  
 Islam gives you the lesson of salvation in all respects, "But if they turn away, say (O Muhammad): "Allah is sufficient for me. La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), in Him I put my trust and He is the Lord of the Mighty Things all and sundry.  
 All institutions including all elements running these institutions will have to realize where we are standing and what is our appropriate direction to take us to progress and prosperity.  
 If the coalition parties disagree with the decision of the Supreme Court, then it should be clear to them that the people will maintain a permanent disagreement in any election and in the meantime they cannot cast a vote easily to them, but their words and every statement. Can the charred roast become edible for them?  
 In the PTI and PDM political parties, people can give a place in their hearts to those who follow the ideology of Pakistan and cover the wider interests of the people.  
 In addition to this, those who are fond of politics should learn the good idea of serving the country and the nation by becoming social workers and then it will not be difficult for them to do politics at the government level after learning a lesson of serving humanity impartially and honestly. This is the real point where they will have to stand and stand by the community.

## Pak-China marine cooperation

Chinese experts have also put forward suggestions from different levels regarding marine ecological protection.

Pakistan has very rich marine and inland fishery resources, including nearly 250 species of bottom fish and 85 species of pelagic fish, as well as 15 species of commercial shrimp, 12 species of cephalopods and 5 species of lobsters. Precious fishery resources, as the fairest public goods, require systematic protection measures.

Dr. Zhou Jinfeng, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, said that in line with the standards issued by the Ministry of Agriculture of China, the minimum mesh size of fishing nets is 25mm.

In addition, the setting of closed fishing seasons and areas are of great importance, in which the sea is closed from May 1st to September 1, every year to fully protect marine life during the breeding period, CEN reported.

Nevertheless, at the public level, the instillation of awareness including marine ecology and resource protection is a top priority. In this connection, Prof Kiani and Dr. Zhou happened to coincide with each other.

Only by ensuring the income of fishermen, can sustainable fishing methods be implemented more easily, Shoaib Kiani, Assistant Professor at the University of Karachi's Institute of Marine Science mentioned. Longline fishing allows fishermen to catch more big fish.

The reform of fishing gear requires a multi-pronged approach. Above all, government departments must further increase financial support to ease the economic pressure of fishermen; second, the assistance of relevant international maritime organizations or fishery organizations needs to be strengthened.

In addition, public education, including fishermen and children, can be done with the help of NGOs. All in all, the long-term benefits of reforming fishing gear are greater than the short-term benefits, which fishers must deeply understand, to reach the target of sustainable fishery in the long run.

Both China and Pakistan enjoy long coastlines and diverse marine life species. Therefore, the long-term sustainable cooperation strategy under the CPEC framework is of great benefit. Kiani believes the two countries should cooperate to train fishermen and related ecological protection personnel, and even establish work group to hold regular exchange meetings.

At present, a number of excellent academic papers related to marine biology and ecological protection have emerged in Pakistani academic circles, reflecting our great potential in the field of scientific research and technology

The only problem is financial support and resource allocation. Sustained development goes hand in hand with improving fisher livelihoods, which are going to benefit generations to come.

Prof Kiani said that fish population in Pakistan's waters have fallen by 40-80 percent. Fishery reform is imperative, in which rescue and safe release programme is not enough.

Other new equipment can reduce bycatch at the source. According to Prof Kiani, fishing gears equipped with LED lights has been distributed to fishermen in some pilot areas, which can reduce the impact on non-target species such as sea turtles under various light conditions.



## The Tablighi Jamaat-II

**Syed Sharfuddin**

**Tablighi Jamaat**  
 Just as every guild has its own lexicon, the Tablighi Jamaat brothers also use expressions or terms that have a specific meaning in the context of their dawah work. These are explained as follows:

**Ameer.** Elected leader of a dawah party

**Bayan.** It is a concise and motivating short talk given by a member of the dawah party at the end of an obligatory prayer inviting the members of the congregation to join the work of TJ and gain salvation.

**Chilla.** Refers to 40 days cycle of dawah activity

**Gasht.** A walking tour that includes a dawah party knocking at the doors of Muslims in selected neighbourhoods in a target area to invite them to say the obligatory five times Salat in the mosque and learn about Islam.

**Ijtima.** Periodical or annual gathering of the volunteers and participants of TJ which takes place on different dates in each country at the local and national levels.

**Ikraam.** Hospitality extended by the locals to a dawah party during its tour. TJ, however, makes it a point that every member of the party uses his own income for food and travel expenses.

**Jamaat.** A dawah party comprising at least ten persons. It also refers to a large gathering of volunteers gathered for a special event of TJ.

**Karguzari.** It refers to the outcome of a certain activity carried out by a dawah party.

**Markaz.** Is the centre of TJ in specific geographical regions where the Movement's elders take decisions about the composition and deployment of dawah parties.

**Mashwara.** As is indicated by the name, it refers to consultation among the people who form a dawah party at a given time and place, usually in a TJ hosting mosque.

**Mehnat.** This refers to the effort made in spreading the dawah to other Nawaqif Muslims. Mehnat refers to both time and money spent by the volunteers in a dawah party to achieve their numbers target.

**Nawaqif.** It is a term that refers to an illiterate and non-regular or non-practicing Muslim. The focus of TJ is on these people.

**Six Points.** These are the essential talking points which are at the heart of TJ's mission.

**Shab-e-Jumma.** A gathering of TJ volunteers every Thursday after the Maghreb prayer at a designated mosque in each city. At such gatherings about 5 to 20 per cent of participants are new volunteers.

**Tabligh.** The act of preaching and inviting another Muslim towards reformation. TJ does not pay any honorarium or remuneration to the volunteers for their dawah work. TJ also does not fundraise nor solicits donations for its dawah activities.

**Tablighi Nisab.** TJ's prescribed books and chapters that form part of the Dawah party's readings and talks.

**Taleem.** It refers to the public reading of an excerpt or Fazeel from the recommended books of TJ. These books are: Faza'il-e-Amaal, Faza'il-e-Sadaqat, Hayat-e-Sahaba and Tablighi

Nisab.

**Tanzem.** The coordination mechanism in which the dawah work carried out by the local mosques is coordinated at the Markaz where certain central mosques have the responsibility of setting the goals and oversight of smaller mosques to ensure that the deployment of dawah parties is broad-based and covers all parts of the region and country.

**Tashkeel.** It is the process and setting up a party of people to do dawah for a certain number of days. These gatherings can be for just one evening; a 3-day tour of local mosques; a 4-month tour in different mosques outside the locality, or 3-month international dawah tour to a specific country or city.

The members of TJ are predominantly the followers of Deobandi reformist school of thought, but they do not prevent participation by anyone who claims to be a Muslim and is interested in learning about Islam. TJ volunteers are mainly males representing all age groups and professions. In the Indian Subcontinent, TJ volunteers use Urdu, Bengali or Hindi language as means of general communication but in other linguistic regions they use the services of a local translator to reach the masses. Outside the Subcontinent, TJ volunteers speak Bahasa in Indonesia, Swahili in East Africa, English in Europe, and North America and French and Arabic in other Francophone and Arabophone countries.

TJ has a simple structure which starts from a network of small mosques to larger area mosques where TJ Markaz is located.

*To be continued*

## Solution for Unemployment in Pakistan

**Zahanat Hussain**

**P**akistan main crops (wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar cane) make up about 4.9% of the country's overall GDP, while minor crops make up 2.1%. In addition to producing rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, mango, dates, and kinnow oranges among the top ten countries in the world. We know that more than 60% of Pakistan population earns their livelihood from agriculture sources in the villages or in the backward areas. These people hardly fulfil their daily needs and have no access to technology, quality education and health services etc. These obstacles let them to the whirlpool of literacy and unemployment which is really difficult for government to overcome in a short interval of time. Pakistan can get rid of unemployment with these measures which I have in mind.

In order to reduce unemployment, the first thing for government is to do proper planning and apply certain policies regarding jobs. There should not be any favoritism or nepotism in giving jobs. This trend really has pushed Pakistan backward in past. Pakistan should reduce the retirement age so that young people can help newcomers to take responsibility and help generate employment rate.

The biggest problem to our slow and minimum growth is sludge, which is the friction in documents system, NOC, permission and any other official work especially bureaucratic friction. In simple word any activity that could be done digitally and it does manually through paper work which cause friction, loss of resources and time wasting.

For a long run quality education should be a benchmark and there should be quality in education and system of Pakistan regardless of race, cast, and sects. Institutions for training, technical and vocational skills should be established, where people should be offered skilled programs so that they can help for the future of Pakistan. Government should emphasize on building as many educational institutes as they can. This will help educated people to get jobs and children get education which result to employment and prosperity.

Secondly, we know that Pakistan faces energy crises in different sectors for long which lead to unemployment, this can be solved by investing more in the economy. Government of Paki-

stan should take advantage of national and foreign investors by encouraging them to invest across Pakistan, as investment helps our major asset called labor to work for the economy. As investment is directly proportional to employment, greater the investment greater the jobs and vice versa. This sums up all that investment must be done in dollar to overcome unemployment that will increase foreign reserves too. Besides this, state must encourage multinational companies such as PNG, Unilever, Nestlé, Toyota, Mobilink, KFC, and Coca-Cola etc. to invest in our country. Government of Pakistan should encourage small and medium size of enterprises (SMEs) to invest because later on this enterprise take a platform and reason behind jobs. This will only be achievable if a country has political stability, as political instability prevents both domestic and foreign investors from investing. Every single business owner and organization depends on the political patronage and privilege of the state to maintain and expand their business.

We see industrial policy as a tool to stimulate some kind of activity, the government has to increase their effectiveness and subsidize industries and provide incentives to various sectors that create jobs. After they are more comfortable, the government can decide who to support and select some sectors that have performed better to provide higher employment and growth rates. More jobs in the market will provide more opportunity to the jobless people and lift poor out of extreme poverty along with enhancing employment rate which will add indirectly more to GDP and growth of the country.

A typical problem in development is to produce many things, some of which consumers can buy in the market, others to be provided either directly by the government or through government influence. In order to produce, the government must have roads, water, roads, urban transport, logistics systems and also need some regulations so that neighbors, bureaucrats and even citizens do not get scare in their activities. Therefore, the government has to create a complete legal authority framework to enable these activities. Typically, this ecosystem is very incomplete.

By summing up all I got only this solution for a long run progressive and prosperous Pakistan ridding of unemployment.

The author is student of MPhil Econometrics at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and can be reached at zahanathussain.19@pide.edu.pk

# Saudi Arabia, Iran sign agreement for resuming diplomatic relations

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: Iran and Saudi Arabia on Thursday signed an agreement for resuming diplomatic relations after the meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang witnessing the signing ceremony, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Upon the proposal of Saudi Arabia and Iran, China today received Saudi Arabian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, and Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, for a meeting in the Chinese capital here, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Miao Ning said during her regular briefing held here.

The spokesperson informed that the Chinese foreign minister met with his two counterparts from Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran announced the resumption of diplomatic ties and signed a joint statement.

Both noted that they will continue to advance the process to improve

bilateral relations in accordance with the roadmap and timeline identified in their Beijing talks in March and thanked China for its important role in facilitating the talks, she added.

Mao Ning said that China welcomes and applauds the continued steps Saudi Arabia and Iran have taken to improve their relations, adding, "We are ready to keep playing a mediating role, support both sides in building trust, dispelling misgivings and realizing good neighborliness, and contribute China's wisdom and strength to promoting security, stability and development in the Middle East."

She said that the further improvement of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran fully shows that regional countries have the will and ability to take the initiative of regional peace and development.

"The recent interactions in the Middle East also show that peace and development is what people aspire for and what the trend is leading to," she added.

The spokesperson called upon the international community to help Middle East countries resolve differ-



ences and enhance solidarity. Acts to stoke tensions, create divisions, divide and rule and other colonial, hegemonic practices will be opposed by people all over the world.

She said that as a good friend and a good partner, China will as always respect Middle East countries, who are the true masters of their future.

"We are a force for reconciliation,

peace and harmony in the Middle East. China will implement the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative with Middle East countries,

promote security, stability, development, prosperity, inclusiveness and harmony in the Middle East," she added.

The two countries alone would not be able to solve all the relevant problems, Liu said and noted that as the place where the Saudi-Iran agreement was reached, Beijing in the future would continue to play a vital role in helping to promote negotiations over the solutions to some long-standing issues between the two countries.

Experts noted that the success that China can promote reconciliation and easing the tensions in the Middle East is based on a solid foundation for China to win the trust of Middle Eastern countries accumulated from the long-term adherence to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and their historical friendship with China.

Hua Chunying, China's Assistant Foreign Minister, said at a forum held in Beijing on Tuesday that the agreement Saudi Arabia and Iran reached in Beijing is a victory for peace. It is not only a practice of the Global Security Initiative but a successful practice of the idea of the global community of a shared future.

## Pak UAE Relations

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani exchanging views with Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan at Parliament House on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## African Islamic Finance Awards Distribution Ceremony will be held in the Gambia

*Awards Aim to Recognized the Institutional Role through Socio-Economic Developmental Impact for a Better Future; Muhammad Zubair*

DUBAI: African Islamic Finance Awards distribution ceremony will be held along with 10th African Islamic Finance Summit which is scheduled on 3rd May 2023 in Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center, The Gambia with the Theme, lets encourage the African Islamic Banking and Takaful Industry. AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is organizing Africa Islamic Finance Awards. Africa is the world's second-largest and most popular continent after Asia. Africa, in particular, is a region in which Islamic finance could and indeed should thrive.

Awards will be given in recognition to the services providers in Islamic finance and Takaful industry. Categories involve Best emerging personality in African Islamic finance, Best Afri-



can Islamic finance education & training provider, Best Innovative product in Islamic banking and finance, Best Islamic finance institute and Best African Takaful company and more. AlHuda CIBE has taken responsibility and has announced these awards on an international level in 15 different categories, whose nominations will be received till

April 20th, 2023.

Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive of AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics - United Arab Emirates said that Awards are the token of appreciation for the industry participants which is dedicatedly working for the development of Islamic finance industry to put knowledgeable impact through socio-economic developments. African Islamic Finance Awards are a signature initiative of AlHuda CIBE aimed to recognize and encourage industry stakeholders. He also said that these Award distribution ceremonies will be conducted to highlight the best practices in Islamic banks and celebrate the success of institutions and individuals, aiming to promote social responsibility, Shariah authenticity, and commitment to the Islamic finance industry.

## UN chief calls for world 'united in peace' as Ramadan, Easter, Passover coincide

**News Desk**

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for people of faith worldwide to "join their voices in a common prayer for peace", as the holy observances of Ramadan, Easter and Passover coincide this week.

The UN chief issued his plea for peace acknowledging that it is "dramatically lacking" in many parts of the world, during an interview with UN News's Arabic service, ahead of what has now become an annual visit for him, to a Muslim country beset by challenges, during the holy month of Ramadan, saying that the experience gained in those visits and his interaction with the people had enriched his knowledge of Islam.

"I think this is the moment for us to be all united for peace. Peace is the most precious thing that we can have in the world", Guterres said.

"So, this is the moment to come together and for those that believe in God (in) different ways, with different expressions, to join their voices in a common prayer for peace."

The UN chief began his tradition of paying a solidarity visit during Ramadan, while he was High Commissioner for Refugees, running the refugee agency UNHCR - a job he held for ten years, before taking up the UN's top job in 2017. "The majority of the refugees were Muslim, and the majority of the communities hosting refugees with enormous generosity and solidarity, were Muslim", he told UN News's Reem Abaza, noting that the 1951 Refugee Convention on the protection of refugees, is fully in line with the spiritual values of the Holy Quran.

He said his annual visit to refugee camps or settlements as UNHCR chief, where he fasted in solidarity, also provided an opportunity to highlight the generosity being shown by host communities.

"When I became Secretary-General, I thought that this tradition should be maintained - now, not focused on refugee communities, but focused on the Muslim communities that are suffering", he said.

## China deeply concerned over escalation of Palestine-Israel conflict

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: China on Thursday expressed deep concerns over Israeli police clashes with Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and called on all parties, Israel in particular, to show calm and restraint and immediately stop all words and deeds that might heighten tensions, in order to prevent further escalation of the situation.



China is deeply concerned over the recent escalation of the Palestine-Israel conflict, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing held here.

She said that the issue of Jerusalem's status is complicated and sensitive and added, parties concerned should act in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, and earnestly respect and maintain the historical status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Mao Ning said that in the meanwhile the international community needs to act with a stronger sense of urgency and take concrete steps in advancing the two-state solution, work for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question at an early date, and realize the peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel.

According to reports, on April 5, Israeli police clashed with Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, leaving many Palestinians injured.

Israeli forces were filmed storming Al Aqsa Mosque compound and attacking dozens of people inside including old women and children. The attack happened in the early morning hours of April 5 in the occupied city of Jerusalem, Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Brain Designer Raja Rauf presenting invitation of 1st Pakistan International Tourism Investment Expo & Conference 2023 to Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin at his Office.

## Reimagine and Restructure to Retain Valuable Talent

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: S&P Global, in collaboration with Nutshell Group, held a webinar on 'Career Development: Creating a Path for Employee Growth and Retention'.

Leading corporate executives and HR experts examined the impact of technological advancements and organizational changes on workplace relationships. The discussion revolved around the ideal culture of a workplace that is continuously evolving, making it critical for organizations to redesign and re-think their work structures to retain their best talent.

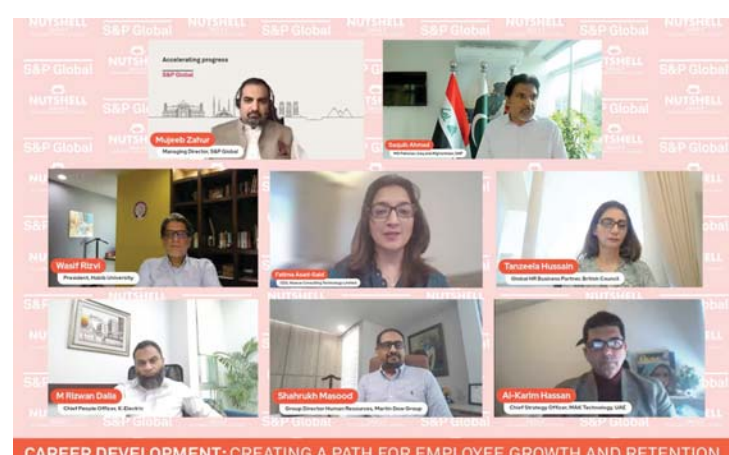
In his opening remarks, Mujeeb Zahur, Managing Director, S&P Global, said, "We at S&P Global spend our energies on developing clear goals, embracing continuous learning, networking strategically, seeking feedback, and proactively developing leadership skills across the team."

Mujeeb further stated that S&P Global has won many awards including Best Place to Work in 2019, Gold Award Top IT Exporter 2016-2018, Platinum Award BPO Services 2019, and Silver Award in Top IT Exporter 2019. These awards have helped in the evolution of the company as a people-centric organization. Mujeeb added, "S&P Global is also taking part in Corporate Responsibility, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives, that include training of the female workforce. Under the Million Women Mentorship (MWM) program in collaboration with U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council, we have trained over 15,400 women for various STEM-related skills. Our target is to train 20,000 women and we hope to achieve it soon." Talking of technology, Mujeeb mentioned S&P Global's platform 'Edge' as a new venue for our team members. Edge offers enterprise learning to the team, offering courses ranging from personal and professional

skills to industry hot topics and people leader development programs.

The webinar opened many perspectives of looking at the increasing need for retention and growth and how closely it is linked to leadership dynamics. Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan, SAP, emphasized the role of leadership, saying, "The overall phenomenon around workplaces has changed, and the employees know exactly what to demand from the organization they wish to work for." He also insisted on a conducive ecosystem to retain talent and reduce the brain drain in Pakistan.

A dialogue on the theme of the webinar followed, moderated by Al-Karim Hassan, Chief Strategy Officer, MAK Technology, UAE. Esteemed panelists included Wasif Rizvi, President, Habib University; Fatima Asad-Said, Chief Executive Officer, Abacus Consulting Technology Limited; Tanzeela Hussain, Global HR Business Partner, British Council; Muhammad Rizwan



Dalia, Chief People Officer, K-Electric; and Shahrukh Masood, Group Director Human Resources & Corporate Communication, Martin Dow Group. Al-Karim initiated the dialogue with a profound statement on the new working modalities; "Not everyone can get

promoted, but everyone can grow." He mentioned how longevity at one organization was considered an important hallmark of a successful career, but now organizations are pushing their employees to gain experience from more than one employer, as they believe in upskill-

ing and reskilling talent to fuel growth in the future.

Talking about employee retention practices, Wasif commented; "Apart from work-life balance, growth, encouragement, and good communication, the fundamental differentiating factor that ensures employee retention is the shared sense of purpose." This, he felt, was a clear difference between a successful and an average organization.

Fatima spoke about the challenge to ensure opportunities for human capital and to add value in terms of employability. She felt that the human factor still rules, and relevance will impact sustainability and productivity most significantly. Talking of changed dynamics, she stated, "The conventional hierarchical reporting lines have been replaced by cross-functional teams, and the demographic shift now has five generations working within one organization." These, she felt, were true challenges for the new leadership.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
40,350.89	39,717.15	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
40,374.33	39,717.15	
Index Value	Change	
4,306,736,470	+633.74	
Percentage	Time	
-1.6%	6 Apr, 2023 1:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,741.56	+78.62	
Percentage	Time	
+1.03%	6 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,480.46	-2.26	
Percentage	Time	
-0.0067%	6 Apr, 12:26 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
27,507.65	-305.61	
Percentage	Time	
-1.10%	6 Apr, 11:15 am 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

# Presidents of NBP, ZTBL to be appointed before end of FY 2023: Dr Ayesha

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha on Thursday informed the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue that the Presidents of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) would be appointed before the end of this financial year.

The committee met here under the Chairmanship of MNA Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, said a press release.

The minister of state informed the committee that the process of appointment had been completed and now the matter was with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) where the assessment of the said matter was being done.

She told the committee that the process was delayed but it would be completed at the earliest.

The committee expressed grave concerns over the delay in the appointments of the Presidents NBP and ZTBL, however, directed the Finance Division to finalize the process of



appointments in order to improve the working and performance of the organization.

The committee also considered the point of order given by the MNA Ms. Kiran Imran Dar regarding the pensioners standing in

long queues for the collection of pensions and payment from National Saving Schemes.

The committee, meanwhile, expects the attendance of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the next meeting to brief regarding the delay

in the agreements between the Government of Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Later, the committee recommended enhancing the minimum wage of sweepers, low-paid servants, working in the Parliament House and Parliament Lodges, upto Rs.25,000/- per month.

The meeting was attended Minister of States for Finance, Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha, Members of National Assembly Chaudhary Khalid Javed, Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir, Ali Pervaiz, Dr. Nafisa Shah, Syed Hussain Tariq, Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani, Khalid Hussain Magsi, Makhdoom Syed Sami-ul-Hassan Gillani and Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani.

Movers of the Matters, referred to the Standing Committee, Ms. Kishwer Zehra and Ms. Kiran Imran Dar, MNAs were also present in the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the senior officers from Finance Division, Revenue Division (FBR), SBP, NBP and ZTBL.

## ICCI to cooperate with Police in controlling crimes in the city

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry lauded the role of Islamabad Police for maintaining maintain law & order situation and providing a secure environment to the private sector and assured that the business community would extend all possible cooperation to the police in controlling the crimes in the city. He said this while addressing an Iftar party organized by the Islamabad D. Watson Lions Club in honor of the police officers and jawans at G-II Check Post, Islamabad. District Police Officer Sadder Nausherwan Ali, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, Police Officers of Saddar Zone and members of the business community were present at the occasion.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that police officers and jawans perform duties at check posts and in mosques during prayer times and their presence at the occasion gives a sense of better safety and security to the citizens, which is laudable. He assured that the business community would always be standing with police in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the city that would also help in promoting business activities. He also



distributed various gifts to the police jawans at the occasion.

Sai fur Rehman Khan, President, Islamabad D. Watson Lions Club said that the purpose of organizing the Iftari with police personnel is to express solidarity with them as they are rendering great service to the community. He said that police is a key part of the society and close liaison between the police and the civil society would be very helpful in controlling crimes and promoting peace.

District Police Officer Sadder Nausherwan Ali thanked Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Sai fur Rehman Khan, President, Islamabad D. Watson Lions Club for joining police officers and jawans in iftari and expressing solidarity with them. He said that their cooperation and support would further boost the morale of police and enable them to perform their duties with more commitment and dedication.

## Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, partners with Government of AJK

News Desk

KARACHI: Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, has entered a strategic partnership with the Government of Azad Kashmir to promote and develop sustainable tourism in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. The first step in this collaboration is the development of a Tourism Facilitation Centre (TFC) at the entry point of Neelum Valley, Pakistan's most popular tourism destination.

The inauguration of the facility was undertaken by dignitaries from all key partners including Imran H. Shaikh-COO JS Bank, Noman Azhar- Chief Officer Zindigi as well as Masood-ur-Rehman- Senior Special Secretary Prime Minister Secretariat AJK, Adnan Khurshid-Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division, Tahir Mumtaz-Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad, Amir Ahmed Sheikh-Inspector-General of Police (IGP) AJK, Tahir Mahmood Qureshi- Additional IGP AJK, Yasin Qureshi- DIG Reserves/Rangers Police, Irfan Masood Kashfi- DIG Region Muzaffarabad, Sajjad Hussain-DIG Traffic, Jameel Ahmed Jameel-DIG Special Branch, and Zahid Mirza- SSP Muzaffarabad.

Commenting on the collaboration,



Noman Azhar stated, "We understand the importance of tourism in Pakistan and believe that this collaboration will not only benefit the local community but also contribute to the overall development of the country's tourism industry."

"We are delighted to partner with Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, in the development of this center," said Amir Ahmed Sheikh, the Inspector-General of Police

(IGP) AJK. "This collaboration will help us provide better services to tourists visiting Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and we are confident that it will contribute to the growth of tourism in the region."

The development of the tourist facilitation center is expected to be completed in the coming months, and Zindigi is looking forward to playing a key role in supporting the growth of Pakistan's tourism industry.

## MMBL partners with Rahim & Sons and K&S to provide affordable financing solutions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has entered a strategic partnership with Rahim & Sons Enterprises, a leading integrated engineering service provider as well as K&S Solar Energy, a reputable alternative energy solutions provider. Through this alliance, MMBL strives to promote the accessibility and affordability of green energy for its customers and contribute to the growth of the renewable energy sector by offering easy financing solutions. This collaboration is a testament to MMBL's commitment to providing innovative financing solutions to meet the evolving needs of its growing customer base.

MMBL is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

"This strategic partnership is in line with MMBL's unyielding promise to promote sustainable energy and empower small businesses by providing them with reliable & cost-effective financing solutions," said Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO MMBL. "This collaboration serves as an excellent exam-

ple of how businesses can prioritize sustainability as a core value and work towards a progressive future. We believe that this partnership will inspire other businesses to follow suit and contribute towards creating a

## inDrive joins forces with the Akhuwat foundation



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: inDrive, the global mobility and urban services platform, has donated PKR 10 Million to the Akhuwat foundation for reconstruction of schools to support children's education.

The donated amount will aid the Thatta and Thar region in the rebuilding of schools that were affected by the devastating floods and heavy monsoon rains in the Sindh region in 2022.

The primary purpose of providing these funds is to help students carry on with their education and stand on their own two feet with dignity.

Aleksandra Kirillina, Team Lead of the CSR project at inDrive, stated: "The flood affected many families; the dreadful situation in the interior of Sindh leaves many people in a devastating situation which forced students to leave their education behind."

To support and rebuild the education system in the

cities of Thar and Thatta is to reopen those schools where children can resume their studies; to fulfill our commitment to this project, we collaborated with the Akhuwat foundation, who's working at the forefront of this initiative."

Shahryar Rashid, Manager of Marketing & PR at Akhuwat Sindh, says: "The floods, which have affected more than 20 million people, also created an emergency in education as they have made it difficult for schools to operate in more than 21 districts of Sindh. 15,842 schools have been completely destroyed or left in precarious conditions."

With many schools unable to open, students are forced to drop out or transfer to other schools, which for the less privileged is demoralizing. We admire organizations like inDrive for recognizing the seriousness of the situation and stepping up to help the reconstruction of these Akhuwat-run schools.

## PARCO shuts down its refinery for 5-Day scheduled maintenance

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Spokesperson Pak-Arab Refinery Ltd (PARCO) said in press release that On Wednesday night - April 5, 2023, Pak-Arab Refinery Ltd. temporarily shut down its refinery operations for five days as part of its scheduled maintenance work.

The refinery will resume its operations by April 11, 2023. The scheduled maintenance will not affect the supply of both Diesel and Gasoline (petrol).



# FIH reinforces commitment to use hockey as a tool to promote peace

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the world celebrates International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on Thursday (April 6), the International Hockey Federation (FIH) reinforces its commitment towards using hockey as a tool to promote peace and well-being within communities.

FIH President Tayyab Ikram, speaking on the importance of this day, said: "One of the main reasons I have been involved in sport for many years is my wholehearted belief in its power to act as a catalyst for positive change. Sport unites. Sport provides hope. Sport inspires."

I am deeply grateful to be able to contribute in my role, but more importantly, on the occasion of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, I want to thank the global hockey family. Their daily efforts not only grow the sport's community, but also help to build a better, more inclusive and more peaceful future."

In Europe, Scottish club Uddingston



has been doing remarkable work in the local community using the resources available at the club's disposal to provide support to the community in a variety of ways.

This includes donating land and

resources at the club to the Men's Shed Association that helps tackle men's mental health. In conjunction with the Harvest Church Group, they also provide six weeks of hockey, food and transport for a local church group working with

disadvantaged youngsters.

Another initiative focuses on children from the Women's Aid Service project, offering hockey sessions and services to children within the school holiday period to provide respite for women who need to focus on their own needs as well as their children.

"Walking Hockey" is offered, providing physical and emotional support to a group less mobile while to help with the current financial crisis, the club hosts a "kit bank" where people can bring their unwanted sticks, shoes and kit and offer these out for free to people who might need them.

In Asia, the "Central Asia Development Assistance Project" is emphasising on the development of hockey on a national and regional level in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

The area of focus of this project has been in developing new infrastructure and improving hockey playing conditions.

# Nida named Women's team's captain, Coles returns as head coach

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Nida Dar has been appointed as the Pakistan women's team captain, Mark Coles has been confirmed as the head coach while former Test cricketer Saleem Jaffar has been named as the chair of the Women's Selection Committee in key appointments, which were approved by the Chair of the PCB Management Committee Mr Najam Sethi.

The appointments have been made in light of the PCB's vision and strategy to invest further into women's cricket and keeping in mind the upcoming international assignments, including hosting South Africa and tours to Bangladesh and New Zealand for the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 fixtures.

Overall, in an 11-month period from August 2023 to July 2024, Pakistan women's team is scheduled



to play five bilateral cricket series comprising a total of 15 ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 ODIs. In addition to these 50-over matches, Pakistan will play as many as 17 T20Is. These ODIs and T20Is will lead to the 10-team ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh and eight-team ICC Women's World Cup in India, which will be held in

2024 and 2025, respectively.

Najam Sethi: "I want to congratulate Nida, Mark and Saleem on their appointments. Nida is a seasoned and highly-respected player, Mark has a proven track record in women's cricket coaching and Saleem brings with him wealth of international experience and knowledge."

"We are confident this

combination will not only attract and help young cricketers to fulfill their dreams of becoming top-quality international cricketers, but will also ensure the side as a whole emulates their previous performances and achievements."

"I remain confident under their supervision and guide of Nida, Mark and Saleem, Pakistan women's cricket will grow."

Pakistan women's team upcoming bilateral series  
Aug/Sep 2023 – South Africa tour to Pakistan (three ODIs & three T20Is)

Oct/Nov 2023 – Pakistan tour to Bangladesh (three ODIs & three T20Is)

Nov/Dec 2023 – Pakistan tour to New Zealand (three ODIs & three T20Is)

Feb 2024 – West Indies tour to Pakistan (three ODIs & five T20Is)

3 / 3  
Jul 2024 – Pakistan tour to England (three ODIs & three T20Is)

# Babar Azam's message for Kane Williamson after setback



Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam hoped his New Zealand counterpart Kane Williamson recovers soon from his injury, which he suffered during the Indian Premier League (IPL).

In a major setback to New Zealand, their skipper suffered a knee injury during the ongoing IPL due to which the star batter is likely to miss the one-day World Cup later this year.

"Bounce back stronger. Get well soon Kane Williamson," Babar tweeted, sharing an image of him and the NZ skipper hugging.

According to the NZ cricket board, Williamson will require surgery on his injured right knee, after scans confirmed he'd ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament while fielding for the Gujarat Titans in the IPL.

"The standard rehabilitation timelines mean that Williamson is now unlikely to be fit and available for selection at this year's ICC ODI Cricket World Cup in India," it said.

In a statement, Williamson acknowledged the support he'd received since sustaining the injury and thanked both the Gujarat Titans and New Zealand Cricket for that.

"Naturally it's disappointing to get such an injury, but my focus now is on having the surgery and starting rehab," he said.

"It's going to take some time, but I'll be doing everything I can to get back on the field as soon as possible." While the World Cup now looked unlikely, Williamson vowed to support the team in any way he could.

The NZ skipper is likely to have surgery on his knee within the next three weeks. Williamson jarred his knee attempting a catch in the opening game of the IPL last Friday, hobbling off the field with the help of two physios.

The New Zealander is one of cricket's premier batsmen. He played a crucial role as they clawed their way into the final of the 2019 World Cup, where Williamson was judged player of the tournament.

New Zealand fell agonisingly short — losing to England on a boundary countback in a nail-biting Super Over after a draw in the final.

Williamson stood down as New Zealand's Test captain in December but is still the skipper of the ODI and T20 squads.

# POA and SOP celebrate world 'Peace Through Sports' day

Sports Desk

KARACHI: On the occasion of "Peace Through Sports Day" celebrated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations in the first week of April every year, squash legend and former world champion Jahangir Khan has said that sports are an important tool for peace and reconciliation. People of different cultures, religions, creeds, nationalities and languages can be brought together on one platform through sports. By waving the white card on this day, we express our resolve to convey the message of peace and love from this land to the whole world.

That the purpose of celebrating this day is to spread the message of peace to the



whole world, the legendary squash player said. Addressing a function organized by Pakistan Olympic Association Individual Member and Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ms. Raunaq Lakhani, on the occasion of Peace Through Sports Day, former Pakistan hockey captain Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui said that sports are a powerful tool for bringing people together and creating peace and harmony as it brings people together beyond boundaries. When people participate in

sports activities, they learn to respect the dignity of their competitors, learn the values of teamwork, tolerance and the importance of fair play and adherence to rules, the former Olympian added. Islahuddin Siddiqui said that foreign teams are participating in international events held in Pakistan today, which is clear proof that Pakistan is a safe country for sports activities.

I congratulate POA and Special Olympics Pakistan for organizing this event, he added. Ms Raun-

aq Lakhani said that Pakistan is a sports-loving nation. This day is celebrated every year by international, regional, and national sports and development organizations at the global level to honour and respect the role of sports in society. On the occasion, POA Individual Member Syed Waseem Hashmi, POA Environment Commission Member Tehmina Asif along with a large number of guests and special children waved white cards and reiterated the message of peace through sports.

# PCB set to hand Pakistan Shaheens' reins to Aizaz Cheema

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to appoint former right-arm pacer Aizaz Cheema as the head coach of the Pakistan Shaheens for their upcoming tour of Zimbabwe.

Taking up the reins of Pakistan Shaheens, Aizaz will lead the coaching staff which includes trainer Saboor Ahmed, Physiotherapist Muhammad

Asad and Team Analyst Faisal Rai, while the team manager is yet to be appointed.

Opening batter Imran Butt will lead the Shaheens' squad which features prominent cricketers including Shahnawaz Dahani, Hussain Talat and Mir Hamza.

The Shaheens will kick off their training on Saturday in Karachi before their aforementioned international tour. The players will

take part in an 11-day camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Center, till April 18.

The side will then travel to Zimbabwe where they will play two four-dayers and six 50-over matches from May 3 to 27.

**Pakistan Shaheens Squad:**  
Imran Butt (captain) (Lahore), Hussain Talat (vice-captain) (Lahore), Aamir Jamal (Islamabad), Abdul Wahid Bangalzai (Quetta), Haseebul-

lah (Quetta), Kamran Ghulam (Peshawar), Mehran Muntaz (Rawalpindi), Mir Hamza (Karachi), Mohammad Huraira (Sialkot), Mubasir Khan (Islamabad), Muhammad Umar (Karachi), Omaid Bin Yousuf (Karachi), Qasim Akram (Lahore), Rohail Nazir (wicketkeeper) (Islamabad), Sahibzada Farhan (Peshawar) and Shahnawaz Dahani (Larkana). Asif Mehmood (Hyderabad), Athar



Mehmood (Gujranwala), Saad Khan (Hyderabad) and Waqar Ahmad (Peshawar) (all reserves)  
Player Support Personnel: Aizaz Cheema (coach),

Saboor Ahmed (Trainer), Muhammad Asad (Physiotherapist) and Faisal Rai (Team Analyst). Team Manager (To be appointed).

# New Zealand series-bound players to start to report at NCA today



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan squad for the upcoming T20I and ODI series against New Zealand will report at National Cricket Academy (NCA) today before starting their preparations for home assignment.

According to the details, players from other cities will start to assemble at the training camp tonight.

Abdullah Shafique and Faheem Ashraf will join the camp tomorrow while Fakhar Zaman will join the camp on April 10.

Pakistan's head coach for the recently-concluded T20I series against Afghanistan Abdul Rehman will supervise the national men's team's training camp while bowling coach Umar Gul will assist him.

The New Zealand series-bound squad will partake in the three-day training camp from April 7 to 10 before playing an intra-squad match on the final day of the camp.

It is pertinent to mention that the green shirts will take on New Zealand in a five-match each T20I and ODI series, which will be played in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi from 14 April to 7 May.

Senior players including the trio of captain Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi returned to the squads for the home T20I and ODI series against New Zealand.

# WATCH: Mohammad Abbas shines on County Championship return



By A Sports -

SOUTHAMPTON: Pakistan's right-arm speedster Mohammad Abbas, who is representing Hampshire in the ongoing County Championship 2023, took six wickets in his side's fixture against Nottinghamshire, here on Thursday.

Abbas, who enjoyed a promising last season, bagged 50 wickets in 12 matches, had a flying start to this year's tournament as the right-arm pacer decimated Nottinghamshire's batting lineup by claiming a six-for.

The right-handed pacer bowled 15.3 overs, took six wickets, bowled four maidens, and conceded only 49 runs.

His brilliance with the ball propelled Hampshire to bundle out Nottinghamshire for a meagre 185 despite gritty knocks by Joe Clarke (47) and Tom Moores (49).

Abbas represented Pakistan in 25 matches from 2017 to 2021 and claimed 90 wickets in the longest format.

# Barca fans chant Messi's name amid PSG exit talk



Sports Desk

BARCELONA: Several thousand Barcelona fans at Camp Nou chanted Lionel Messi's name in the 10th minute of the Copa del Rey semi-final Clasico on Wednesday.

The Barcelona club legend and all-time top goalscorer, currently at Paris Saint-Germain, is likely to leave the French side at the end of his contract in June, a club source told AFP on Tuesday.

Some fans sung Messi's name outside the stadium before the clash with Real Madrid and many joined in after 10 minutes of the match, representing the Argentine's shirt number at Barca. "Messi is living history at Barcelona, he's the best player in the history of football," said sporting director Mateu Alemany before the Clasico on Wednesday.

"He's at PSG fighting for titles and we are fighting for ours. In the future we'll see what happens."

World Cup winner Messi, who will turn 36 in June, joined PSG in 2021 on a two-year deal which expires at the end of this campaign.

The forward has been whistled in recent weeks by some of PSG's own fans in Paris, frustrated at the club's Champions League elimination by Bayern Munich.

His form has dipped since he led Argentina to glory at the World Cup in Qatar at the end of last year, with some seeing him as a symbol of PSG's mistakes in signing star names at the expense of building a competitive team.

Barcelona have been openly courting Messi, hoping to persuade the forward to return to the Camp Nou two years after he left the club where he won four Champions League titles. Messi left Barcelona when the club could not afford to renew his contract.

"I would love it if he returned," Barca vice-president Rafael Yuste said last week as he admitted there had been "contact" with Messi.