

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم (ﷺ) کے
موقع پر) کوئی طرفہ مضامین میں
تو آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم روزہ سے
لیکن جب کہ پچھتے تو روزہ رکھنا چھوڑ دیا۔
ابو عبد اللہ (امام بخاری رحمہ اللہ) نے کہا
کہ عثمان اور قید کے درمیان کوئی ایک
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Pakistan loan agreement not on IMF's table: Shabbar Zaidi

Former Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Shabbar Zaidi has claimed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not considering the loan agreement with Pakistan so far. While talking to the ARY News programme 'The Reporters', Shabbar Zaidi claimed that the IMF headquarters are not holding meetings related to the loan programme of Pakistan. (Details on Page 6)



Dar reaffirms govt's commitment to promote Islamic finance, eliminate interest system

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Friday reiterated the government's commitment to promote Islamic finance and eliminate the interest-based system in Pakistan. (Details on Page 8)

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NSC Meeting

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs 41st meeting of the National Security Council on Friday.



Photo: PID

NSC approves multi-pronged comprehensive operation against terrorism

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) on Friday approved a multi-pronged comprehensive operation with the support of the government and the nation to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country with a new resolve, determination and valour.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the 41st meeting of the National Security Committee held at the Prime Minister's House.

The federal ministers, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, services chiefs and high-ranking officers of the departments concerned attended the meeting, which was a continuation of the meeting held after the terrorist attack on the Peshawar Police Lines on January 2, 2023.

At the start of the meeting, the participants paid tribute to those who were martyred in the Gavari sector tragedy on April 7, 2012.

Emphasizing comprehensive national security, it was declared that relief to the people was of central importance. The forum was told that the government was taking measures in this connection.

The meeting acknowledged the sacrifices and efforts of the security forces for ensuring permanent peace for the nation.

The forum reiterated the resolve to continue operations till the eradication of terrorism from Pakistan.

The committee proclaimed that the recent wave of terrorism was the result of the soft corner and the absence of a well-thought-out policy against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which was declared a terrorist organization but against the public expectations and wishes, under the previous policy terrorists were allowed to return without any hindrance. In the name of confidence building, dangerous terrorists of the TTP were released from jails, it added.

It was noted that due to the return of the dangerous terrorists and the support of different terrorist organisations to them from Afghanistan, peace and stability, which were the result of innumerable sacrifices and continuous efforts, were affected.

It was agreed that in the new multi-pronged and comprehensive operation, combined efforts at diplomatic, security, economic and social levels would be undertaken for the elimination of the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

A high-level committee was formed which within two weeks would present its recommendations for the implementation of the policy and to draw its parameters.

The leadership appreciated the successful operation of the leading intelligence agency during which a highly wanted terrorist Gulzar Imam aka Shambay was arrested. The terrorist was the founding leader of the Baloch National Army and was involved in different terrorist activities for a long time.

The committee strongly condemned the increasing hatred and division in society and attempts to spread foreign-sponsored poisonous propaganda on social media against the state institutions and their leadership to achieve hidden targets and stated that those attempts were affecting national security.

While expressing resolve to fail the heinous designs of the enemies of the country, the committee said every effort would be made to maintain peace which was achieved with the supreme sacrifices and constant endeavours of the martyrs.

President for greater focus on preventive healthcare



Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for a greater focus on promoting preventive healthcare in the country which is not only cost-effective but would help reduce the disease burden.

He said Pakistan, being a developing country, could hardly afford to fully meet the healthcare needs of its over 220 million population through curative treatments due to limited resources.

The president gave these remarks while chairing the fourth meeting of the Senate of the Health Services Academy (HSA), at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Alvi said that Pakistan needed to make goal-oriented and time-bound plans to improve its public health sector, adding that preventive healthcare should be the priority of the country's health policy.

He highlighted that some countries had tremendously improved their health sectors by focusing on preventive health and investing in the intellectual development of their human resources.

The meeting was also briefed about the impacts of global warming and climate change which would likely increase the burden of diseases due to rising temperatures. The meeting stressed the need for exploring funding options from international donors for research and development in the public health sector.

It was also emphasized to develop a resource mobilization strategy to meet the future financial needs of HSA as well as the healthcare programmes in the country. The meeting also underscored the importance of devising a National Plan for Public Health to effectively address the challenges being faced by the country's health sector.

The meeting also endorsed the minutes of the 3rd Senate meeting of the Health Services Academy.

Outlawed Baloch National Army Founder apprehended in IBO: ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Security forces successfully apprehended a hardcore terrorist Gulzar Imam alias Shambay during an intelligence-based operation (IBO), quoting the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) revealed that Shambay, the founder and leader of the banned outfit Baloch National Army (BNA) was arrested after an innovatively conceived, carefully planned and meticulously executed operation.

Gulzar remained involved in anti-Pakistan activities including violent terrorist attacks on security forces.

Born in 1978 in Balochistan's Panjgur, Gulzar Imam remained a contractor and a news reporter till 2009, the military public relations wing statement said and added he also remained as deputy to Brahamdagh Bugti in Baloch Republican Army (BRA) till 2018.

The military's media wing stated that the apprehended militant also played his part in the formation of Baloch Raji Aajoi Sangar (BRAS) and remained its operational head.

In 2017, Shambay traveled to India on an Afghan passport with the name of Gul Naveed.

NA approves motion to hold Constitution's golden jubilee celebrations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Friday unanimously approved the motion to allow the use of the chamber of the National Assembly to hold the golden jubilee celebrations of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Speaker, National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf during the 51st session of the lower house after concluding the question hour session apprised the House that 10th April was a historic day as the first Islamic, Federal and Parliamentary Constitution of Pakistan of 1973 was unanimously passed by this August House.

He added that a special parliamentary committee constituted under the chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani prepared an elaborate and well-planned programme to mark one-month-long celebrations across the country. The golden jubilee celebrations will commence from April 10 at the Parliament House.



Raja Pervez said constitutional leaders from all the provinces, vice-chancellors of the universities, political workers and activists, students, members of civil society and other stakeholders would attend the event.

"All the members from the opposition and treasury benches should ensure their presence on this occasion to transfer this legacy and apprise the youth the next generation of our country on the significance of the Constitution," the National Assembly Speaker said.

He requested the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbasi to move the motion intended to allow the National Assembly chamber for holding the event.

Mockery of Constitution, law must come to an end: Marriyum

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said there should be an end to the mockery of Constitution and law for charting the country on path of progress and development.

Addressing a news conference, the minister said Justice Athar Minallah's decision had left "no doubt over the credibility of the verdict of the three-member bench of Supreme Court in a case related to delay in the Punjab elections."

"Today Justice Athar Minallah of the Supreme Court gives a major decision which not only raises a question over the proceedings of the court in the suo motu case for delay in Punjab elections, but also categorically states that he had not distanced, recused and disassociated from the bench," she said



while citing various parts of his dissenting note.

She said Justice Athar Minallah had not only expressed disagreement with his brother judges but also dismissed the petition by declaring it inadmissible.

Marriyum said the three-member bench was constituted on a petition which was dismissed by the majority of judges. "Why the bench was formed on the petition which was dismissed and how can a decision be given on a petition which does not exist?" she asked.

The minister said not only the major political parties called for a full court bench on the Punjab polls' issue, but it was also the opinion of four SC judges, who stated that the case had become "controversial" and it was imperative to form the full court bench in order to maintain people's trust in the courts.

She said political parties did not run away from the election but "the decisions which are imposed to solidify a political ideology and usher in a constitutional crisis cannot be accepted."

to hear a petition which was dismissed by majority of the judges of earlier bench?" she questioned.

Marriyum asked as to why the major political parties were not heard by the court, while Asad Umar was called to get a briefing on economy.

She said the counsel for 13 parties were not given an audience by the apex court and even their attendances were not marked. It was injustice, "which is unacceptable," she remarked.

To a query, she said the PTI government's wrong policies revived terrorism which was wiped out from the country under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif who united the nation against the scourge and worked out a National Action Plan for the purpose.

She regretted that the PTI government failed to upgrade the Counter-Terrorism Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

'Crushing PTI before elections part of London plan' says Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has said that fake cases and imprisonment of PTI's leadership were part of the 'London Plan' to crush his political party before elections.

Imran Khan slammed the incumbent government for continuously attempting to crush PTI before elections via fake cases and arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders.

In a Twitter thread, Khan wrote, "The dangerous ruling buffoons don't realise the damage they are doing to Pak's image abroad by sham FIRs & absurd sedition charges against a former PM for using terms 'Dirty Harry' & 'psychopath'. They are making a mockery of

Pakistan."

He added, "Also, what message is being sent to foreign investors when govt itself is not accepting SC decisions? Investors need security of contracts & that means faith in judicial system. What confidence can they have when govt itself casting aside SC orders? This happens in a banana republic."

"Sedition cases against me - this is 144th case against me- and our senior leader Ali Amin Gandapur along with his imprisonment, are simply attempts to undermine our Party's ability to fight elections. This is all part of London Plan in which Nawaz Sharif was given assurances that PTI would be crushed before elections through fake cases & imprisonment of its leadership," Imran Khan concluded.

Awareness walk

FAISALABAD: Jawad Raza Awan is leading the awareness walk regarding the protection of animal rights organized by Animal Welfare Organization, in the city.



Photo: Online

US weapons left in Afghanistan being used by TTP: Report

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: After the United States pulled out its troops from Afghanistan, it left behind military equipment and weapons worth \$7 billion which later boosted the military capabilities of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch separatist groups.

According to a report by Radio Free Europe, the US left behind weapons and equipment including firearms, communications gear, and even armored vehicles which gave the militants a "vast war chest."

Pakistan always desired not to indulge in blame game with Afghanistan and had



repeatedly urged the IAG to establish its writ in the country.

The RFERL report rejected Kabul's claims that TTP was not using Afghan soil against Pakistan as the presence of TTP, ISKP and other terrorist

groups in Afghanistan was an undeniable reality. The report said that using the US weapons and equipment, but the TTP and Baloch separatist groups were waging insurgencies against

the government in Pakistan, which has witnessed a surge in violence over the past two years.

"These weapons have added to the lethality of such groups," said Asfandyar Mir, a senior analyst at the United States Institute of Peace.

Experts say armed groups have obtained advanced US weapons and equipment like M16 machine guns and M4 assault rifles, night-vision goggles, and military communication gear.

Abdul Sayed, a Sweden-based researcher who tracks the TTP, said the group's access to sophisticated combat weapons has had a "terrifying" impact, especially on the less-

equipped police force in Pakistan.

According to the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), a think tank in Islamabad, the number of terrorist attacks in the country increased by 27 percent last year compared to 2021. At least 419 people were killed, while 734 were injured in 262 terrorist attacks last year.

The Taliban spokesperson however rejected claims that it has supplied TTP fighters with US weapons and equipment.

"If some weapons are being smuggled, they are far fewer and not of much concern," the report quoted Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman said.

China's growth to steer global economy back on track

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China's growth will steer the global economy back on track, pinpointed Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, while commenting on the global inflation, which has become one of the leading concerns of the year for many.

High inflation remains geographically broad-based. "If you look at Europe, the United States, or everywhere, the inflation rate is rising. Central banks resort to increasing the policy rates, but that slows down the economy," the minister



told China Economic Net during his recent visit to China.

Also, the minister noted that Pakistan was currently

facing an economic crisis for a number of reasons, and the government was trying to stabilize and revive the econ-

omy. However, China's opening up offers a great opportunity for the whole world, because "China has so much consumer demand in its market," he noted.

The minister cited China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as examples. 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of BRI and also the tenth year of CPEC. As he sees it, BRI and CPEC are platforms to promote inter-regional and international trade, to bring sharing of experiences among different countries, as well as to promote joint responses to

many global issues.

"There has been tremendous and remarkable progress on CPEC in Pakistan. It has made a valuable contribution in helping Pakistan overcome its energy crisis, in helping it modernize the infrastructure, and also it has laid down a fiber optic cable that provides backbone to its digital infrastructure..." Ahsan Iqbal enumerated the advantages of CPEC.

"Although CPEC is a bilateral project, its scope is regional. It not only provides a chance for Pakistan to improve its standards in various fields yet it also provides an opportunity for other countries.

FIA summons Asad Umar on April 14

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore has summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Asad Umar on April 14 in connection with the probe into the prohibited funding case.

According to the call-up notice, Asad Umar has been directed to appear before FIA investigators on April 14 in Lahore.

The FIA stated that Umar was managing the PTI's election campaign and he will be quizzed regarding the sources of the funds.

In December 2022, a special court had extended the interim bail of two accused, involved in a case of prohibited funding against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Imran Khan struggling to save the country: Qureshi

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Vice struggling to save the country under the leadership of Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that they are struggling to save the country under the leadership of Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. The more these people delay the elections, the more popularity of Imran Khan will increase and the popularity of imported rulers will decrease. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will sweep the next elections.

In 2018, Tehreek-e-Insaf achieved historic success across the country and now once again with the power of people's votes, Tehreek-e-Insaf will once again get a historic success. The sack of imported rulers is going to be round-ed. He expressed these views while meeting the members



of FPG Group (Friends Political Group) of former chairman Maher Ashfaq NA 157 in Union Council Jhok Lashkarpur. Former Member National and Provincial Assembly Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, Former Provincial Minister Dr. Akhtar Malik were also present on this occasion.

He said that the country's economy is under crisis. Every section of the country is worried because of the economic situation. The country is sinking into the quagmire of problems. The rulers do not care about public issues and people. They are interested in

their own interests. Imported rulers are doing politics of interests. Imran Khan is not fighting for himself, but for the future generations of the nation. The time has come for the nation to support Imran Khan to save the country. Tehreek-e-Insaf will have to win by hitting the bat

During his tenure, he completed development projects worth billions of rupees in NA 157. If the political figure against us has done development work in the constituency, bring it forward. Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi had a detailed discussion on the political situation in the country in a meeting with the members of FPG group. On this occasion, all the members declared full confidence in the leadership of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi and reiterated that they will fight hard for the success of Tehreek-e-Insaf's candidate in NA-157 in the upcoming elections.

PM launches mental health App, helpline

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday launched a mobile application and helpline to address the issues related to mental health.

The App titled "Humraaz" and toll-free helpline 1166 would provide free mental health assistance to the people.

"On this World Health Day today, I am pleased to announce the launch of Government's first dedicated mental health App #Humraaz & helpline," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister said citizens'



well-being and especially mental health was paramount for the society's improvement. "We need to remove taboo around mental health," he added.

Dar reaffirms govt's commitment to promote Islamic finance, eliminate interest system

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday reiterated the government's commitment to promote Islamic finance and eliminate the interest-based system in Pakistan.

The minister, while virtually chairing the second meeting of the Steering Committee on Implementation of Federal Shariat Court's (FSC) Judgment on Riba, assured the complete support of Finance Ministry to the committee for achieving its objectives.

Besides the committee members, the meeting was attended by State Bank of Pakistan Governor, Secretary Finance, and senior officers from the Finance Division and SBP, a news release said.

The minister also appreciated the significant progress that had taken place since the formation of the transformation plan developed by the SBP in terms of awareness, capacity building, legal and regulatory reforms, and adoption of international standards for the purpose of conversion of conventional banking system into the Shariah compliant system.



The meeting also discussed the demand and supply side challenges being faced by the task force in eliminating Riba from the financial system, and various measures to be taken to address the same within the timeframe.

Ishaq Dar also expressed his confidence that under the chairmanship of SBP governor, the steering committee would be able to complete the task efficiently.

He further instructed all the stakeholders to work with commitment, sincerity and understanding to overcome all the hurdles in the way of implementation of interest free system and making the system feasible and stronger that all citizens would aspire for it.

ECP sets standards for international observers, media ahead of Punjab elections

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Friday has issued a 30-point code of conduct for international observers and media persons, providing guidelines for conduct, impartiality, and security during the observation and reporting of the country's electoral process, and aims to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

According to the code of conduct, individuals or groups who observe and report on the electoral process in Pakistan must read and sign a Code of Conduct that includes a pledge.

International observers and media personnel must follow the rules for visa applications and respect Pakistan's sovereignty and the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people. They cannot stay beyond the duration of their granted visa.

International observers and media should follow the constitution

and laws of Pakistan and respect the Election Commission and its officials. Observations and reporting should be impartial, objective, and accurate.

International observers and media must follow instructions from the Election Commission and State authorities and maintain a respectful attitude. Comply with safety advisories from the government or security agencies. Respect the culture and customs of the country and act professionally.

Display official identification badges at all times and present when requested. Maintain political impartiality, with no bias or preference for political parties or candidates. Obey rules for photography and restrictions on taking pictures.

Ask questions and clear queries without obstructing the election process. Work harmoniously with other observers, media, and polling staff.

More Pakistani delegation coming to China for face-to-face meetings: Pak Envoy

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque hoped that this year is going to bring the momentum back to pre-Covid level as more delegations from Pakistan are coming to China for face-to-face meetings following China's relaxation on Covid-related restrictions.

"This year is very special as it marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan is one of the pioneers of BRI. In the past decade, CPEC has transformed our economic landscape, he told China Economic Net (CEN).

According to a research by KTrade, a securities broker and think tank in Pakistan, CPEC energy projects have become growth drivers for Pakistan. After the addition of 9,740MW in capacity by CPEC, the access of the Pakistani population

to electricity rose by 3.8 ppts in just 4 years to 75.4% in 2020, whereas in the 18 years from 1998 to 2016, the percentage of the population in Pakistan with access to electricity increased by only 1.1 from 70.5% to 71.6%.

In terms of transport infrastructure, CPEC has contributed 809km out of the 2,790km operational motorways in Pakistan, and further 813km is under construction, linking different parts of the country to the main ports and enhancing its cross-border connectivity.

According to Pakistan's Commercial Counsellor to China, Ghulam Qadir, looking ahead, trade, investment, and industrial cooperation hold the key for Pakistan and China.

"In Gwadar, 46 enterprises have been registered in the Free Zone while 3 companies have started production", he said.

ASM recognizes NSU Vice Chancellor as Mentor and Futuristic Leader

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: A letter addressed to the Vice Chancellor of the National Skills University Islamabad states, "On behalf of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the Subcommittee on Minority Education, I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected to be a mentor in the ASM Future Leaders Mentoring Fellowship (FLMF) program. ASM is excited to support you as you build relationships with your fellows." This international recognition explicitly recognizes the leadership and scholarly contributions of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, currently serv-



ing as Vice Chancellor of the National Skills University Islamabad and Vice Chairman of the National Technology Council Pakistan. Prof. Mukhtar is a forward-thinking academic administrator, teacher, and scholar possessing drive, ambition, and ability with a doctoral and postdoctoral in biotechnology from the North American system. His services at several institutions in the country received rave reviews. In academic leadership, being the founding vice chancellor of three universities, the most challenging task, including current position, are exemplary. Moreover, during his services as Foreign Professor at the Pir Mehr Ali

Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, he established a linkage with the King Saud University, Riyadh that led to funding from the National Plan for Science, Technology, and Innovation to develop molecular tests to identify the infestation of the date palm with red palm weevil. Of importance, during his tenure as Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University Bahawalpur, the establishment of world-class agriculture and veterinary colleges, followed by their accreditation and support for the development of virus-resistant cotton varieties being cultivated in Punjab, are worth mentioning contributions in the country.

RPO Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi visited the injured policeman in MMH



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: According to details, Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Abdul Ghafoor Afridi visited Police Constable Sabir, who was injured by terrorists in Daraban police station last month, at Mufti Mahmood Hospital Dera.

He reviewed the medical facilities provided to the police constable and issued instructions after obtaining information from the doctors. That no effort should be spared for the treatment of the injured young police man, on this occasion he presented a bouquet of flowers to the police young man and encouragingly, he said that I am proud of the Dera police men who, without caring for their lives, resisted the successive attacks of anti-national elements and crushed their evil ambitions.

Multsn District Admin cracked down violation of the Ramadan Ordinance

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, the district administration cracked down on the violation of the Ramadan Ordinance yesterday. 10 hotels and restaurants were sealed for the violation, while the price control magistrates also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the ovens and hotel owners.

In the crackdown, the equipment of small hotels feeding Khabe by installing canals on the highways was also seized. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the Assistant Commissioners have been ordered to take full action in the tehsils, while according to the SOPs, bakeries and general stores. Food items will be sold.

Welcomes COAS visit to LOC

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan also welcomed the visit of Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir to the LoC and said that the visit of Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir to the LoC has encouraged the people on both sides of the border and the movement. General Asim Munir's visit to LoC in support of Kashmiris' struggle for freedom Kashmir appreciated the eternal sacrifices of Kashmiris for which Kashmiris from both sides of LOC are grateful and pay tribute, he said that Pak Army is the best forces in the world and we reiterate this commitment. Every individual of Kashmir stands by its armed forces to protect its borders from terrorism and is ready to fight any kind of aggression. People on both sides of the border are standing side by side with their Pakistan Army. Pakistan Army is known all over the world for its professional skills. We are proud of our forces and salute the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army.

Iftar Dinner

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: In the Good Friday, an Iftar Dinner organized by Professional Photographers Association, Lyallpur Photographers, Movie Makers Association City GB Faisalabad and Muslim Christian Photographers Movie Makers, where the Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain, Muhammad Tariq, Sadur Muhammad Ahmed, Shahzad Bhatti, Senior Photojournalist Abdul Majid, Vice Chairman M. Nadeem Shaikh, Iqbal, Sami don't, Mohammad Maqbool, Mohammad Ramadan, Muhammad Amjad, Sohail Raz, Malik Sohail Sardar, Amjad Mattoo, Zabeer Murad, M Afzal, M Shahid, Shakeel Naik, Asif Makhan, Rao Mubasher, Khurram Shehzad and Taya were cutting the cake. On this occasion, prayers were also offered for the welfare of country Pakistan, the Pakistan Armed Forces and the members of the associations.

Heads of all associations decided to work for the entire satisfaction of the public interests in all respect, without any resistance or discrimination.

Court sends PTI leader Ali Amin to jail on judicial remand



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A local court on Friday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Ali Amin Gandapur to central jail on six-day judicial remand, ensuring his presence in separate cases filed by Islamabad and Punjab police.

The former federal minister and PTI central leader was produced before the judicial magistrate after he was arrested in Dera on Thursday evening.

However, accepting his plea, the judicial magistrate-2 granted a bail to the PTI leader in two cases registered by Dera police against him.

The court rejected plea of Islamabad and Punjab police seeking phys-

ical custody of the PTI leader in separate cases registered against him and directed the representatives of both Islamabad and Punjab police to fulfill and complete the required documentation for further legal proceedings.

Strict security measures were made on the court premises where Ali Amin's brother, former provincial minister Faisal Amin, Tehsil Mayor Umar Amin and a large number of PTI workers were present.

Alim Amin was arrested after hours-long drama outside the Peshawar High Court Dera Bench building where Mr Gandapur remained for several hours along with his supporting lawyers and associates.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Arshad has imposed Section 144 Cr. PC in the district with immediate effect to ensure a peaceful environment in the district.

According to a notification issued here by the DC office, a ban has been imposed on unlawful assembly of five or more than five persons in public places, pillion-riding and use of tinted glasses in vehicles for 11 days.

The order aimed at ensuring public safety by preventing breach of peace would come into force immediately and remain enforced from April 6 to 16, it added.

Good Friday

LAHORE: Members of Christen Community are participating in the worships of "Good Friday" in Saint Anthony Church as the Good Friday observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum around the World.



Photo: Online

International Human Rights organizations silent Killing of Palestine Muslims

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A demonstration against Israeli aggression organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Multan was led by Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi. Speaking on this occasion, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi has said that international human rights organizations are silent on the barbarity market that has been continuously heated up in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque under the auspices of Israel, America, Great Britain and India.

The worshippers are being tortured in the mosque. Atrocities are happening in Palestine, Kashmir but the rulers of OIC and Muslim



Ummah are silent. Israel has been inflicting atrocities on the people of Palestine during Ramadan for years, but no one except Turkey is ready to be their voice. Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Mian Asif Ikhwani and others also participated

in the demonstration.

He further said that Israel, India and America are a troika which is continuously inflicting atrocities on the Muslim Ummah. The Muslim Ummah has to wake up now, we can defeat these world powers only

with the awakening of the Ummah. He said that Israel is a region on this earth that no one recognizes. Al-Quds is our heart and our heart beats with the people of Palestine. Issued by Multan Media Center Jamaat-e-Islami Multan

DPO crackdown against the car and motorbike lifting across the district

RAZA NAQVI

ATTOCK : District Police Officer Attock Dr Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan on Friday while presiding over the crime control meeting has directed the police force to intensify the crackdown against the car and motorbike lifting across the district. A spokesman of Attock Police told media here on Friday. DPO also urged the police officers to equally enforce the law making the success of all the projects launched for modern policing and smart working are subject to courteous behavior as well as prompt response of the public following the vision of Inspector General Punjab Police Dr. Usman Anwar. SP Investigation Jawaria Muhammad Jameel, SDPOs and SHOs from across the district were also present in the meeting. The District Police Officer also reviewed criminal records of all the police stations.

CPDI urges the interim KP government to fill vacant posts

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) has called on the provincial government to take immediate action and fill the vacant posts of Information Commissioners at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission to uphold citizens' right to access information.

Commenting on the matter, Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director CPDI, said, "The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act, 2013, is a landmark legislation that empowers citizens to access information held by public bodies.

Modern System of Electronic Filing in Progress: Farooq Dogar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The South Punjab Secretariat has been put on the way of modern system of electronic filing and progress is underway towards making the secretariat completely paperless and to say good bye to pen and paper. In this connection, a training workshop on e-filing and Office Automation System (e-FAOS) was held in the committee room of the office of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab by Punjab Information Technology board. Section Officers and Staff Members of the Administrative Departments

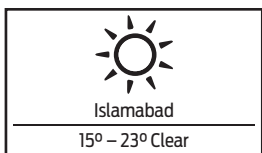
of Sout Punjab participated in the workshop.

Additional Secretary Coordination and S&GAD Muhammad Farooq Dogar, while addressing the training session, said that Punjab government wants to introduce e-governance in every sector to improve service delivery and bring transparency in all departments. He said South Punjab Secretariat has the distinction that efforts are being made for the success of e-filing system since its inception. He said that e-filing system was first launched as a model project in the Agriculture Department of South Punjab, which

remained successful and now it is being implemented in other departments. Mohammad Farooq Dogar said this training workshop has been organised to overcome the difficulties faced in implementing this system.

The Focal Person for e-Filing System for South Punjab, Deputy Secretary Services Nayyar Mustafa said in his address that the whole world is moving towards digitization, so to keep pace with the world it is necessary to equip the offices in Pakistan with electronic filing system. He said e-filing system has been launched in the South Punjab Secretariat and it has

to be implemented by all the departments. Deputy Secretary Services South Punjab said that e-filing system will save 50 percent of time and money. In addition, e-filing system is more secure, efficient and fast and from diary to dispatch, electronic noting, SMS gateway and performance monitoring are part of this system and separate login has been allotted to each department, he added. The Deputy Secretary Services concluded that all administrative departments shall fully implement e-filing system. Mr. Abdul Rauf, a focal person from PITB, gave a briefing about e-filing system.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:23 am
Zohr12:10 pm
Asr4:43 pm
Maghrib6:32 pm
Isha7:58 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Sardar Atiq welcomes to Army Chief General Asim Munir

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Welcoming Army Chief General Asim Munir's visit to the next fronts on the Line of Control, he has said that due to the two sides taking a blunt stance on the Kashmir issue, General Asim Munir's approach to the Kashmir issue is in line with the UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiris. According to the statement of resolution, considering the value of Kashmiris, the armed forces of Pakistan salute the endless services and sacrifices of the Kashmiri freedom struggle and are grateful to the armed forces of Pakistan for their full support and assure the brave and courageous people living on the cease fire line. The people are standing behind the Pakistan Army, he expressed these views in a statement on the occasion of the Pakistan Army once again supporting the Kashmiri nation on the political and diplomatic front. The support of Pakistan Army will be proved in the future as well and it is always alert to face all kinds of threats along with Pakistan Army.

Saudi Fund for Development contributes \$240m to support Pak energy transition

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has signed a US\$240 million loan agreement to support Pakistan's Mohmand Multipurpose Dam Project, a major hydropower complex that will contribute to Pakistan's energy security, increase sustainable water supply for agriculture and human consumption and improve resilience to floods. The agreement was signed by the SFD CEO, Mr. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, and the Federal Secretary for Ministry of Economic Affairs, Pakistan, Dr. Kazim Niaz, with the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki. This loan represents a strong partnership between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in promoting sustainable development and achieving the SDGs. The Mohmand Multipurpose

Dam Project will enhance water and food security and improve the standard of living for people living in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where almost 80% of the population resides in rural areas, boosting the region's socioeconomic development by creating employment opportunities and reducing poverty levels. The project aligns with SDG-2 (Food Security), SDG-6 (Clean Water), and SDG-7 (Clean Energy) and embodies SDG-17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The project, which is co-financed by the Saudi Fund for Development, OPEC, Islamic Development Bank, and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, is expected to have a significant impact on Pakistan's energy and water sectors. By using renewable energy sources, the project will generate 800 MW of electricity production capacity, contributing to Pakistan's energy security. In addition, the storage of 1.6 million m3 of water will



support sustainable agricultural practices, enable irrigation of 6,773 hectares of new land, and increase the total cropping area from 1,517 hectares to 9,227 hectares in the province, facilitating agricultural activities.

During the agreement signing ceremony, the CEO of SFD emphasized the strong develop-

mental ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The CEO also highlighted the significance of joint cooperation between development funds, as evidenced by this project. He further emphasized that this initiative is an extension of SFD's continued support for develop-

ment projects and programs in Pakistan since its inception.

For his part, Dr. Kazim Niaz expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its unwavering support towards the development sectors in Pakistan through the SFD. He recognized the significant contribution

made by the Kingdom towards financing the vital project and emphasized its importance in bringing about positive developmental impacts on Pakistan and its people. The use of renewable energy would enable sustainable energy as well as water sources, which would enhance water and food security. Dr. Niaz praised the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's development efforts through SFD since 1976, which have led to remarkable social growth and sustainable economic prosperity.

The SFD has also supported 76 development projects and programs in the energy sector in African and Asian countries since 1975, including 33 projects and programs in African countries, 42 projects and programs in Asian countries, and one project in Latin America. Additionally, the SFD has played an active role in supporting and developing renewable energy sector projects, which amounted to 35 projects in 23 developing countries worldwide.

Launching ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel launching the web based application Humraz and integrated helpline 1166 at Karachi on Friday.



Photo: PID

NUST, Jiaotong University to establish 'Intelligent Transportation International Joint Laboratory' at NUST

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST-Islamabad) and Shandong Jiaotong University, China have reached an understanding whereby a state-of-the-art "Intelligent Transportation International Joint Laboratory" will be established at NUST. Initiated by China Study Centre at NUST, the partnership is aimed at promoting research and development in the field of Intelligent Transportation, and will augur well for achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (viz. Sustainable Cities & Communities; Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure, etc) by promoting sustainable, efficient, and inclusive trans-



portation systems in the two countries.

Dr Osman Hasan, Pro-Rector Academics, and Vice President Mr Jiang Huaping signed the agreement virtually on

behalf of NUST and Shandong Jiaotong University respectively. Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, also graced the occasion with his presence, besides

members of senior management and faculty from both universities.

AIOU to develop framework for education of Afghan refugees

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees, KPK agreed in a meeting that AIOU should develop a framework for the education and training of children of Afghan refugees. This meeting was held in the office of the Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Muhammad Abbas Khan, Director, Academic Planning, and International Collaboration, AIOU, Dr. Zahid Majeed with AIOU delegation, representatives of JICA, foreigners and different delegates also participated in the meeting.

Dr. Zahid Majeed apprised the forum of the scope of various programs being offered at AIOU and the facilities that it may extend for the provision of quality education to Afghan refugee children through its distance learning programs. He also highlighted the importance of ICT, blended, and online learning.

Commissioner for Afghan refugees appreciated the educational services and nationwide network of AIOU and requested the arrangements for the education and training of the children of Afghan refugees, which the university accepted and assured to formulate the framework.

Before the meeting, Delegation of AIOU, JICA and Representatives of the Commissionerate various refugee-run schools and interacted with the children to identify the educational requirements of the students.

IMF has always ruined poor countries

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the IMF has always ruined poor countries through its impossible conditionalities.

Developing countries should make vigorous efforts to create an Asian Monetary Fund as an alternative to get out of the clutches of the IMF, it said.

African countries should also try to create their own monetary fund to tackle problems, said Saifuddin Sheikh, executive director of PEW



In a statement issued here today, he said that Japan proposed the Asian Monetary Fund during the 1997 crisis, but it could not be implemented due to the opposition of the United States and China's reluctance, but now the situation has changed.

He said that the Chinese economy has become much more stable than in 1997 so it can catch up with the US.

Like the IMF, the US dollar has always been used as a weapon therefore many countries are reducing their dependence on the dollar, he added.

Saifuddin Sheikh said that many countries are conducting international trade in their own currencies, while many are leaning towards the Chinese currency.

Recently, Brazil and Malaysia have decided to trade in Yuan instead of dollars, which is a big step towards ending the monopoly of the dollar, he informed.

Earlier, Saudi Arabia had decided to sell oil to China in Yuan, which was a big blow to the dollar.

He added that after the global sanctions on Russia, it started preferring the Chinese currency and now Russia trades mostly in it. At the moment, sixty percent of the assets of the Russian Wealth Fund consist of Chinese Yuan.

Indonesia, Vietnam, and Cambodia are also getting rid of the dollar. Meanwhile, BRICS countries are deciding to create their own currency, while Saudi Arabia is joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which has worried the United States.

Currently, 61 Countries including Pakistan are suffering from financial difficulties, from which many may go bankrupt if their debts of at least five hundred and twenty billion dollars are not waived, he warned.

PHA Provide Loans to Employees. DG Asif Rauf Khan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Director General PHA Multan Asif Rauf Khan has decided to provide loans from 50,000 to 1 lakh for Class IV employees of PHA Multan. In this regard, a lucky draw was organized and 100 lucky winners Employees were given the good news of loan disbursement.

On this occasion, DGPHA Asif Rauf Khan said that they are trying for the welfare of the employees. They are providing legitimate rights to the employees. In the light of the meeting of the Board of Directors, by providing easy loans to the employees through lucky draw. DGPHA Multan added that employees are the asset of any organization. Protection of rights is included in the responsibilities, emergency measures are being taken for the stability of the institution

Making the parks and green belts beautiful. Director Admin and Finance Muhammad Akhtar Mandhira, Deputy Director Admin Hafiz Naeem and a large number of employees were present on this occasion.

Savoury inks MoU with Indus Hospital & Health Network

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Savoury – Pakistan's leading cashback and consumer rewards platform and Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) have inked an MoU, in a bid to support the latter's mission of providing free-of-cost, quality healthcare to the underserved people of Pakistan. The signing ceremony was held at Indus Hospital Karachi.

As part of its Salam Ramadan campaign, Savoury will match and donate the total cashback amount earned by its consumers during the holy month of Ramadan to IHHN. Savoury will also be encouraging its employees to get involved and support the hospital through volunteering and other activities in the near future.

Saad Gadit–Co-Founder & COO of Savoury stated, "We are honored to partner with Indus Hospital and support their mission to improve the health and wellbeing of Pakistan. As a



socially responsible company and citizens, we believe it is our duty to give back to our community and support organizations that are focused on making a real difference for the underprivileged communities."

"After 15 years of serving humanity, we are proud to have partners in all provinces of Pakistan, and are committed

to ensuring high quality healthcare, absolutely free-of-cost for all across the country," said the Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, Founding President at IHHN. "Startups such as Savoury often have a strong focus on social responsibility, they prioritize social responsibility and are very much interested in supporting community uplifting initiatives such

as IHHN's:

Since its inception in 2007, Indus Hospital & Health Network has been at the forefront in sharing the responsibility with other stakeholders in Pakistan to address the nation's health burden. IHHN believes that a robust health sector includes both public and private providers and such partnerships enable pooling of the expertise and resources for development along with ensuring community outreach, access and sustainability of health services to the most deserving members of the society.

Launched in August 2020, Savoury has become Pakistan's largest rewards and cashback platform with more than 650 brands on-board across the nation, Online and Instore. With the sole aim of revolutionizing the shopping experience in Pakistan, Savoury is constantly adding newer technologies and features to its ecosystem in order to improve the user experience of its consumers and stakeholders.

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A hidden significance of Kashmir

Asadullah Mahesar

Kashmir is a beautiful mountainous region located in South Asia, which is currently administered by three countries: India, Pakistan, and China. The region has been a subject of conflict and dispute between India and Pakistan since the partition of India in 1947. The region is sited at the crossroads of Central, South, and East Asia and serves as a gateway to the Indian subcontinent. There are numerous significance of Kashmir like, its strategic location, natural resources, tourism, and historical and cultural significance. But the most significant of them is the water of Kashmir. The region is home of several rivers and streams that flow into Pakistan. The Indus River, which is one of the major rivers of South Asia, originates in Tibet and flows through Kashmir and Pakistan, providing water for irrigation, hydro-power generation, and several other purposes.

According to the World Bank Pakistan is an agricultural country with more than 62% of its population living in rural areas and depending on agriculture for their livelihood. The country's economy is heavily reliant on the agricultural sector which contributes significantly 22.7% to its GDP reported by the Finance Division of Pakistan. The Indus

River system, which is fed by the rivers of Kashmir, is the lifeline of Pakistan's agriculture which provides water for crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane etc.

Kashmir's water is also important for Pakistan's energy needs. The region became the cause of several hydroelectric power plants, which generate electricity from the water of the Indus River system. According to NEPRA the power plants in Kashmir and Pakistan collectively generate more than 29% of the country's electricity, reducing Pakistan's dependence on fossil fuels and helping to mitigate climate change.

However, the use of these water resources originated from Kashmir has been a point of contention between India and Pakistan. Though, the first ever war between India and Pakistan had fought for the region in 1947 and resultantly, India cut off Pakistan's water supply in early 1948 without any official notice. From here the water dispute between two countries had begun which was resolved through the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 in which the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) and the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas) were given to Pakistan and India respectively. Moreover, the ongoing dispute over the use of these water resources has been a major source of tension between the two countries for decades. Thus, India violates the Treaty to construct the Baglihar Power Projects on Chenab River in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

Furthermore, Kashmir's water has a great significance for Pakistan because several major rivers that flow through Pakistan originate from Kashmir. These rivers include the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab. The waters of these rivers are essential for the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of Pakistan's economy as well as for the generation of hydroelectric power. Additionally, the waters of these rivers are also used for domestic, industrial, and recreational purposes in Pakistan. It is estimated that the Indus Basin Irrigation System, the largest contiguous irrigation system in the world, irrigates more than 17 million hectares of agricultural land in Pakistan. This vast agricultural land includes the fertile plains of Punjab and Sindh provinces, which are major agricultural regions in Pakistan, producing crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton.

The Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers are the three major rivers that flow from the disputed region of Kashmir and are the primary sources of irrigation water for Pakistan's agricultural lands. The following are the estimated irrigation water amounts provided by these rivers to Pakistan:

The Indus River provides water to over 14 million hectares of agricultural land in Pakistan. It is estimated that the Indus River alone irrigates about 45% of Pakistan's total cultivated area. The Jhelum River, which also originates

in Kashmir, is a tributary of the Indus River and provides irrigation water to about 1.2 million hectares of land in Pakistan's Punjab province. The Chenab River is another major tributary of the Indus River and provides irrigation water to about 2.5 million hectares of land in Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces. Therefore, according to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) these three rivers collectively irrigate more than 80% of the country's total cultivated area.

Consequently, the importance of Kashmir's water for Pakistan cannot be overstated. The water from Kashmir is a crucial resource for the country's agriculture, energy, and industrial needs. Pakistan's economic and social development is closely linked to the availability of water from Kashmir, and any disruption in the flow of water could have serious consequences for the country. Pakistan has been politicizing on the issue of Kashmiri Muslims since the inception. But indeed, it's the politics of water resources that is the need of both neighbouring countries India and Pakistan. Therefore, it is crucial that Pakistan and India work together to ensure the sustainable use of the water resources in the region, and to resolve any outstanding issues related to the sharing of water from the rivers of Kashmir.

Writer is Post Graduated from NIPS, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and reached on aliasad326@gmail.com

World not to abandon Afghan people

The United Nations' top humanitarian official in Afghanistan on Thursday warned that Taliban's decision to ban women from working for the UN will have devastating consequences for aid delivery.

Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, said that amid severe underfunding, the move would "further undermine humanitarian partners' ability to support the population, especially the most vulnerable such as women and girls".

"The world cannot abandon the people of Afghanistan at this precarious moment," Dr. Alakbarov said, before urging the international community "not to punish the Afghan people further by withholding critical funding".

Multiple top UN officials, starting with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, have condemned the latest Taliban decision. On Wednesday, the deputy UN chief, Amina Mohammed, pledged continued engagement by UN leadership with Taliban representatives to resolve the situation for the sake of Afghan people.

In a statement on Wednesday, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said Special Representative Roza Otunbayeva, was engaging authorities at the highest level possible, as well as other Member States, the donor community and humanitarian partners, to reverse the latest Taliban decree.

"Aid agencies remain on the ground delivering life-saving assistance to millions of people, and national and international NGOs have continued to implement programmes over the past three months, despite the very challenging circumstances.

"The population has already endured so much, it would be unconscionable to impose further harm on them by depriving them of an essential humanitarian lifeline," Dr. Alakbarov said.

Over the past twenty months, Taliban leaders have issued a series of increasingly restrictive measures targeting women and girls which have sought to limit their participation in all aspects of social, economic and political life.

A large group of UN-appointed independent human rights experts on Thursday demanded the immediate reversal of the Taliban's ban on Afghan women working for the UN.

They described it as unlawful discrimination, and a direct attack on women, "and wholly against the core values and principles" of the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The latest ban will further hamper the delivery of critical assistance to millions of Afghans in need of urgent support, with many of the worst impacted being women and girls, they warned.

"In continuing to target, exclude and isolate women and girls in Afghan society and denying women from working in many professions in Afghanistan, the Taliban is putting at risk the lives of all Afghans and jeopardising the country's future", the Human Rights Council-appointed experts said.

"The Taliban is once again demonstrating its brazen disregard for women's rights and their well-being, and the extent to which they will go to remove women from all areas of public life and strip them of their rights and dignity".

"The targeting of women and girls in Afghanistan and denying their fundamental rights because they are women increases concern about gender persecution, a crime against humanity, and those responsible must be held accountable," they said.

"We call on the de facto authorities to immediately lift the bans on women working with national and international NGOs and the United Nations", their joint statement concluded.



The Tablighi Jamaat-III

Syed Sharfuddin

The dawah parties formed in each small mosque chooses its own Ameer (leader), a Speaker for Taleem (more like a party spokesperson), a Guide who knows the area locally and a Chef who takes the lead in cooking the preaching party's food for the dawah party. All these people come from within the locally constituted party and are not paid for their services.

The preaching tour of a dawah party is organised for several fixed days and is largely adhered to the following format.

- **Schroza** or 3-day tour conducted per month in an area outside of the Jamaat's locality.

- **Chilla** or 40 day per year tour which involves a longer period of withdrawal from one's own social environment to focus on the Deen. This could involve travel to a distant location from one's own area, and a possible deployment in other parts of the country.

- A once in a lifetime **'grand Chilla'** which consists of 3 consecutive Chillas (equating to 120 days) usually in another country.

- **Year-long tour.** It is for the most devote volunteers and usually consists of travelling by foot, from mosque to mosque in each country calling other Muslims to join the work of the Jamaat.

The main objective of the preaching tours is not just to invite other Muslims to the path of Allah but also to develop God-consciousness

in every volunteer of the Jamaat. TJ does not have an elaborate international Secretariat, but it does have a loose structure in each country which focuses on the formation and deployment of Dawah parties and coordinates with the regional and national Markaz to avoid duplication and overlap. Some of the prominent National Centres of TJ are Nizamuddin in India, Raiwind in Pakistan, Tungji in Bangladesh, and Dewsbury in the UK. TJ's Ameer are elected by the Movement's elders who have hitherto been descendants or close associates of the founder of the TJ.

To appeal to the understanding of the masses, TJ has deliberately kept its teaching syllabus simple. The Jamaat does not load its teachings with the study of Ilmul Kalam, or Islamic jurisprudence, or commentary of the holy Quran (Tafseer), or research on the authority of the narrators of Hadith. At the very outset, Maulana Ilyas declared that Islam being a comprehensive religion, TJ could not do all the work itself. He decided to hold on firmly to the instruction and teaching of the Aqeeda and Salat and made these two the fundamental pillars of the teaching syllabus of the Movement. He hoped that by doing so, TJ will act as a catalyst to connect the illiterate public, after it has been made familiar with the fundamentals of the Deen, with the Ulama and reformers of Islam, who have the concern for the Deen, but who are unable to connect with the illiterate masses and disabuse them of un-Islamic practices, superstitions, and wrong notions of Islam.

By keeping its message simple, TJ

has been able to win more followers than any other denomination or sect in Islam. Once they have tasted the true essence of the faith, they go on to acquire the rest of the things that Islam expects them to learn by sitting in the company of learned scholars.

Tablighi Jamaat achieves uniformity by limiting its own references to the dawah books approved by its grand council of elders who advise the Ameer of TJ in the main Markaz at their periodic meetings. TJ books comprise selected sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on all aspects of life. TJ does not engage in dissemination of printed religious material nor undertakes social media campaigns. It gives emphasis to face to face or personal contact, in keeping with the original Islamic tradition of oral teaching.

While this is a reinforcing agent, it ironically prevents the followers of the TJ from benefiting from a huge and ever growing knowledge bank of ancient and modern resources on Islam in Arabic and other languages. TJ is facing new challenge from its global growth with new ideas and mediums of communication replacing the old established ways.

Its new and emerging leadership at the National Marakiz in the Indian Subcontinent and the UK may soon need to reinvent the Movement that is prepared to revise and update its Tablighi Nisab, uses formal electronic, print, and social media to propagate TJ's main message of dawah, and accommodates logic, scientific enquiry, and technology to satisfy the curious Muslim.

Concluded

Gallup Business Confidence Index showing no recovery in Q1 2023

Zeeshan-ul-Rub Jaffri

According to a Gallup Pakistan Survey with business owners in the first quarter of 2023 for the Gallup Business Confidence Index report, pessimism about the conditions and prospects of their businesses had risen among owners - last year's political instability has carried over to combine with various economic crises and exacerbate business insecurity.

The survey is the ninth of a quarterly Business Confidence Survey by Gallup Pakistan. Business Confidence Index is an important barometer capturing the sentiments of business community in any country and used across the world by policy makers. The survey was conducted in the first quarter of 2023 with around 520 businesses across Pakistan.

Main Finding : Businesses are in steep decline!

On all 3 strands the value was negative which meant that more businesses had lack of confidence in the Business situation of Pakistan. The number fell slightly during the current quarter, carrying on the downward trend observed since the end of the previous year.

Bilal Ijaz Gilani, Executive Director Gallup Pakistan and Chief Architect of the Gallup Pakistan Business Confidence Index Pakistan notes: "Businesses in Pakistan are faced with multiple calamities : decades high inflation

killing consumer purchasing power , absolute lack of stability in political system causing overall despair not just in business community but their consumers and lastly no end in sight with respect to looming threat of sovereign default. In past many decades of reading the pulse of business community in Pakistan, we have not seen such dire times being reported"

66% of businesses perceive themselves facing bad or worse conditions. There is a 7% increase in those businesses reporting very bad business conditions. Slight fall observed in Gallup Pakistan Business Situation Net score this quarter. Around 70% of businesses perceive bad conditions in Sindh and KPK, and 64% in Punjab. Most business types reported the business being in a bad state. In the construction, cosmetics, and industrial machines/equipment sector there was a 50-50 split between good and bad conditions

This quarter, 7% more businesses than in the previous quarter think that their business will be worse off in the future. 61% in Q1 2023 said future expectations are negative, while only 38% expect things to improve at all. The Net Future Business Confidence score has worsened by 11% since the previous quarter and is now at -22%.

Business community perceptions regarding the direction of the country remain consistent with the previous quarter. Negative perceptions are at an all time high, with 90% of businesses surveyed opining that the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Similar to Q4 2022, inflation is the most cited problem in this quarter that businesses (45%) would like the government to solve. Compared to last quarter, 10% more want government to help with currency depreciation but 7% fewer believe the government should provide relief on utility prices.

More than half (57%) of businesses surveyed have not undergone layoffs in the last quarter, but 38% do report a decrease in their workforce during this time. 58% of businesses surveyed said that they raised average output prices in the last quarter. Of these, 45% raised those prices between 20% and 50%.

The majority (72%) of businesses surveyed are concerned by Pakistan's potential default. Of these, nearly half (49%) express significantly high concern. 17% of survey respondents are not concerned at all.

44% of businesses surveyed said 'yes' to daily loadshedding this quarter, which is 28% less than the previous quarter. Of those businesses that said yes to loadshedding, nearly 3 out of 4 (73%) this quarter report facing 4 hours or less of loadshedding every day, compared to the previous quarter when a similar proportion of businesses (77%) reported getting 5-6 hours or less.

More than three quarters of the businesses surveyed have not established a digital presence for themselves. 76% do not have WhatsApp for business, 86% do not have a website, and 85% do not have a Facebook account.

United Nations Children's Fund

Turkmenistan elected to the Executive Board of the UNICEF for the period 2024-2026

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On April 5, 2023, during the Organizational Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), elections were held for the subsidiary bodies of the Council.

During the elections, ECOSOC members unanimously elected Turkmenistan as a member of the UNICEF Executive Board for the period 2024-2026. Earlier Turkmenistan was elected and served as a member of the UNICEF Executive Board in 2018-2020.

Today, Turkmenistan is a member of 13 commissions, committees and councils of the United Nations, the country has been elected Vice-Chairman of the UN General Assembly seven times.

As an Executive Board member, which is the governing body of UNICEF providing intergovernmental support and oversight to the organization, Turkmenistan will take part in reviewing UNICEF activities and approving its

policies, country programmes and budgets. Thus, it is an opportunity for the Government of Turkmenistan to contribute and influence the transformative agenda for children at the global level. It will also position the Government, leading by example globally in upholding its obligations to the rights of the children in its policy, programming and practice in the country.

For information The Executive Board is the governing body of UNICEF, which provides intergovernmental support and oversight to the organization, in accordance with the general guidelines of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The Executive Board reviews the activities of UNICEF, approves the work plan, country programs and budget. It has 36 members representing the five regional groups of Member States in the United Nations. Its work is coordinated by a Bureau composed of a president and four vice-presidents, with each officer representing one of the

Membership of Turkmenistan in the specialized bodies of the UN		
1.	Vice-President of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	2021-2023
2.	Executive Committee of the Program of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Permanent member
3.	Trade and Development Council United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Permanent member
4.	Vice President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly	2022-2023
5.	United Nations Commission on Population and Development	2020-2024
6.	United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs	2020-2023
7.	United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development	2021-2024
8.	United Nations Commission for Social Development	2021-2025
9.	Executive Board of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)	2021-2023
10.	Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO International Hydrological Program	2021-2025
11.	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	2022-2024
12.	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	2022-2027
13.	Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	2024-2026

five regional groups. The Executive Council meets three

times each year. First session (January/February), second session (May/June) and third session (September). The meetings of the Executive Board are held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

Chaudhry Naseer Sahiwali organized an annual Iftar party

Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER : Prominent Mazhabi social entrepreneur Chaudhry Naseer Ahmad Sahiwali organized an annual iftar party at the Manchester Sundal Mosque in Victoria Park to pay homage to his parents and those who participated in building and running the Victoria Central Mosque. A number of people participated in the event, including business personalities Ustad Sajdar-Faisal Malik-Abdul Jabbar-Chaudhry Atta Muhammad-Dr. Atiq-On this occasion Maulana Qari Javed Akhtar, a prominent religious scholar of Britain, said that Chaudhry Naseer Ahmed every year. On the 3rd Thursday of Ramadan, a spiritual gathering and Iftar is held for the



forgiveness of their parents and those who participated in the construction and management of the mosque. Hafiz Moinuddin Akhtar said that for the purpose for which Chaudhry Naseer has organized the Iftar party, it is our prayer that

Allah Ta'ala will restore the status of his late parents. Raise it—such gatherings should be held so that our young generation is aware of the virtues and importance of the month of Ramadan. In the end, prominent religious scholar Qari Javed

Akhtar offered a special prayer for the forgiveness of Chaudhry Naseer Sahiwali's parents, Mian Salim Tayyab's father, Tayyab and Chacha Muhammad Jalil Masjid administration and the parents of the current administration.

Razia Choudary organized a Naat Khwani and Iftar party

Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER : In the blessed month of Ramadan, to shower flowers of devotion on the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), President of the International Naat Council Lady Wing, Razia Choudary organized a Naat and Iftar gathering at the Pakistani Community Center Manchester Dr. Yunus Faraz-Faisal Azim-Kashif Ali Makhdoom Amjad Shah-Prominent poet. Naghmana Kanwal-Farida Lakhira-Zaheer Lakhira-Mehboob Elahi Butt and others ignited the freshness of the faith of the participants by presenting the Naat Kalam. On this occasion, the host International Naat Council Lady Wing President Razia Choudary said that in the



spiritual gathering and iftar I would like to thank the participants, especially my close female friends-Inshallah, this spiritual gathering will continue every year. Renowned poet Naghmana Kanwal Sheikh

said that we are grateful to Razia Choudary for organizing such a gathering every year. Community leader Alia Hashmi said that the gathering organized to offer flowers of devotion to God in the blessed month of Ramadan is

commendable. Farida Lakhira and others said that holding such gatherings is very important so that I am the master of our young generation, from where love and devotion will grow and your good deeds will be followed.

UNESCO Awards funding to Pakistan to improve data collection and strengthen

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) has awarded USD 83,496 to Beaconhouse National University to undertake a project titled "Improving Data Collection among National and Provincial Statistical Agencies to Strengthen Policymaking for the Cultural and Creative Industries".

The IFCD is a multi-donor fund established under Article 18 of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Its purpose is to promote sustainable development and creative economic growth in developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention. Since 2010, the IFCD has provided more than USD 10 million in funding for 140 projects in devel-

oping countries. This is the first time Pakistan has been awarded funding under the IFCD.

Pakistan ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in March 2022. The Convention supports the growth and development of cultural and creative industries, and provides a new framework for informed, transparent, and participatory systems of governance for culture.

The project will be implemented by Beaconhouse National University, with technical guidance from the UNESCO Islamabad Field Office. Founded in 2003, Beaconhouse National University (BNU) is a leading liberal arts university in Pakistan, and has previously worked with UNESCO on several key interventions to support the creative economy, including



the mapping of cultural and creative industries around heritage sites in Punjab.

The project will work with national and provincial statistical agencies to develop improved data collection and analysis tools for the cultural and creative sectors in Pakistan, contributing to the development of inclusive cultural policies that respond to the needs of the sector and include often overlooked voices such as women artisans. The project outcomes will strengthen evidence-based policymaking and will benefit a range of government bodies including bureaus of statistics, cultural bodies, skill development and vocational training authorities, councils of the arts, small and medium enterprise development authorities, planning and development boards, trade and investment boards, and more.

Rwanda genocide: Lesson to prevent yet another one in Kashmir

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

Today, on 7 April, the world community commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

If we consider the fact that the fundamental mission of the United Nations in being created was to be a means of preventing global catastrophes like the Rwanda Genocide, then the simplest answer is that it has been an enormous failure.

Counted among the greatest failures of the UN is Srebrenica, a town in eastern Bosnia only ten miles from the border of Serbia, which came under attack by the Serbs in July 1995 during the Bosnian war. Although U.S. and British officials knew several weeks in advance that the Serbs intended not only to attack the village but also intended to separate all the men and boys from women and children and kill them, they did nothing to protect them. UN forces were not reinforced. No plan to evacuate them was made. More than 8,000 men and boys were slaughtered in a matter of days.

In 1994, a far worse genocide occurred in Rwanda when close to a million Tutsis were slaughtered



by Hutus. The UN knew that this was going to occur in advance and yet allowed massive genocide to occur and did not block it. As an article in the Telegraph points out, 'A 1999 inquiry found that the UN ignored evidence that the genocide was planned and refused to act once it had started. More than 2,500 UN peacekeepers were withdrawn after the murder of ten Belgian soldiers. In one case, the peacekeeping forces deserted a

school where Tutsis were taking shelter—hundreds of people inside were immediately massacred.'

Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations stressed in his message for International Day of Reflection on 1994. "The genocide was neither an accident nor unavoidable. It was deliberate, systematic—and carried out in broad daylight. No one who followed world affairs or watched the news could deny the

sickening violence taking place. Yet too few spoke out—and fewer still tried to intervene."

Mr. Guterres added that the genocide against the Tutsi raised questions that affect all humankind—fundamental questions about the role of the Security Council, the effectiveness of peacekeeping, the need to end impunity for international crimes, the need to address the roots of violence, and the fragility of civility."

Dr. Gregory Stanton, Chairman, Genocide Watch spoke to "The WIRE": "We've learned over the years that we should not ignore these early warning signs. We knew that there were very early warning signs, for instance, in Rwanda five years ahead of the time when the genocide there happened. We warned, no one did anything about it. We tried to even warn the President of the country." He added "The reason we try to warn is (that) our objective is prevention. If you warn after the genocide is over, it's too late. Unfortunately, that's usually been the response of most of the international community."

Dr. Gregory Stanton has also warned the world community that Kashmir was at the brink of genocide. "So many of the early stages of genocide are already present. We don't wait until it is a full out mass killing campaign to declare genocide. There are early warning signs of genocide now and that's what we believe is the situation in Kashmir."

Dr. Stanton eloquently stressed "I don't see a strong foreign policy yet coming out of the Biden administration. I would make it part of our policy that we need to communicate to Mr. Modi that the US will not tolerate the kind of intolerance that he is preach-

ing if we are going to have a good economic relationship with India."

Any effort to stop genocide and resolve the Kashmir conflict requires confronting the issue directly and honestly, and that is something that seems difficult for the Government of India to do. India does not want to resolve the Kashmir conflict but to dissolve it. India wants Kashmir issue to be buried under the rug when the issue is raised in the international community by alleging that it is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and no one else's business. It could be strictly a bilateral issue if forthrightness was involved.

The people of Kashmir do not wish anybody to take a partisan side. Kashmiris are convinced, nevertheless, that impartial observers would support the Kashmir cause based on universal principles, democratic values, rule of law and international justice.

Therefore, we believe that the American response to the Kashmiri situation must be based on the principles of the right of a people with a distinct historical and cultural identity to decide their own future; the sanctity of international agreements worked out by the United Nations; a peaceful and stable subcontinent free from the possibility

of a regional nuclear exchange; and the consistent application of human rights standards. Such an approach could lead to a just and peaceful resolution of the 76-year-old dispute that would be a lasting credit to U.S. foreign policy under the Biden administration. On the other hand, reluctance to undertake such an initiative neither contributes to a long-term strategy of global peace and security nor answers the demands of human conscience and the principles of justice.

We firmly believe that peace in the region would benefit not only those who are directly impacted by this conflict—Kashmiris—but India as well. Sounder minds must prevail. More rational methods of dealing with differences must be sought. Repeating the same mistakes while expecting different results has long ago been found to be the path of failure. Seventy-six years should demonstrate a need for a change in policy, a policy that acknowledges the need for coming together in a process that accepts the right of all people to determine their own destiny.

Dr. Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice and reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. Or gnj@2003@yahoo.com

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
40,049.65	40,350.89	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
40,549.86	40,005.04	
Index Value	Change	
2,507,263,032	-301.24	
Percentage	Time	
-0.75%	7 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	
33,485.29	-2.57	
Percentage	Time	
-0.0077%	6 Apr, 4:57 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
27,518.31	+45.68	
Percentage	Time	
+0.17%	7 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193	195
Bahrain Dinar	764.95	772.95
Canadian Dollar	212.5	214.5
China Yuan	41.8	42.2
Danish Krone	42.29	42.69
Euro	314	317
Hong Kong Dollar	36.64	36.99
Indian Rupee	3.5	3.61
Japanese Yen	2.2	2.25
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	77.7
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	78.2	79
UK Pound Sterling	358	362
US Dollar	289.1	291.9

Pakistan loan agreement not on IMF's table: Shabbar Zaidi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Former Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Shabbar Zaidi has claimed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not considering the loan agreement with Pakistan so far.

While talking to the ARY News programme 'The Reporters', Shabbar Zaidi claimed that the IMF headquarters are not holding meetings related to the loan programme of Pakistan.

He said that Fund's spring meeting is being held in the United States (US), however, there are no specific meetings related to Pakistan which itself a hint that the issue of our country is not on the IMF's table.

The former FBR chairman claimed that the ruling government is failed to provide the economic way forward to IMF as the current financial minister Ishaq Dar has now realized the economic difficulties in the country.

He maintained that the IMF will release the



next tranche if the current government will agree on the next conditions.

Zaidi said that due to the political crisis, the

current government does not want to agree to the next IMF program, however, it will become

a compulsion for the ruling government to agree

with the next IMF program due to the financial crisis.

"IMF program is not a cure for any disease," Zaidi said.

He added that inflation has put unbearable financial burden on the common man. He said that the government with a mandate is the only solution to steer the country out of the economic crisis. Zaidi said that the ruling government did not launch any program for economic recovery in the last 12 months. He said that the coalition government did not issue any instructions to save electricity or keep the size of the cabinet small to cut the financial crisis.

He predicted that economic and political stability is not possible until general elections are held.

While answering a question, Shabbar Zaidi replied that the present government will not be able to delay the Punjab elections, however, the government will have to come to an agreement and the elections will be held in July.

Karkhana Bazar

FAISALABAD: People are busy in buying unstitch clothes for preparation for Eid-ul-Fitr at Karkhana Bazar, in the city.



Photo: Online

Punemployment crisis can be ended by providing services to the needy: governor

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Balighur Rahman has said that there are vast opportunities to work in the social sector of Pakistan while in this regard the services of Custom Health Care Society are capable of serving the suffering humanity as per the time requirements. There are imitations. He was addressing the Iftar party hosted by Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah at the Governor's House.

He said that Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah started his career from the Customs Department and from the very beginning he started working with a free dispensary to serve the employees, which today is performing the duty of services at the national level and millions of People are



benefiting from its services.

Dr. Asif Jah said that the service of suffering humanity is the goal of his life and he was busy in one way or the other throughout his life in creating facilities for the deserving and deprived classes and it is the result of his prayers that he is even today as an Ombudsman is making things easier for people.

He thanked the contributors from Custom Healthcare Society and assured that the donations to the beneficiaries will be 100% successful.

Country falling into abyss, Govt should be allowed to work: Mian Zahid

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the poverty and anxiety of the people is increasing.

The selfishness of the failed politicians is reaching its limits while the government is not being allowed to deliver despite a mandate till August, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government is unable to take necessary decisions for economic reforms due to political turmoil and the cost of political struggle is being paid by the people.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the split in the supreme judiciary is affecting their reputation. The scuffle between two factions of the judiciary may soon turn into a regular fight, which will deal a blow to its reputation and prestige.

He said that the legislature and the executive are not ready to accept the decisions of the divided judiciary, while the judges also do not want to soften their



stand.

Institutions are collapsing and the country is rapidly falling into a deep abyss, industry and trade are sinking, but no one cares about it, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that at present there are queues of people buying cheap and free flour all over the country, but if the country goes bankrupt, there will be long queues for everything including oil and medicines, the system will fail, the whole country will be plunged into darkness.

In such a scenario, no part of the coun-

try will be safe from riots and looting, therefore the incumbent government should be allowed to function instead of deliberately creating instability and failing the government.

The business leader further said that the failed politicians are fully engaged in power play and are not concerned about the problems of the people.

If people facing unprecedented inflation took to the streets; it will become difficult to manage the situation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that some people think that elections are necessary for the current situation, but they know very well that no political party has a magic wand with which they can solve all the serious problems of the country after coming to power.

Unless all the players of this game do not apply the rules and regulations and limits and restrictions on themselves, there will be no stability in the country, but instability will increase.

Chairman of the senate should be appointed after consensus between the government and opposition as their agreement is necessary for the appointment of the caretaker prime minister, he suggested.

Increased interest rates will not bring down inflation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said the increase in interest rates to 21 percent by the central bank is a wrong decision.

This move will not reduce inflation or bring economic stability, nor will it pave the way for the loan from the IMF, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the current inflation in Pakistan is not related to current account deficit or excess capital in the market, but to government policies, including increased taxes and amplified prices of oil, electricity, and gas.

He said that the government

has stopped imports for several months and goods worth more than five billion dollars are stuck at the port due to which many businesses are closed and many commodities are in short supply in the country which is the main cause of inflation.

Apart from this, he said, the continuous depreciation of the rupee and the confidence of the traders and the people is also affected, while hoarders and profiteers have also been given a free hand which is causing inflation.

He said that SBP could not get anything out of the last increase in the interest rate to 20 percent and it will again fail to achieve any objective by increasing it to 21 percent.

According to the World Bank, Pakistan's growth rate will be 0.4 percent, while the Asian Development Bank estimates that the growth rate will remain at 0.6 percent.

ICCI calls for Pak-Ethiopia PTA to boost bilateral trade

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopia has strong economic ties with Turkiye & UAE and Ethiopia wants similar relations with Pakistan. China and India have good presence in Ethiopia and Pakistan should increase its presence in the Ethiopian market to explore the untapped land of Africa. Many Pakistani products including textiles, pharmaceuticals, cement have great potential in Ethiopia and the business community of Pakistan capitalize on this potential for exports. This was said by H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

Jemal Beker Abdula termed the visit of Pakistani business delegation to Ethiopia as Hijra Trade, which was very successful. He said that after the visit of the Pakistani delegation to Ethiopia, he received calls from many African countries includ-

ing Somalia, Djibouti, and Kenya who showed interest in promoting trade ties with Pakistan. He said that Africa is endowed with great natural resources and close cooperation of Pakistan with Ethiopia would help it get better penetration in the African region for trade and exports.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Ethiopia should sign a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) that would remove trade barriers and boost bilateral trade between Pakistan and Ethiopia. He said that the Ambassador should take up the PTA matter with Pakistan authorities and assured that ICCI would extend all possible cooperation in such efforts.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Africa is very important for Pakistan and the Pakistani private sector would like to develop strong business linkages with Ethiopian counterparts to get



better access to the African market for business and investment.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan has good potential to promote business relations with

Ethiopia and hoped that the visit of the Ethiopian delegation to Pakistan would further expand trade relations between the two countries. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Ejaz,

Humayun Kabir, Muhammad Shabbir, Akhtar Hussain and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful proposals for improving Pak-Ethiopia trade and economic ties.

SECP registers 2,596 companies in March 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,595 new companies in March 2023. This shows an increase of 10% as compared to corresponding period of last year. The total number of registered companies now stands at 190,161. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs. 1.8 billion.

About 58 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 39 percent were registered as single member companies. About 03 percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations and limited liability partnerships (LLP). Almost 99.69 percent companies were registered online. 159 foreign users were registered from overseas.

The information technology sector took the lead with incorporation of with 397 Companies, real estate development & construction 385 each, trading with 339, services with 282, education with 121, tourism with 106, food & beverages with 96, e-commerce 74, marketing & advertisement with 72, textile with 62, corporate agricultural farming 51, engineering with 49, mining & quarrying with 48, healthcare with 44, pharmaceutical 39, power generation with 37, cosmetics and toiletries and chemical with 34 each, transport with 33, cables and electrical goods and broadcasting & telecasting with 26 each, communications with 25, fuel & energy with 24, paper & board with 20, auto & allied with 19, lodging with 18, arts and culture with 13 and 122 companies were registered in other sectors.

As a result of integration of SECP with FBR and various provincial departments, 2,496 companies were registered with FBR for generation of NTN, 71 companies with EOBI, 62 companies with PESSI/SESSI and 51 companies with excise and taxation department.

Foreign investment has been reported in 89 new companies, having foreign investors from Afghanistan, China, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Korea South, Malaysia, Maldives, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkey, UAE, UK and USA.

PCB issues notification of Kh Nadeem as President LRCA

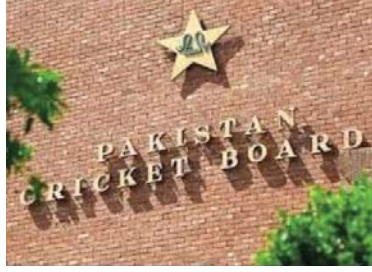
Bureau Report

LAHORE :Pakistan Cricket Board has issued the notification of Khawaja Nadeem Ahmad as the President Lahore City Cricket Association.

Kh Nadeem was elected unopposed and Shahid Hamid Butt was also elected unopposed as Secretary according to the PCB notification.

When contacted Kh Nadeem told APP here on Friday that he will take all the stakeholders into confidence to draw a road map for the revival and development of club cricket in Lahore.

"My specific mandate is to take drastic measures to lift club cricket out of gloom as early level cricket has suffered a lot in last four years. Club cricket is almost at



the verge of collapse and its main cause is lack of competition and absence of a comprehensive activity to engage young cricketers in quality cricket", he said.

He said his victory in the elections of the LRCA is due to the unity and coordination between all the three zones. Kh Nadeem expressed his gratitude to all

the three zones for reposing confidence on him by electing him as the President LRCA.

"I have served Lahore cricket with distinction and pride during my two previous tenures and a significant rise was witnessed in the overall development of club cricket", said Nadeem himself a former first class cricketer.

He said special emphasis was laid on improving existing infrastructure and addition of new grounds in different parts of the city during his two previous tenures.

Khawaja Nadeem said his services for the cause of club cricket are known to every cricket related person of the city and he will take all out measures to revive cricket and to take it to new heights.

He urged all the stake holders to table useful suggestions how to make Lahore cricket a quality product and how to tape new talent.

"I will be having regular meetings with the officials of all the three zones and office bearers of LRCA to unfold my vision for the betterment of grass root level", he said adding

The newly elected President the task to revive the dying club cricket is challenging but nothing is impossible and with the support of our affiliated zones we will put Lahore's cricket at road of progress".

He called upon the sponsors to come forward and lend financial support to LRCA for a collective cause of revival of club Cricket.



PCB hosts Iftar dinner for staff at National Cricket Academy.

TCL partners with arsenal to enhance consumer engagement in the Middle East, Africa and Europe



Commerce desk

LAHORE : TCL, a Global top 2 TV brand, has announced a new partnership with Arsenal Football Club. The collaboration will give Arsenal supporters in the UK, Middle East and Africa more opportunities to engage with the club, while also increasing TCL's expanding footprint in sport by becoming the club's Official Regional Consumer Electronics Partner in those markets.

With a mission to Inspire Greatness, TCL understands the impact sport has on people around the world and the new partnership aims to engage supporters around their common passion for football.

TCL will provide Arsenal supporters with exclusive club content and exciting deals on a product range including TVs, white goods and home appliances. Supporters will have the opportunity to participate in competitions and games with the lucky winners receiving official Arsenal gifts and merchandise. TCL will also invite its customers to watch live matches at Emirates Stadium as well as meet and greets with current players and legends.

Juliet Slot, Arsenal's Chief Commercial Officer, said: "We are delighted to welcome TCL to our family of partners. This partnership represents an exciting opportunity for both Arsenal and TCL to engage with our supporters in the Middle East, Africa and the UK. We look forward to working closely with TCL to bring the best viewing experience to our fans in the region."

Aleem Dar receives grand farewell from ICC Elite Panel



After officiating in his last Test match as an ICC Elite Panel umpire during the fixture between Bangladesh and Ireland in Mirpur on Friday, renowned Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar received a guard of honour.

During the last match officiated by Dar, Bangladesh won the match on the final day by seven wickets after successfully chasing down a target of 138 runs. Dar's exit from the elite panel after 19 years was confirmed by the ICC on March 16 in a press release.

"Dar has had a long and celebrated career as an international umpire. He made his international debut in 2000 and quickly rose through the ranks, with his sound decisions in matches earning him acclaim from the players and fans," the ICC said.

"Dar was appointed to the ICC International Panel of Umpires in 2002 and officiated at the 2003 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa. Dar continued his rise as he was appointed as a member of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires in 2004. He was the first Pakistani to be appointed to the Elite Panel," it added.

Dar officiated a total of 438 international matches over the course of his illustrious career.

Lauding Dar's contributions, ICC CEO Geoff Allardice said: "Aleem's contribution to international cricket and to the ICC has been truly remarkable. Consistently elite performances over such a long period saw him enjoy enormous respect across all involved in international cricket. I wish Aleem all the best for the future and I am sure his involvement in the game will continue for many years to come."

Commentary panel for Pak vs NZ series announced

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has unveiled the seven-member commentary panel for the five T20 Internationals and as many One-Day Internationals, to be played between Pakistan and New Zealand from 14 April till 7 May.

Bazid Khan, Grant Elliott, Kyle Mills (T20Is), Lisa Sthalekar (ODIs), Mark Butcher (ODIs), Sikander Bakht and Urooj Mumtaz will call action across the 10 limited overs matches in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi.

Renowned presenter Zainab Abbas will host pre- and post-match shows, including Pitch Side that will continue to bring in-depth analysis for cricket fans.

Twenty-seven full High-Definition cameras will beam live action around the globe through PCB's broadcast partners. The production set-up includes complete Hawkeye review system,



buggy cam and SpiderCam, which is available for three T20Is in Lahore and three ODIs in Karachi.

New Zealand will arrive in Pakistan in the wee hours of 11 April. The two teams will play first three of the five T20Is in Lahore. Rawalpindi will host the last two T20Is and the first two ODIs, before the action moves to the port-

city of Karachi, which hosts last three ODIs.

The broadcast of the white-ball series will be available through PTV Sports on Linear TV. The matches will be live-stream on ARY Zap, Vidlytv, Tamasha and Tapmad within Pakistan and on PCB YouTube Channel outside Pakistan. Etisalat (Middle-East and North

Africa)

Flow Sports (Caribbean), Sky NZ (New Zealand), Fox Sports (Australia), Sky Sports (United Kingdom), Sony (South Asia outside Pakistan), Super Sports (Sub-Saharan Africa) and Willow TV (North America) will broadcast matches internationally. FM 106.2 (Pakistan) will be radio partner for the series.

Ramzan Sports Series begins today

Correspondent

LAHORE: First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 is going to begin at different sports venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex with a grand opening ceremony scheduled at Mini Hockey Stadium on Friday.

The teams from all divisions will participate in the competitions of hockey, football, kabaddi, badminton and table tennis whereas 12 teams of Lahore cricket clubs will compete in the tape ball cricket event.

Overall 768 male and female players and 135 officials will participate in the 5-day Ramzan Sports Series. The competitions of badminton and table tennis (male and female) events will be played at NPSG Gymnasium Hall, football and kabaddi events at Punjab Stadium, hockey matches at Mini Hockey Stadium while the tape ball cricket event will be played at LRCA Cricket Ground.

Adviser to CM Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz accompanied by Secretary Sports Punjab Shahid Zaman and DG Sports Dr Asif Tufail visited different venues to inspect the arrangements of Ramzan Sports Series on Thursday. Wahab Riaz also presided over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium to review the preparations of grand event.

Addressing the meeting, Wahab Riaz said that Ramzan Sports Series is being organized for the first time in the history of Punjab province. "A huge amount has been allocated for the prize money to be given to all prominent performers of the grand event," he added.

Saim Ayub wants to be idolized like legend Saeed Anwar

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's young dynamic batter Saim Ayub asserted that he watched the videos of Saeed Anwar's batting and wants to be idolized like the legendary batter.

Saim interacted with the media ahead of Pakistan's squad's first training session for the upcoming home series against New Zealand and responded to a question regarding his comparison with batting great Saeed.

"Look, I have watched the videos of Saeed Anwar. I mostly watch videos of left-handers. But, at some point, he was also my age and was famous as I am now," stated Saim.

"So, the way he became a legend, I will try to make a name for myself and people idolize me," he added.

The young left-handed batter also expressed his delight over getting retained in the T20I squad and shared that he was willing to take any role in the national team. "I am really excited to



play my second international series. I am ready to take any role in the team. I am focused to play and perform," stated Saim.

Saim also reflected upon his experience of playing under the leadership of Babar Azam during his stint with Peshawar Zalmi in the recently-held eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), stated that he enjoyed

batting alongside Pakistan captain.

"I enjoyed a lot while playing alongside Babar under his captaincy," shared Saim.

"Babar gives a lot of confidence. So far, I have enjoyed my time with Babar and I hope it will continue for a long period of time," he added.

A promising season with the bat in the PSL 8, in

which he scored 341 runs in 12 matches, at a strike rate of 165.53 with the help of five half-centuries, earned Saim his maiden national call-up.

The left-handed batter opened the innings for Pakistan in the three-match series against Afghanistan and scored 66 runs in as many matches, including a sensible 49-run knock in the final fixture.

Haaland 'ready' for Man City return at Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON: Erling Haaland is fit to return for Saturday's Premier League trip to Southampton, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola confirmed on Friday.

Haaland, who has scored 42 goals this season, missed City's 4-1 hammering of Liverpool last weekend after pulling out of international duty with Norway due to a groin injury.

His return is a timely boost for City's quest to win a treble of trophies in the final two months of the season.

"He trained the last two days really good," said Guardiola. "He will be ready."

City welcome Bayern Munich to the Etihad for the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final just three days after their trip to St Mary's. But Guardiola said he was fully focused on chasing down Arsenal at the top of the Premier League.

The Gunners have an eight-point lead, but City have a game in hand on Mikel Arteta's men and host Arsenal at the Etihad later this month.

"Bayern is our last thought," said the City boss. "It's Southampton — the Premier League is every day, every week."

Southampton are bottom of the table but shocked City when the sides last met, dumping the English champions out of the League Cup.

UN marks International Day of Sport with message of bridge-building, reconciliation

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS :With athletes calling for a more equitable world — both on and off the playing field — the United Nations marked the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on Thursday.

The annual commemoration, now in its 10th year, highlights the positive role sport plays in communities and lives across the globe.

Elite and amateur athletes of all ages joined industry experts, diplomats and UN officials for the event — the first to be held in-person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the theme is "Scoring for People and the Planet".

Whether recreational or competitive, sport brings people together, often bridging cultural, ethnic and national divides, said John Wilmoth of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

"Sport is also a catalyst for the promotion of tolerance and respect, inclusion, diversity, gender equality and mitigating the effects of climate change," he added.

"We must work together to ensure that no one is left behind in sporting activities — especially youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized groups."

In a video message played at the event, football legend Didier

Drogba recalled the fundamental role sport has in the development of a culture of peace.

"The world of sport, including athletes, has an important role to play to set an example, especially for young people," said the former striker, a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN health agency, WHO.

"They want to advance causes that serve the common good by supporting gender equality, ending racial discrimination and participating in the protection of our environment."

The commemoration was organized around a series of moderated conversations, examining complex issues such as players' rights and impact; achieving diversity, equity and

inclusion; gender, race and the changing media landscape, and climate action.

The keynote conversation featured another iconic footballer, Javier Zanetti, now Vice-President of Inter Milan.

The Italian club runs a social programme in 30 countries that uses sporting values and football as an educational tool, reaching more than 10,000 young people. Some of the boys and girls taking part were in the room, proudly sporting their blue and black Inter Campus uniforms.

"Our mission, beyond sharing our values and our working methodology, is really about teaching them that they belong; giving them a sense of belonging," he said, speaking through



a translator.

Zanetti grew up in a poor neighbourhood in Argentina but his passion for football, combined with a lot of hard

work, took him to Inter where he became one of the world's most popular players.

He spoke of how the sport has touched the entire world, under-

scoring its power and far-reaching potential.

"She said to me... 'How do I continue to build on this hope that you've now instilled?'" Ms. Camara recalled. "And I felt it was an absolute disservice for me to instill hope and not provide resources, or equipment, or the tools necessary for her to be great and live out her dream, because I had mentors who did the same for me."

Ms. Camara later founded Women and Kids Empowerment (WAKE), which runs camps in India, France and the United States, underlining her "moral obligation" to provide women and girls with access, resources and opportunities to succeed.