



Haqqani calls for united platform to bring Pakistan out of political, economic crisis

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Sami) and Difa-e-Pakistan Council Chairman Maulana Hamid Ul Haq Haqqani on Saturday proposed a united platform to bring Pakistan out of the prevailing political and economic crisis with mutual understanding and efforts. (Details on Page 8)



Priceless Wealth

Many people in the world think money is everything. But there is something that cannot be bought or exchanged with money. It is noble ideology and spirit. President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) regarded noble ideology and spirit as the most precious wealth of revolutionaries. For him, money and material wealth are meaningful only for the people's welfare. He never linked money or wealth with his life. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Governor of the Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in Federal Capital on Saturday.

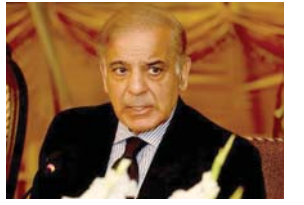


Photo: Online

PM appreciates ISI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed his heartfelt felicitations to Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for carrying out a brilliant operation that resulted in the arrest of banned Baloch National Army's founder Gulzar Imam, alias Shambay. "This operation speaks of outstanding professionalism of our institutions. The arrest will help suppress militancy in Balochistan & usher in a new era of peace," the prime minister posted on his Twitter handle. The ISPR, in a press release, the other day said the leading intelligence agency, in a high



profile and successful intelligence operation, apprehended a high value target (HVT) Gulzar Imam, alias Shambay, who was a hardcore militant as well as founder and leader of banned outfit Baloch National Army (BNA). "He was apprehended after an innovatively conceived, carefully planned and meticulously executed operation, spanning over months on various geographical locations," it was added.

Two soldiers martyred in Khyber IED blast

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers embraced martyrdom on Saturday after an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded near their vehicle. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the explosion took place in the general area of Bara where the martyred, Naib Subedar Hazrat Gul, 37, (resident of Lower Dir) and Sepoy Nazir Ullah Mehsud, 34, (resident of South Waziristan), were patrolling.

"Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists," the statement released read. It further stressed that Pakistan's security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Earlier, in a bid to eliminate the menace of terrorism, the National Security Committee (NSC) had given its approval to begin a "comprehensive" operation with the backing of the nation and the government.

President returns SC (Practice and Procedure) Bill for reconsideration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has returned the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 for reconsideration to the Parliament as per the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution.

The president observed that the Bill 'prima-facie travels beyond the competence of the Parliament and can be assailed as a colourable legislation'.

He said that he thought it fit and proper to return the bill, in accordance with the Constitution, with the request for reconsideration in order to meet the scrutiny about its validity (if assailed in the Court of Law), President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday.

The president said that after an in-depth consideration of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, "to provide for the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court of Pakistan", the following aspects required due consideration: -

Article 191 of the Constitution empowered the Supreme Court 'to make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Court'.

Under such enabling provisions of the



Constitution, the Supreme Court Rules 1980 had been made and in force duly validated and adopted by the Constitution itself.

"These time-tested Rules are being followed ever since the year 1980 - any tinkering with the same may tantamount to interference with the internal working of the Court, its autonomy and independence," it was added.

The Constitution was founded on the concept of trichotomy of power - three pillars of the State whose domain of power, authority and functions were defined and delineated by the Constitution itself. The Parliament has also been given the power under Article 67 that stated "subject to the Constitution, a House may make rules for

regulating its procedure and the conduct of its business...". Article 191 stated that "subject to the Constitution and law, the Supreme Court may make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Court".

Articles 67 & 191 are akin to each other and recognize the autonomy and independence of each other respectively - barring interference of one into the other's domain.

"Supreme Court of Pakistan is an independent institution as visualized by the founding fathers that in the State of Pakistan 'independence of judiciary shall be fully secured'. With such an objective in view, Article 191 was incorporated and the Supreme Court was kept out of the law-making authority of the Parliament," the president cited another aspect.

The fourth aspect said that the competence of the Parliament to make laws stemmed from the Constitution itself.

Article 70 related to 'introduction and passing of Bills' with respect to any matter in the Federal Legislative List - enumerated in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

Followed and further affirmed were the provisions of Article 142(a) that Parliament could make laws 'with respect to

any matter in the Federal Legislative List'.

Entry 55 of Part I of Fourth Schedule while empowering the Parliament to make laws in respect of 'jurisdiction and powers of all courts except the Supreme Court' especially excluded the Supreme Court.

"Thus, the Bill prima-facie travels beyond the competence of the Parliament and can be assailed as a colourable legislation," it was added.

The constitution conferred the Supreme Court with Appellate Jurisdiction (Articles 185 - 212), Advisory (Article 186), Review (Article 186) and Original Jurisdiction (Article 184). Article 184(3), the focus of the Bill related to the original jurisdiction of the Court - providing for the mode and manner for invoking it and providing Appeal.

"The idea may be laudable but can such a purpose be achieved without amending the provisions of relevant Articles of the Constitution - established law is that the provisions of the Constitution cannot be amended by an ordinary law as the Constitution is a higher law - father of laws - a Constitution is not an ordinary law, but rather an embodiment of fundamental principles, higher law, and law above other laws," the president observed.

Justice Isa raises objection to six-member SC bench's verdict against his suo motu

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Saturday objected to the verdict issued against him by a six-member SC bench remarking that it held no constitutional significance.

Justice Isa issued a detailed note, later taken down from the SC's website, on the Hafiz-e-Quran extra marks case wherein he wrote that no other bench was entitled to hear the appeal against the orders issued by the apex court adding that neither the formation of the so-called larger bench nor the court which heard the case was in line with the constitution.

Undertaking massive uplift programs legacy of PML-N: Interior Minister

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan has said that steering Pakistan out of crisis and undertaking massive uplift programs is the legacy of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its would once again play its role and put Pakistan on the road of progress and prosperity.

He was addressing a public gathering at Aminpur Bungalow while inaugurating construction of a road from Aminpur to Mazara Bridge here on Saturday. This project would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs.121.629 million.

He said that PML-N had very limited time. In



Punjab, it had only 2 to 2.5 months but despite of the time constrained, the party had tried its best to undertake maximum development and welfare projects. He added that Bypass Road from Sargodha Road via Sammundri Road via Jhang Road had been completed with an estimated cost of Rs.2500 million. Similarly, our focus remained on important roads and Aminpur Road was also completed within this short tenure. The minister said that gas supply to 22 villages of this constituency had been approved and work to lay pipeline had also been started. Each village in this constituency would get gas facility, he claimed. He said that Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) and Chairman Board of Directors (BoD) FESCO were present in this meeting

and he had been directed to accomplish all electricity-related development projects within a period of one month. "I am going to establish my office on Bypass and very soon I will invite you to visit this office", he said and added that voters of this constituency could also visit and inform me about lack of facilities in their villages. Continuing, the Interior Minister said that PML-N came into power in most critical situation and now it was trying to drag out Pakistan from the crisis. He also urged the people to repose confidence in PML-N so that we could regain our lost glory. "For this purpose, the people should also eliminate Imran Khan with the power of their vote", he added.

Imran asks nation to get ready for 'Haqeeqi Azadi'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Saturday lambasted PML-N supremo, saying that a coward cannot become a leader but becomes Nawaz Sharif. Addressing the PTI workers and activists who had gathered at Zaman Park for Iftar, Imran Khan stated that he is not an Islamic scholar and has learned everything from his life. The PTI chairman said that no country in the world has experienced a revolution comparable to the one brought by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Mariyum rejects show cause notice issued to PML-N KP leaders as 'fake'



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Saturday rejected a show cause notice issued to

Pakistan Muslim League-(Nawaz) leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as fake.

She refuted the fake show cause notice while sharing its picture on her twitter handle. The fake show cause notice stated that the party had removed five PML-N leaders including Sardar Mahtab Abbasi, Zafar Iqbal Jhagra, Arbab Khizar Hayat, Fareed Khan and Esal Khan from party positions for violating party discipline.

ECP gets Rs10bn for Punjab Elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance on Saturday released Rs10bn for the Punjab Assembly elections - which are to be held on May 14 as directed by the Supreme Court.

A three-member bench - comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar declared the ECP's order postponing the provincial assembly elections until October 8 as "unconstitutional" and ordered the government to release Rs21 billion funds for elections in Punjab by April 10.

According to sources, the finance ministry has released Rs10 billion for Punjab elections while remaining Rs11bn for KP Assembly elections would be released after announcement of polls schedule in the province.

The electoral watchdog had demanded Rs21 billion for the organization of elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Punjab election schedule Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan announced the schedule for elections in Punjab - which are to be held on May 14.

According to the electoral watchdog (ECP) notification, the polling for the Punjab Assembly elections will be held on May 14, 2023.

The ECP also withdrew its earlier schedule regarding the holding of general elections in Punjab in October.

As per the schedule, appeals can be filed against the decisions of Returning Officers regarding rejection or accepting nomination papers on April 10.

April 17 will be the last date for deciding on appeals by the Appellate Tribunal, and the revised lists of candidates will be published on April 18, the ECP notification stated.

The withdrawal of candidature can be done till April 19 while the candidates will be allotted election symbols on April 20, 2023.

The polling will be held on May 14.

Iftar-Dinner

Islamabad: H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan and Muhammad Asim, Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Naveed Ahmad Khan, Editor Daily The Spokesman and others posing for a group photo on the occasion of Iftar Dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Uzbekistan at a local hotel on Saturday.



Haqqani calls for united platform to bring Pakistan out of political, economic crisis

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Sam) and Difa-e-Pakistan Council Chairman Maulana Hamid Ul Haq Haqqani on Saturday proposed a united platform to bring Pakistan out of the prevailing political and economic crisis with mutual understanding and efforts.

Addressing a conference titled 'Stability of Pakistan And Our Responsibilities' here at a local hotel, he said an inclusive body should be constituted across the board in a bid to save Pakistan from internal and external conspiracies being hatched to destabilize it socially, politically and economically through all possible means.

He was of the view that we should be on one page to deal with enemies nefarious designs making it clear that Pakistan had no threats from Afghanistan as it was a brotherly country but there were certain foreign agents who disguised themselves as Muslims attack on national security institutions and religious places to imbalance the social, political and religious cohesion in the country.

He said there was a representation of all faiths includ-



ing Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities in Difa-e-Pakistan to express solidarity with the country to make the world that they were equal citizens of the state and their rights were completely enshrined in the Constitution.

Meanwhile, Mashaykh and Ulema Council Chairman Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman Khalil said the aim of this conference was to unite all the religious and political parties at one platform and take practical steps to improve the country's political and economic conditions.

He said since the day Paki-

stan had become an atomic power, it was not being digested by some international powers and they were playing their part to destabilize it through political instability, economic meltdown and creating division between public and national security institutions.

He said an organized campaign was going on against our defense institutions and its leadership which they would not let it succeed at all costs under the umbrella of Difa-e-Pakistan Council.

Member of Legislative Assembly, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Maulana Peer Mazhar

Saeed Shah said after Islamic values, Pakistan and its security institutions were their redline, and they would defend them through thick and thin.

He announced that after Eid-ul-Fitr, they were going to launch a massive campaign for peace and prosperity in the country.

Earlier, Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said it was crucial to adopt a pragmatic approach to resolve Pakistan's current crisis.

He said by dragging Pakistan into a political and economic

crisis, non-state actors were trying to impose their policies and leadership in the country.

He proposed the government to adopt austerity measures to bring the country out of prevailing political and economic crisis.

Tehrik Jawanan Pakistan Chairman Abdullah Hamid Gul said the Pakistan's economy was damaged on the day when the Governor of State Bank was appointed on the whims of the International Monetary Fund.

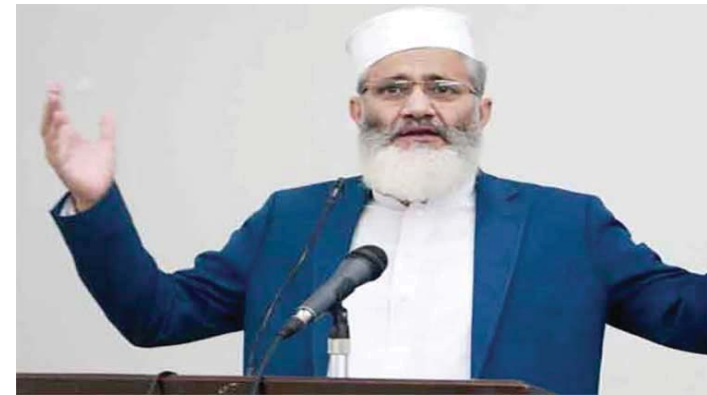
He invited the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's leadership to come forward and lend a helping hand to legislate against the interest-based economic system in the country.

Allama Muhammad Ahmad Ludhyanvi said Pakistan was passing through a crucial phase of trials and tribulations, they were bringing a message of hope for the disappointed and dejected people of the country.

He said if someone plots against our security institutions and motherland, the Difa-e-Pakistan Council would leave no stone unturned to give a befitting response.

He categorically stated that Pakistan was created in the name of religion and religious parties would save it from all evil eyes.

Siraj lambasts corrupt elites for ruining country



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR : Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq said the corrupt elites were ruling the country and they wreaked havoc to the country while saying a huge economic crisis was currently underway.

He said the people had to face the burden of the worsening economic condition while saying institutions, instead of resolving their issues, were involved in blame game against each

other.

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar, he said the poor were finding it hard to survive as the crisis showed no sign of improving while mentioning inflation was compounded by corruption.

He added the loss of State Owned Enterprises was increasing with every passing day and no one was willing to accept the responsibility while adding every year, millions of Pakistanis were added to the poverty list every year.

Islamabad court adjourns hearing of Toshakhana case till April 11

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : A district and sessions court in the federal capital on Saturday adjourned a petition filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan for early hearing of the Toshakhana case against PTI chairman Imran Khan till April 11.

As Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal resumed hearing, the former premier's junior lawyer said neither any senior counsel nor Imran Khan had not received summons notice in the case.

Later, the judge sought report from police regarding implementation of the summons and adjourned the hearing for a short period. After the report was submitted, he adjourned the hearing till April 11.

The court had summoned Mr Khan to attend hearing in personal capacity but the case was adjourned without any proceedings.

It is recalled that the main case, which was initiated against the former premier after he was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Toshakhana case last year, is adjourned till April 29.

The Case Last year, a reference was filed against him by lawmakers from the ruling coalition accusing him of not sharing the details of gifts he retained from Toshakhana in his assets declarations and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had concluded in October that the PTI chief filed false statements regarding the gifts.

The electoral watchdog subsequently disqualified him for being dishonest and corrupt and approached the district and sessions court, seeking criminal proceedings against Imran Khan for allegedly misleading officials about the gifts.

Islamabad Police refuse to provide security to New Zealand cricket team



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital police have refused to provide security to New Zealand cricket team, which will arrive in Pakistan for Twenty20 (T20) and one-day internationals (ODIs) series.

Sources told ARY News that the Islamabad police have refused to provide security to New Zealand cricket team, citing 'lack of resources'.

Sources quoting police officials said that the provision of resources and expenses was the responsibility of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). They claimed that the federal

police were busy in providing security to 'ongoing census and flour distribution'. Sources added that the police officials have apprised PCB of the situation in a security meeting.

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

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

NA Speaker, Deputy Speaker condemn terrorist attack in Khyber district

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani on Saturday have strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the security forces in the Bara Khyber district.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of lives of security personnel Hazrat Gul, and Sepoy Nazeerullah Mahsud in the aftermath of the attack.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the victims. The sacrifices of security forces in the war against terrorism will always be remembered, said both of them in their united messages to the bereaved family. "Terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious objectives," said the Speaker, adding that the blood of those who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the country would not go in vain. Both of them prayed for the elevation of the martyrs to the highest ranks and for the grant of patience to the grieving families to bear this irreparable loss.

China's growth to steer global economy back on track

News Desk

BELJING: 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 economy.

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.

Likewise, now Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa are expressing interest to integrate with CPEC," Ahsan Iqbal pointed out, adding that China has very successfully brokered peace deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which is "one of the most remarkable developments of our times that will conceive more opportunities for collaboration in the region."

Ahsan Iqbal hoped that in the coming years, Pakistan will see more relocation of Chinese industries to the country to take advantage of its low cost of production, logistics and so on, as Pakistan is a textile powerhouse with many other sectors - namely agriculture, meat, and technology - where it can offer services to China.

"Now, under BRI and other regional cooperation that we are developing, there will be tremendous opportunities for countries like Pakistan to trade more with China and other BRI countries," Ahsan Iqbal concluded confidently.

Woman in Karachi robbed at her doorstep

News Desk

KARACHI: Armed pillion riders snatched cash and other valuables from a woman at her doorstep in Karachi's Shah Latif Town.

According to details, four armed men looted cash and other valuables from a woman at gunpoint when she reached outside her house after withdrawing money from the bank in Karachi's Shah Latif Town.

In the CCTV footage, four armed

robbers on two motorcycles can be seen snatching the woman's purse at gunpoint on her doorstep.

Meanwhile, the police registered the case on the complaint of the victim and launched operation to arrest the suspects.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the three months of the current year, more than 19,000 citizens were deprived of their motorcycles, mobile phones and vehicles, while 34 citizens were also killed by the robbers firing for resisting.

Chief of Army Staff hails Azad Kashmir for taking firm stand against Indian aggression

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD : Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir President Member Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin and Central Deputy Secretary Information and nominated candidate Assembly Shaukat Javed Mir said that After the provocation by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his military fundamentalist leadership with the jackals of attacks, the Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir visited the Line of Control (Ceasefire Line) and visited the base of the country on the defense fence.

The spirit of patriotism of the brave soldiers and officers defending at the height of 1000 feet has been strengthened and they have expressed these thoughts to the entire nation by giving the Indian government a brick answer to the outdated policies of the evil alliance.

Yesterday Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir issued a joint statement on the importance of the visit to the Line of Control. General Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff of the Brave Forces of Pakistan, congratulates the national security agencies for taking a decisive and courageous stand based on the facts for the freedom of

the 1.5 crore Kashmiri people who are beautifying themselves peacefully. We assure you that for the freedom and defense of the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the forces of faith are always ready to sacrifice their lives according to the national honor and dignity. Because a strong and prosperous democratic Pakistan is the eternal struggle of the Kashmiri people, Chaudhry Muhammad.

Yasin-Shaukat Javed Mir said that the center of our hopes and aspirations is also the center of our hopes and dreams, the People's Party Leader of the People Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Daughter of the East, Ms. Bena-

zir Bhutto Shaheed, according to the thoughts and ideas of the martyr, the sword arm of our forces will prove to be the freedom of Kashmir. And no one can stop the destruction of India.

Pakistan is the strong fortress of the Islamic world, that's why the nation's determination is to pay full attention to foiling, organized conspiracies against Pakistan by harassing the enemies.

O homeland, when you called, the blood rose

Your sons are your soldiers
Pakistan Zindabad, Kashmir Paindabad

Pakistan Army step forward, the nation is with you he added.

Islamabad Police take away Ali Amin Gandapur from Central Jail DI Khan

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Islamabad Police on Saturday took Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur from Central Jail DI Khan and left for the federal capital after the court orders.

Earlier, Judicial magistrate-I, in Dera Ismail Khan ordered the PTI leader to handover the PTI leader to Islamabad police.

The PTI leader will be produced in a court of Islamabad as soon as he reaches Islamabad.

Gandapur was arrested from outside the Peshawar High Court's D.I.Khan bench on Thursday and was sent to the Central Jail Dera on six day judicial remand.

The Islamabad and Punjab Police from Bhakkar reached Dera Ismail Khan in the morning and requested the Judicial Magistrate-I for the hanging over of the PTI leader.

It is worth mentioning that former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak and PTI Senator Azam Swati has also reached Dera Ismail Khan while expressing solidarity with Ali Amin Gandapur on the recent development.

They met with brothers of Ali Amin including former provincial minister Faisal Amin Gandapur and City Mayor Umar Amin Gandapur and assured them of full legal support on behalf of the party leadership.

Talking to media, the former National Assembly speaker said that fake cases were being made against PTI while his party was only demanding free and fair elections.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Dera Ismail Khan also fixed date of April 11, 2023 to indict Ali Amin Gandapur in Suicide Attack case in which former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Minister Sardar Israr Ullah Khan Gandapur was martyred.

It may be mentioned that on the day of Eid-ul-Azha in 2013 Sardar Israr Ullah Khan Gandapur was martyred in a suicide attack which targeted Gandapur Cottage in Kulachi.

In the said case, the brother of Ali Amin Gandapur and City Mayor Umar Amin Khan Gandapur is on bail.

The case of suicide attack on Sardar Israr Ullah Khan Gandapur was registered in Kulachi Police Station.

Two soldiers martyred, four injured in IED blast

Adam Khan Wazir

KHYBER: Two soldiers were martyred and four others sustained injuries in improvised explosive devices (IED) blast in Bara tehsil of the Khyber tribal district on Saturday, official sources said.

The sources said that the Frontier Corps Wing-162 vehicle was heading to Fort Slope when improvised explosive devices went off in the Malikdinkhel area in Bara tehsil.

As a result, two soldiers were identified as naib-subedar Hazrat Gul and naik Nazeer Khan were martyred on the spot while four others identified as sepoy Muqarab Khan, Niaz, Wajid Khan and Haris Khan were critically injured.

The local people reached the place after the blast and shifted the injured to the hospital in Peshawar.

Soon after the incident, the security forces and police reached the place and launched a search but no arrest was made yet.

Chaudhry Ansar call on Nawaz Sharif

Correspondent

KHARIAN : President of Muslim League (N) Lawyers Wing UK, Chaudhry Ansar Mahmood Advocate, had a special meeting with former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in London yesterday. On this occasion, the central leader of Muslim League (N) and former Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Pervez Rasheed, Ambassador Amjad Malik and other personalities were also present. The future strategy of the new legislation was discussed. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also gave necessary instructions to the party leaders in the meeting.

Inaugurates

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sannaullah cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the newly constructed road at Aminpur Bangla area in City.



Photo: Online

Performance of the imported rulers in front of the nation

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Tehreek-e-Insaf South Punjab Senior Vice President and former member of National and Provincial Assembly Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi has said that the performance of the imported rulers for 9 months is in front of the nation. These people have not provided any relief to the people in 9 months. How to face the public? That is why these people are avoiding the election. Because they see their defeat clearly. They will have to run away from the

election as much as they want. He expressed these views yesterday while addressing the reception organized by former ticket holder of PP 222 and PTI leader Shazia Abbas Khakhi.

Chaudhry Khalid Javed Waraich, Ali Murad Siddiqui, Shehryar Abbas, Dr. Riaz Long, Ayaz Karim Long, Rana Wajid, Muhammad Ishaq Sahu, Chaudhry Sikandar, Mukhtiar Long participated in the reception. Tehreek-e-Insaf will wage a legal war against this violation of the constitution. Those who raise the slogan of "respect the vote" are afraid of the slip of the vote.

Tehreek-e-Insaf will come to power once again with the strength of the slip of the vote. They said that the imported rulers have ruined the country in 9 months. The country is close to bankruptcy.

The country's economy has stagnated. Millions of people have become unemployed. Industries have closed down. Investment has stalled. No country is ready to trust them. People have longed for 2-day bread. People are losing their lives to get flour. Rulers are not missing the toss. Imran Khan is struggling to save the country not for

himself. The country is under severe economic and political crisis. Business has stopped. The only solution to get the country out of crisis is quick and transparent elections, which are urgent needs of the country

The looters will be defeated. And those who loot the national treasure will be held accountable. Shazia Abbas Khakhi and others spoke on this occasion. Earlier, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi arrived at the reception, PTI leader Shazia Abbas Khakhi and others welcomed her and presented a bouquet of flowers.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK briefing on Kashmir dispute



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK chapter leaders were briefed at a meeting in Islamabad by the APHC-AJK delegation, which represented the Kashmiri people in the recently concluded 52nd regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and sideline meetings with the delegation of Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The meeting was chaired by APHC AJK convener Mehmood Ahmed Saghar.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi and Altaf Hussain Wani briefed the members of APHC. Safi on the occasion said the recent statements on Kashmir by Pakistani leadership makes it unambiguously clear that Pakistan will continue to support the just struggle of Kashmiris and will never leave Kashmiri brethren alone, come what may. He said that the Kashmir dispute must be settled as soon as possible in the interest of humanity, world peace and prosperity of the region. Negation of Kashmiri right to self-determination will only be a recipe for misery and disaster.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi said, the

Two-Nation Theory, which was the basis of the Partition Plan is still valid for the peaceful and durable solution of the Kashmir dispute.

The delegation head Altaf Hussain Wani hailed the role of United Nations Special Rapporteurs and other embassies for highlighting gross human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Wani condemned the use of force by Indian government against unarmed civilians in IIOJK.

APHC AJK Convener Mehmood Ahmed Saghar praised Altaf Wani and his team members Syed Faiz Naqasbandi, Adv. Parvaiz Ahmed, Hassan ul Bana and Miss Shameema Shawl for presenting the case of Kashmir internationally.

The meeting was also attended by Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Syed Yousuf Naseem, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Sheikh Yaqoob, Ejaz Rehmani, Mustaq Ahmed Butt, Zahid Safi, Raja Khudam Hussain, Muhammad Shafi Dar, Zahid Mujtaba, Zahid Ashraf, Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Sheikh Abdul Majid, Ishfaq Balwal, Adeel Mustaq Wani, Nisar Mirza and Intiaz Wani.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Israeli aggression on innocent Palestinians.

Al Khidmat Foundation Help For Poor Peoples. Fozia Irfan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The annual donor conference of Al Khidmat Foundation Women Wing was held. The participants of the conference announced donations for various projects of Al Khidmat. In the conference, Fozia Irfan expressed her views on hypocrisy on Nafaaq Fi Sabeelullah. Jamaat-e-Islami Women's Department Razia Nabi while addressing said that for national and social development, Al-Khidmat Foundation is providing services with the help of rich people all over Pakistan.

What is commendable and appreciable is that his services are recognized all over the world and the donations of people are a clear proof that Al Khidmat is truly committed to serving humanity President Women Wing Al Khidmat Sharifan Maqsood addressing the participants thanked them for their arrival and said that Al Khidmat distributes sacrificial meat including women wing, food support program, scholarship, child protection, ration distribution in Ramadan, winter package, 14 skills center for women, wheelchairs projects.

IUB Spokesman denies misleading propaganda on financial affairs

Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR : Spokesman of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has said that a few people are spreading misleading propaganda on social media contrary to the facts regarding the financial affairs of the university. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is a historical institution of higher learning where administrative and financial affairs are conducted in a disciplined manner under the rules and regulations. In the past four years, the university has taken many fruitful steps to increase its financial stability and income. However, around 800 million rupees have been due from the Higher Education Commission for the last two years. Despite the non-receipt of this pending amount, the university managed its financial affairs regularly. Among them are 6,000 male and female students with the Benazir Scholarship Scheme, who have been receiving scholarships for three years without interruption.

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Isha	7:59 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
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Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

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MH	561116
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RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

Three more patients with fatal Corona virus in Rawalpindi district

RAZA NAQVI

ATTOCK: Three more patients including one from Attock were diagnosed with fatal Corona virus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's confirmed cases to 47,853. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Saturday, the infected cases included 44,180 from Rawalpindi and 3,673 from other districts. Among the new cases, two patients had arrived from the Pothohar town and one from Kahutta area.

Presently, two patients were admitted to the Holy Family Hospital and one to the DHQ hospital Attock. The report added that one patient was in critical condition and two found stable, adding 11 patients having positive symptoms were quarantined at home.

The report further said that 7,006,011 people, including 44,790 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. In addition, District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 382 samples were collected, of which 379 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.79 percent.

Serena Hotels hosts a Soulful Qawwali Night

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a soulful Qawwali night featuring the world-renowned qawwal Ustad Asif Ali Santoo Khan on April 07, 2023, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The event was hosted under the Cultural Diplomacy initiative of Serena Hotels which aims to promote discourse around plural thought, cultural appreciation and to further mutual understanding and tolerance amongst all.

The evening began with Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, South and Central Asia, and Mrs. Wiqar Boolani greeting the guests as they were served a selection of delectable Hors D'oeuvres and a variety of beverages.

The Mehfil began at midnight and was well attended by diplomats, members of the corporate sector, government dignitaries, and media personnel.

Ustad Santoo is a shagird of the legend Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Qawwal Asif Ali Santoo Khan is the youngest son of the famous music producer



Manzoor Hussain and belongs to the world-famous musical family Santoo Family whose musical heritage can be traced back 350 years including his great

grandfather Mian Maula Baksh, one of the most famous classical singers of the subcontinent.

The night was a tribute to Sufism with



traditional soulful melodies that had the crowds swaying in unison. Asif Ali Santoo performed Sufi melodies amidst cheer and applause all night. The Mehfil was

followed by a decadent suhoor for the guests, which had Pakistani favorites and a mix of continental dishes to cater to a variety of palettes.

Poverty stricken

ISLAMABAD: An elder woman along with child is waiting for customers along the road side in Sector F-7 to sell "Misvak" and "Prayers Beads" and earn daily wages for the livelihood of her family.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Kashmiri leadership hails Army Chiefs bold stance on Kashmir dispute

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while appreciating the Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir's recent statement on Kashmir, has said that the army chief's bold Kashmir remark has sent an effective and positive message across the line of control. The president thanked the Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, for reiterating his country's all out support to Kashmiris' legitimate freedom struggle.

He said that Gen. Munir's visit to the LoC and reiteration of solidarity with Kashmiris has generated a wave of optimism amongst Kashmiris on both sides of the dividing line, besides boosting the morale of armed forces. Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry further said that the Chief of Army



Staff's visit to LoC wherein he reiterated Pakistan's principled stance and commitment to the Kashmir cause has debunked the baseless propaganda India has been propa-

gating since August 5, 2019. Referring to his recent address to the Legislative Assembly of Azad Kashmir, the president said that during his speech he had exposed the Indian govern-

ment and its nefarious designs in the region. He said that, on the other hand, India's so called democracy was getting exposed at the world level due to Modi's Hindutva policies.

Judicial imperialism causes extreme political polarization

Sports desk

ISLAMABAD: A panel of experts at a webinar suggested the state institutions to understand the implications of their politically motivated conflicts on socioeconomic deterioration, and its dent to the democratic instability. Overstepping on other's jurisdiction has created chaos and extreme divides. A larger consultative process among the political parties shall help cool down the political temperature, while the judges shall adhere to the code of conduct.

The webinar entitled "Judicial imperialism in Pakistan and its impact on society" was organized by DTN and Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) on Saturday. The panel of experts included Senator retired Farhatullah Babar, senior journalist Mazhar Abbas, Human Rights Law expert Huma Chughtai and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed.

Senator Farhatullah Babar said the chaos began in 2009 with a statement of then Chief Justice of Pakistan that "parliament is not supreme but the constitution the way it is interpreted



by the Supreme Council of Pakistan." The 19th amendment axed the powers of parliament to oversight the judiciary including the appointment of judges that caused concentration of like-minded or favourite judges in the courts.

Chief Justice Iftekhar Muhammad Chaudhry elevated 126 judges while ousted over 100 judges only by his own will. It was the beginning of judicial imperialism in Pakistan. Most of the Suo Moto actions were taken in his tenure under the Constitution's arti-

cle 184(3). The same practice continued by Justice Saqib Nisar, Justice Asif Khosa and the present one, Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial.

Farhatullah Babar said the rational jurisprudence makes the judiciary more pertinent for interpretation of the laws but since 2009, we have evolved an omnipotent judiciary. The 19th amendment has granted a veto to the chief justice for Suo Moto action only by his will. The judiciary has sent three prime ministers back home using the authoritative Suo Moto.

Mazhar Abbas said the media played its glamorized Suo Moto actions since 2009 while the chief justices were caught up by the media phobia. The lawyers' activism too played its role in the build up of the judicial chaos. The lawyers' activism could not stop after the Nawaz Sharif long march for the restoration of the chief justice Iftekhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

Huma Chughtai said the state institutions need to define their turf and avoid overstepping into other's jurisdiction. Lawmaking in Pakistan had never been strong enough to restrict judicial activism, rather it was apologetic, direction.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said Pakistan is a victim of a one-man power show that has led the country to judicial imperialism. It is unrepresented even in South Asia. Supreme courts of our neighbouring countries take Suo Moto through consultative process. It is not exercised anywhere in the world for political maneuvering except in Pakistan. Parliament shall be the supreme and it shall come up with unanimous legislation to curb the judicial dictatorship.

Khoon Hai Karachi Ka From 'DAADAL' Movie Launched

News Desk

KARACHI: The highly anticipated movie 'Daadal' by Laaj Productions and B13 Productions under the banner of Eveready Pictures, released its high-octane song Khoon Hai Karachi Ka featuring Sonya Hussyn and Eva B. in their first ever collaboration held in Karachi.

The upcoming action-packed Pakistani movie 'Daadal' starring Sonya Hussyn and Mohsin Abbas Haider in pivotal roles by will be hitting theatres nationwide on Eid-ul-Fitr 2023. Produced by Neha Laaj & Asif Malik, co-produced by Faisal Malik & Jahanzaib Khan, the movie boasts an uber-talented cast including Adnan Shah Tipu, Shamoon Abbasi, Maira Khan, Hassan Jawed, and Rizwan Ali Jaffri.

'Daadal' is a crime mystery revolving around a well-known female boxer from Lyari who becomes a contract killer in order to avenge her sister's honor. The trailer offers a glimpse into the thrilling world of boxing and burgeoning gang wars while promising a nail-biting experience for the audiences looking forward to witnessing the stellar performances by the much-loved leading cast on the big screen.

Laaj Productions' much awaited mystery action crime thriller 'Daadal' is releasing worldwide on Eid Ul Fitr 2023 and will be distributed by Eveready Pictures.



CTD Punjab arrested 8 terrorists in Punjab

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: effectively counter the menace of terrorism, CTD Punjab has conducted extensive IBOs across the Punjab to avert any untoward incident. CTD Punjab conducted 21 IBOs in different districts of Punjab in which 21 suspects were interrogated.

During these IBOs, following 08 suspects belonging to defunct organizations were arrested namely:

- 1) Akhtar Nawaz s/o Muhammad Zaman from TTP
- 2) Fawad ullah s/o Dil Jan from TTP
- 3) Faqeer Muhammad s/o Meer Akbar Khan from TTP
- 4) Muhammad Usman s/o Faiz Rasool from Daish
- 5) Asif Nawaz s/o Ameen Nawaz from TTP
- 6) Zia ur Rehman s/o Lal Hussain from TTP
- 7) Attique Ahmad Muavia s/o Sher from TTP
- 8) Bashir s/o Radi Gull from Daish

Accordingly, 06 FIRs were registered against the arrested persons:

- 1) FIR No. 11/23 dated 03.04.23 u/s 3/4 ESA 7 ATA PS CTD Lahore
- 2) FIR No. 15/23, dated 04.04.2023, u/s 11-F(2), 11-W, 8/9 ATA 1997 PS CTD Gujranwala.
- 3) FIR No. 14/23 dated 04.04.2023 u/s 11-F(2), 11-W, 8/9, ATA/1997 PS CTD Gujranwala
- 4) FIR No. 12/23 dated 05.04.23 u/s 11F2/11H/11W/11N/9 ATA PS CTD Lahore,
- 5) FIR No. 11/23 dated 05.04.2023 u/s 4/5-ESA, 7-ATA/1997 PS CTD DG. Khan
- 6) FIR No. 10/23 dated 05.04.2023 u/s 4/5 ESA ATA 7CTD Bahawalpur with the following Recoveries:
 - Explosive 2.53gm,
 - IED 01,
 - Hand grenade 01,
 - 01 Prima Card 3f-5-inch
 - Safety Fuse wire 15ft,
 - None Electric detonator 1,
 - 22 stickers of defunct Org. TTP/Daish
 - 07 Banned Books
 - 02 Receipt Book
 - 01 Match Box
 - Cash Rs. 26420/-
 - Detonators 04,
 - Solution Tape 01,
 - 03 Mobile Phones
 - 04 Jehadi Magazine,
 - 09 Hateen Magazines,

Furthermore, during this week, 402 Combing operations were conducted with the help of Local Police/LEAs. During these Combing Operations, 22921 persons were checked, 118 suspects were arrested and 89 FIRs were registered, 28 recoveries were made.

CTD Punjab is proactively pursuing its goal of safe and secure Punjab and will not leave any stone unturned in its efforts to bring terrorists and anti-state elements behind bars.

There is need to introduce freehold properties in Pakistan: Adil Nawaz

Spokesman News

RAWALPINDI: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that there is a need to introduce freehold properties in Pakistan. The government should implement the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act immediately. Real estate sector is the way to revive the country's economy. Government of Pakistan needs to introduce freehold properties and regulate this sector by removing unfair tax like 7e from real estate sector and make it a regular industry. Overseas Pakistanis have immense confidence in this sector to give this industry an opportunity to play its role in the development of the country. Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that it is impossible to get positive results from the decisions taken without consulting the stakeholders. The real estate sector requires the attention of government circles. This sector needs to be trusted. There is a shortage of 12 crore houses in Pakistan. Public private partnership can overcome this deficit and revolutionize the sector.

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Kashmir issue, Kashmiri leadership and peoples

Bashirullah Inqlabi

Tired of India's oppression since the nineties, about 42 thousand refugees living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and different areas of Pakistan are still on their journey of life with the hope that the sun of freedom will rise in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and then These people will be able to return to their homes, for this hope, hundreds of refugees died at the appointed time, countless Kashmiri youths were martyred in the struggle of the Azadi Kashmir movement, martyrs are still there in the camps built in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Children and widows are also living with the rest of the refugees.

After the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in 2003, India put up a fence around the Line of Control (Cease Fire Line), thus a new test of patience began for the Kashmiri nation.

In Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India's atrocities were reaching their peak, martyrdom of educated youth became normal and young people like Burhan Wani Shaheed who were eyeing Indian forces were martyred, due to the economic conditions of Pakistan. Instead of moving forward, the issue of Kashmir's freedom movement seemed to be in the cold, several conflicts were resolved by the world, including the European Union, but the

issue of Jammu and Kashmir remained suppressed instead of being resolved, India took advantage of it August 5, 2019. I practically divided the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir into two parts, the conditions there changed completely, the special status of the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was abolished by imposing lockdown, curfew, India continued to oppress the Kashmiris, hopeful eyes.

Those that were across the Line of Control of the Kashmiri nation towards Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan also seemed to end at last because the protests etc. that used to take place here were not going to be satisfied by the Kashmiri nation, because India occupied Jammu and Kashmir. People were forced to stay indoors, businesses were completely destroyed, and people were economically weakened. In such circumstances, a powerful voice that should have been raised to the world may not have been raised. Thus, the movement became a volcano in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which became a weak situation, on which India did not waste a single moment and started bringing people from India to settle there so that the Kashmiri majority in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir became a minority can change.

In Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the strong voices of Kashmiris (Hurrit Conference leader Yasin Malik, Asia Andrabi etc.) were locked in jails, Yasin Malik was also sentenced, thousands of

innocent Kashmiris are still languishing in Indian jails, but they Now there is no one in the world to raise the voice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the leadership of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has never taken the movement of these oppressed Kashmiris seriously, and if only the problem of Jammu and Kashmir does not come to light, they all come together in Occupied Jammu.

What is happening in Kashmir is taken away from the head only by giving statements, these are the bitter facts that are common in the language, but it is a pity that the establishment of Pakistan could not progress beyond the critical point till today. Thus, now the madness that was once seen street by street, town by town, now even the common man has started to understand that maybe the current calves (Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control) will meet in their dreams.

In the digital age where today not a single thing is hidden from anyone (except children under 10 years old) everyone understands a lot, it is very difficult to hide the sun behind the finger. In such circumstances, some people started to worry about their bright future, however, the ground conditions are telling that 85 percent of the people (Kashmiri refugees) are forced to live only on subsistence allowance.

If after dinner was given in honor of the conference (Islamabad), in my opinion, if these expenses were distributed among

deserving families in a tent instead of there, at least they would have had a good Ramadan. There is no doubt that the Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas made a reasonable increase in the living allowance keeping in mind the inflationary conditions of the refugees. There is also a need.

Now the news is circulating that the work has been started to make the refugees permanent residents in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, for which a family will be given a 5 marla plot, a lump sum payment of Rs.10 lakh and installments of Rs. In spite of all the situation, no resident of Azad Jammu and Kashmir can lose sight of the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the first state class, because whatever status is being enjoyed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the assembly is all because of the Azadi Jammu and Kashmir movement.

Therefore, what is past is past, but learning from the mistakes of the past, we should not be negligent of our responsibilities, everyone should play their part. It is very necessary, therefore, instead of a 5-marla plot, a family should get 20 lakh rupees instead of 10 lakh rupees for 1 kanal, and money must be given to build a house in installments so that it can stand on its own feet. These people have come here after leaving all this and immigrating for the love of Pakistan, but their wounds will definitely be treated.

Dar US visit canceled

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar visited the United States (US) has canceled. The main reason behind the cancellation of his annual and spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank was the prevailing political and constitutional situation in the country.

However, he said he was attending virtual review meetings, where a team of senior officials comprising the Governor State Bank of Pakistan, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary Economic Affairs Division and other authorities concerned was attending the mandatory sessions as per the schedule, in complete coordination with him.

Addressing a press conference, the minister categorically rejected the speculative reports circulating regarding the cancellation of his official visit to the US and participation in the meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

Ishaq Dar said he cancelled his visit under the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after a political and constitutional crisis emerged followed by the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in a case regarding the polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Besides, the Ministry of Defence was also asked to appraise the court about the security arrangements.

The minister said Pakistan was a sovereign country and fulfilled all its international commitments, despite tough economic conditions, adding that \$11 billion had been paid to international financial institutions.

He reiterated the firm resolve of the government to fulfil all the commitments that were made with other institutions within the given timeframe.

Dar said that he had also attended the meetings of the IMF when Pakistan was facing global economic sanctions due to a nuclear test, but some analysts were portraying a strange picture, which he said was against national interest.

He said that some internal and external elements were trying to push the country into crisis and spreading rumours of default and about the IMF program.

The Finance Minister said that he along with his delegation held meetings with IMF and invited them to visit Pakistan by October 2021, adding that due to unknown reasons, the IMF delegation visited Pakistan on January 31, 2023 for the 9th review.

He said it was a 10-day review, and as a result, some prior actions including Rs 170 billion taxation were taken.

He said that the last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has not fulfilled its commitments but rather fixed mines for the next government, which was clearly expressed by its leader.

He said at the time of the 8th review, some friendly countries had provided support to Pakistan for covering its external account gap, adding that now this time one of the friendly countries had confirmed to provide \$2 billion, whereas confirmation of \$1 billion from another country was awaited.

Dar expressed the firm hope that after the confirmation of the staff-level agreement would be finalized, adding that the government has completed its work.

The Finance Minister further informed that all the questions of the fund about the proposed subsidy scheme of petroleum for small cars and motorcycles were also discussed as it was not part of any budgetary measures.

He reaffirmed the commitment to bring the country out of economic crisis and put it back on track for development and prosperity.



Why ideology as a shield?

Ever since the creation of the Islamic republic of Pakistan, religion has been used as a weapon either for furtherance of some particular political objectives or tightening the noose against political adversaries. Almost at every decade, in the chequered history of 70 years, the political pundits have very prudently used Islam when they had no cogent solution to the real problems of the land and its people. It has almost become known to all and sundry that whenever politicians find themselves in tight corners or when their feet tremble due to their extreme failures in addressing the real issues, then the cheapest recourse to hoodwink the public and attract their attention is to make a hue and cry of three issues-Religion, Anti-Americanism and Anti-Indianism.

A matter of great misfortune, that not only are these fallacious and irrational ideologies ingrained into the mind of the Pakistanis but are regularly taught and preached with much vehemence in the schools, colleges and universities. For how long will we suffer from the malaise of self-deception—to hide one's head in the sand deep, shutting eyes, presuming that the enemy is not there and ultimately he stands on our head. The nation is awake. We are no more in the era of dark ages or medievalism where dogmatism prevailed.

The statement by the finance minister a month back in the midst of dollar's flight at an eagle's heights that "It is the will of God that Pakistan will exist" and that "the only state in the world that has been created in the name of Islam" is nothing more than blinking eyes to the fact that though we are in the deep quagmire of economic chaos, from where no exit is visible. The lone way to face the public is either to hurl stones at the previous regime, or to take shelter under the shadow of religious dogmas—both the manœuvres are being applied successfully since inception.

One must bring it to the limelight that the God's favours are with the whole universe as He is the ultimate controller and manager of the whole universe and the ideological basis is not the matter of today but right from the struggles against colonialism, controversy of Banarus(1867), and the efforts of Muslims to have a separate state are all those stages which leave no doubt regarding the deep entrenched ideological basis of Pakistan. The question is how this old idea came to his mind at a stage when common man is least bothered about these age old mantras of philosophical and irrational rhetorics but deeply bothered about two square bread a day.

The real issues dragging us back are poverty, corruption, polarization, parochialism, horizontal and vertical fissures, over population, illiteracy, centralism, oligarchy, feudalism, injustice, mediocrity, leadership vacuum, intolerance, fanaticism, fragile institutions, overdeveloped state structure, dictated Foreign policy, insecurity and the last but not the least and most lethal is absence of meritocracy. For how long we will suffer from the problem of skepticism, determinism and mudslinging at each other.

Confession is the greatest virtue. We must accept what is true. So long the stakeholders don't admit the fact that the nation has been suffering from fatal disease and this social fabric is on the brink of disasters we cannot come out of the mess. It is high time that prior diagnosis as to which part of the body is aching and where from the tumor to be removed shall be immediately arranged. The ongoing crisis where people are getting suffocated in pursuit of flour bags and infants are dying due to scarcity of clean drinking water, sky rocketing prices have compelled large section of society on moral, social and ethical vices. Sheer apathetic clouds have encircled the nation. There is no dearth of resources but the only problem is that we are neither sincere nor serious about tackling the core issue of the nation which needs very sincere managers.

When matters are not taken serious, then the results are very hazardous. Economy is the backbone of nation. It is the nucleus which keeps the whole body intact. Once it gets derailed, then all parts of the machinery get rent asunder leading towards fragmentation. The fall of USSR was not due to guns and steel but it's internal economic disorder. All institutions of the state have roots in the economic fields and from the economic soil, it takes water and fertilizers. Once the soil gets dry or God forbid barren, then the plants, super structure gets pale and die down like the autumn leaves.

Solution is not far to seek. Sincerity and looking a bit forward from one's nose is the only panacea. We have a great resilience as a nation and have overcome many upheavals in the past. The shackles of mutual antagonism among political parties and institutions need to be broken. Prejudicial feelings and looking above personal interest and placing national interest at the highest premium can bring us quickly out of mess as "where there is a will, there is a way."

(The author is associate professor at GPGC Charsadda)



A Courtesy Court' decision favours the flavour of the people's expectations - I

Mian Rashid Asghar

The requirement that a judge be "patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, court staff, court officials, and others" means more than eschewing angry interruptions, sarcasm, or name calling—judicial courtesy also requires respect for people's time.

People's voice is as clear & transparent as waterfall and spring regarding the Supreme court's decision whom the whole nation commended like all past decisions.

In fact, there is always a dire need to overview our all institutions from top to bottom; Looking into the matter, impartial investigation, reviewing a happening with eagle's eyes needs your time with curiosity, certainly you would be able to grip the concrete facts.

Let's concentrate over communication field where in order to make your story perfect, surely it will take specific time in which there will come moments which might create boredom for you but you will not feel any worries and threats so far you complete it.

When your angles of destinations are clear, you need no fear but Allah Almighty.

This means that we have been treating the evils in the society with the help of charlatans (عطانی) doctors which made the society's sectors some lighting on with some off.

There might be many problems in various institutions but I just start it from my own field "Journalism" is a very noble title which is bestowed on a person who is a writer, poet, connoisseur of arts, politics, understanding,

tolerance, understanding of the matter, history and knowledge, wide reading, power of deep observation.)Bias, the power to know the importance of ideas, etc. have been blessed with the collective insight of many other qualities.

Only then he can keep his hand on the pulse of the society. Only then can he become a Christian and only then can he reform.

Where there is a need for self-correction, where insight is missing, where there is threat instead of Christianity, where the hands are in the pockets of some wrong people instead of the pulse of society, where there is ignorance instead of insight, where the pages of those in power are openly run. Where special ideas are propagated by labor, where there are classes, where democracy is negative, where the law remembers only to get damages of four crore rupees, where the soldiers in nature may be ! it can supply shortages or physical defects, someone is blamed. Where drunkenness, drunkenness and drunkenness become commonplace, where accusations are common, where observations are absent, where livelihood is driven by politics, where study is not basic education, where literature and poetry are considered blasphemy.

Anything can happen there, but journalism and journalists can never happen.

And if a place is being called a press club, it can only be sheer a club, may not a press club.

This is not just a press club issue, it is a collective tragedy of the society, it is a common grief, it is a common sorrow.

Now there is a need for improvement beyond criticism.

To be continued

Priceless Wealth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Many people in the world think money is everything. But there is something that cannot be bought or exchanged with money. It is noble ideology and spirit.

President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) regarded noble ideology and spirit as the most precious wealth of revolutionaries.

For him, money and material wealth are meaningful only for the people's welfare. He never linked money or wealth with his life.

Although he devoted his all to the victory of the Korean revolution and the cause of global independence shouldering the heavy burden of state affairs, he refused all the proposals of the officials to raise his salary.

The following story is a good exam-



In November 1993, a meeting for accounting and income distribution was held at the Wonhwa Cooperative Farm, Phyoongwon County, South Phyoongan Province.

The meeting adopted a resolution on presenting 102 485 won to Kim Il Sung who was an honorary member of the farm. It was the sum of the savings of the share of Kim Il Sung who had worked for the farm since the time of the cooperativization of socialist agriculture after the Korean war (1950-1953). He had striven to boost the farm since the day when he had sowed seeds together with the farmers during the war. It was an expression of their gratitude for his devoted efforts.

But Kim Il Sung ensured that tractors, trucks and farming machines were purchased with the money for the farm.

There is the International Friendship Exhibition House in Mt Myohyang, which is famous for its superb scenic beauty.

Displayed there are numerous precious gifts presented to President

Kim Il Sung by party leaders, personalities, organizations and institutes of various countries of the world.

President Kim Il Sung never thought that the gifts were for him alone. He said that all the gifts for him belonged to the country, not to him and so they must be displayed in the exhibition house.

In general, politicians do not make public the gifts they received. Regarding them as an expression of their personalities and dignity, they keep and use them for themselves. It is common that they make them a source of pride in their personalities even when they show them to others.

But President Kim Il Sung turned all the gifts presented to him into the wealth of the country and the people which will be handed down generation after generation.

UAE diplomat urges donors to fully support Pakistani charities



News Desk

KARACHI: Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi, Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi, has urged the concerned philanthropists and donors in Pakistan to wholeheartedly support genuine charities engaged in educating children belonging to the downtrodden communities.

The UAE Consul General expressed these remarks while speaking at an iftar dinner held at Karachi Golf Club to present to prospective donors the achievements of the non-profit Al-Furqan Welfare Organization in the schooling of children from deprived classes.

Mr Remeithi said the genuine non-profits doing charitable work in the education sector were truly engaged in the service of Pakistan whose progress and development could only be achieved after tackling the issue of out-of-school children.

While advising the prospective donors to generously donate to the charities like Al-Furqan,

He said that only proper education could empower the coming generation from the lesser-privileged areas to support their families and enable them to defeat poverty and serve the country in the best possible manner.

He urged the Al-Furqan Welfare Organization to continue with its movement to overcome the issue of illiteracy in Pakistan affecting several destitute families.

Al-Furqan Welfare Organization President, Faryal Asif, said that her non-profit had begun its journey 12 years back by launching a one-room charitable school with an enrolment of just 16 children.

She expressed her sincere gratitude to the concerned donors and supporters of her non-profit enabling it to establish 14 schools in Karachi having an enrolment of over 2,500 students from unprivileged families.

She appealed to the concerned philanthropists to continue providing support to Al-Furqan schools that besides education also took care of the nutritional, healthcare, and vocational training needs of their students.

She told the audience that Al-Furqan had been able to get support from two donor organizations that committed to sponsoring the higher education of the students who passed out from its schools to enable them to become productive members of Pakistani society.

She expressed her resolve to expand the number of Al-Furqan schools in order to enroll thousands of more out-of-school children in the deprived parts of the country.

Russian rouble tumbles to lowest level since April 2022

News Desk

MOSCOW: The Russian rouble tumbled on Friday to the lowest levels against the dollar and the euro since April 2022, breaching 90 per euro amid a foreign currency crunch in Moscow and the sale of Western businesses in Russia.



The rouble tumbled 1.1% against the US dollar to 82.28 by 0930 Moscow time, and fell 1% to 90.06 against the euro.

Traders said the rouble was under pressure due to a cocktail of problems including the sale of Western assets to domestic investors, which stoked demand for dollars, while lower prices for oil in March cut export revenues.

The rouble is the third worst performing currency in the world, year to date, behind only the Egyptian pound and the Argentine peso, according to Reuters calculations.

The rouble has so far had the worst week against the dollar since July 2022, according to Reuters calculations.

Traders, though, said that the recent rise in oil prices since the falls of March would likely support the currency in future weeks.

Russia is the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia. Oil, the lifeblood of the Russian economy, fell in late March but after banking turmoil in the West and an OPEC+ decision to cut output, it has rebounded in recent days.

Brent crude oil traded as low as \$70 in late March but was trading at \$85 yesterday. Finance Minister Anton Siluanov made a verbal intervention on Thursday when asked by state television about the fall of the rouble.

"Prices for our energy have now gone up and this is a signal that there will be more foreign currency coming into the country," he said. "Consequently, this will lead to the rouble rate having a tendency to strengthen."

Tesla sued after staffers reportedly shared car-owners private videos, pics

Tesla, the world's leading electric carmaker, faces a class action lawsuit after reports of its employees accessing and sharing car-owners' highly intimate videos and pictures shocked not only the Tesla community but also the world at large.

Filed by a car owner in the US District Court for Northern District of California after reports of privacy violations during the 2019-2022 period, the suit accuses Elon Musk-owned Tesla employees were able to access the images and videos for their "tasteless and tortious entertainment" and "the humiliation of those surreptitiously recorded."

The lawsuit was filed by Henry Yeh, a San Francisco resident who drives Tesla's Model Y.

"Like anyone would be, Mr Yeh was outraged at the idea that Tesla's cameras can be used to violate his family's privacy, which the California Constitution scrupulously protects," Jack Fitzgerald, an attorney representing Yeh, said in a statement to Reuters.

"Tesla needs to be held accountable for these invasions and for misrepresenting its lax privacy practices to him and other Tesla owners," Fitzgerald said.

The lawsuit said Tesla's conduct is "particularly egregious" and "highly offensive."

It said Yeh was filing the complaint "against Tesla on behalf of himself, similarly-situated class members, and the general public." The complaint said the prospective class would include individuals who owned or leased a Tesla within the past four years.

Reuters reported that some Tesla employees could see customers "doing laundry and really intimate things. We could see their kids," citing a former employee.

"Indeed, parents' interest in their children's privacy is one of the most fundamental liberty interests society recognizes," the lawsuit said. The lawsuit asks the court "to enjoin Tesla from engaging in its wrongful behaviour, including violating the privacy of customers and others, and to recover actual and punitive damages."

Elon Musk has not commented on the matter yet.

Global food prices decline for 12th consecutive month: UN agency

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: World food prices declined for the 12th consecutive month in March, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a Rome-based UN agency, reported.

It was the first time the index had fallen for a full year, the agency said on Friday.

FAO's broad Food Price Index slipped to 2.1 per cent in March, and it is now down to 20.5 per cent since reaching its all-time peak one year ago after a big surge following the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Grains and cereals, the largest component in the index, was down to 5.6 per cent compared to the previous month and down by 18.6 per cent over the last 12 months.

Among the grains and cereals, wheat prices fell the most, dipping 7.1 per cent as exports from Ukraine via the Black Sea assuaged market fears.

Corn prices were 4.6 per cent lower due to strong production in South Amer-



ica, while rice prices were 3.2 per cent lower, due to data from harvest prospects in India, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Prices of vegetable oils were down by 3 per cent in March and a staggering 47.7 per cent compared to March 2022 figures.

Dairy prices, meanwhile, were down by 0.8 per cent, contributing to a decline of 10.7 per cent compared to a year earlier, and meat

prices inched 0.8 higher in March but were still down by 5.3 per cent over the last 12 months.

FAO said that the softening demand and adaptations to global supply chain obstacles, such as increased competition between suppliers, were the main factors pushing prices lower over the last year.

The main exception to that trend was sugar prices, which rose by 1.5 per cent in

March, reaching their highest level since October 2016.

In spite of the falling prices, FAO officials have repeatedly warned in recent months that fuel supply issues and other market uncertainties threaten many of the world's poorest nations

FAO's Food Price Index is based on worldwide prices for 23 food commodity categories covering prices for 73 different products compared to a baseline year.

Huawei plans to develop 50,000 ICT talents in South Asia

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China's telecommunication giant Huawei plans to develop 50,000 information and communication technology (ICT) talents in South Asia in the next five years.

The strategy will include various programs like building ICT academies, different ICT and startup competitions, online course enrollment and fresh employee recruitment.

Huawei has developed more than 6,000 ICT talents last year in South Asia. "And now the company has the plan to develop 50,000 new ICT talents in the next five years," the Chinese company said in a statement.

According to Huawei's 2022 Annual Report released recently in the coastal city of Shenzhen, China, the company is investing heavily on technology development. It spent 161.5 billion yuan on research and development last year, accounting for one-fourth of its annual revenue.

The total research and development expenditure remained more than 977.3 billion yuan over the past 10 years.

Who is newly-wed UAE princess Sheikha Mahra?



Sheikha Mahra, who is the daughter of Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has recently signed a marriage contract with her fiancé Sheikh Mana, said Harpers Bazaar Arabia.

According to an official statement on Sheikha's Instagram account, the couple revealed that they had celebrated their Kath Al-Kitaab — which is the official marriage ceremony and signing of the marriage contract.

The news of their marriage was confirmed by the couple who shared it through a poem written by the groom's father. "There were joys on God's day, books were written, and congratulations were exchanged from every home. Everyone is blessed with joy, and our night is as bright as day from the good news on the day of 'Mana.' From the daughters of the wind and along the fringe is a 'Mahra' in which there is fondness and estrangement..."

Masood Khan stresses links between American & Pakistani academics, educational institutions

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, met the new President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of America (WACA), an independent organization which brings together leading foreign policy and international relations experts to discuss and debate global issues.

The meeting took place at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, DC, on Friday.

According to an embassy press release, Ambassador Masood Khan congratulated Hughes on assuming WACA's presidency, and appreciated the role played by the organization and its leadership for promoting programmes and educational initiatives for diverse, multi-generation-



al audiences across United States.

He lauded WACA's convening power by providing face-to-face connections and dialogue with global leaders, business executives, policy experts, social innovators, and distinguished opinion makers.

Hughes briefed the Ambassador about WACA's mission and its leading programmes.

WACA, he said, supports more than 90 World Affairs Councils across the United States and explores new ideas in dozens of dynamic Council events each week that shape public discourse on national security, the economy and international trade, global health, energy and the environment, immigration, human rights, education and culture.

Ambassador Masood Khan briefed Hughes about current state of Pakistan-United States relations.

The two countries, he said, are long-standing and historic partners and the current positive trajectory in the bilateral relations is based on a strong desire on both sides to expand the relationship, with special focus on enhanced cooperation in non-security areas.

He underscored the importance of linkages between academics, educational institutions and diaspora to forge the solid foundation for long-lasting relations, highlighting the huge potential for WACA's collaboration and intertwining with similar platforms in Pakistan.

The WACA president expressed willingness to expand collaboration with counterparts in Pakistan.

A House in Pakistan: out of sight, not out of mind

Munaza Kazmi

Dilip Kumar, born in Peshawar as Mohammed Yusuf Khan on 11 December, 1922, Dilip, his life was as storied as the movies themselves. Migrated to Bombay in the 1930s, leaving behind the family home on a dusty road in Peshawar named QissaKhawani Bazaar, or Market of Storytellers. He may have left the house when he was only eight, but the Peshawar home was still very special to the Dilip. As, in 1988, on a visit to Pakistan, Dilip reportedly fell to his feet and kissed the floor of

his childhood home. And over the years, he longed to see the place, even asking people to share images of it on Twitter.

However, due to the enormous love of people and thanks to Pakistani Government, today that memory of the great actor is restored and turned into a museum commemorating his life.

Dilip Kumar was an icon whose fame spread across India and Pakistan, "Tragedy King" of Bollywood with heart-wrenching performances in films like Devdas, Naya Daur, Madhumati, Mughal-e-Azam and more. At home, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and then the Padma Vibhushan,



across the border, he received Pakistan's highest civilian award, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, in 1998, an event that was controversial politically but a validation of art transcending borders.

In December 2020, Government of Pakistan budgeted

approximately PK\$ Million to acquire the Dilip's house for its transformation into the museum. Pakistan's Director of Archaeology and Museums had mentioned that this move was part of a larger effort to restore Peshawar's traditional culture, which fell

by the wayside due to the war on terror. Moreover, on June 2021, the Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar issued a notification of the transfer of the ownership of the property located in the old city from their current owners to the Archaeology Department. From 1930's the house changed several owners, until a few years ago, it was being used as a warehouse, which certainly damaged the property. Rendering this, work needed to begin in order to restore and convert the house into a museum.

Though, the restoration work has been completed, however still a lot needs to be done.

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

Emirates to offer daily flights to Toronto from April 20

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the breakthrough expanded air transport agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Canada, Emirates is stepping up its frequency with two additional flights per week between Dubai and Toronto.

From April 20, daily flights will operate on the busy route to serve huge demand for passenger services.

The move comes as bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Canada have enhanced significantly, with both countries set to reap vast economic benefits across a multitude of sectors and supply chains.

Hailing the development as a crucial one for the airline, Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer, said: Emirates welcomes the expansion of the air services agreement between the UAE and Canada and we would firstly like to thank all stakeholders and authorities who were involved in this pivotal agreement that will provide a boost to the aviation and tourism sectors in both countries.

Emirates has been serving customers between Toronto and Dubai since 2007, and although the double-decker A380 aircraft has been operating the route since 2009, demand arising from leisure and corporate travellers, diaspora and students has consistently outstripped the allocated capacity. This enhanced agreement represents a turning point for us in our strategy to serve our customers better, by offering more choice and flexibility, and meet pent up demand across our growing network.

"Business ties between Canada and the UAE have grown significantly over the years and the expanded air services will help to further nurture business and trade. The expansion of air services is also an affirmation of the growing importance of the UAE to Canada's global connectivity, which we can support through our global network of more than 130 destinations. Together with the relevant authorities, our codeshare and loyalty programme partner Air Canada, and our valued industry partners, we look forward to playing a role in facilitating more tourism and trade opportunities between the two nations," continued Kazim.

ICCI urges Govt to resolve tax issues of furniture industry

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan has great potential to enhance the exports of furniture products by focusing on the furniture industry and urged that the government should resolve tax issues of this industry to facilitate its better growth. He said that tax authorities and field formations of FBR are issuing notices to furniture showrooms/shops to register as Tier-1 retailers, which is not practicable for all furniture businesses and urged that the furniture showrooms/shops covering area less than 2000 square feet should be exempted from sales tax registration to ease their problems. He said this while addressing a delegation of Pakistan Furniture Association that visited ICCI led by its Chairman Zahid Hussain. Mian Muhammad Ramzan Convener ICCI Tax Committee, Khalid Chaudhry former Senior Vice President ICCI and others were present at the occasion.



Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that the small furniture retailers should not be subjected to Sub-Sec-43A of Sec-2 of Sales Tax Act 1990 as they purchase furniture from unregistered manufacturers of the cottage

industry and cannot provide input invoices. He said that those retailers who occupy even one square foot less area than 2000 sq. ft. are exempted, which creates an anomaly. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with the

Pakistan Furniture Association in resolving key issues of the furniture industry.

Speaking at the occasion, Zahid Hussain, Chairman, Pakistan Furniture Association stressed that the government should introduce fixed sales tax of Rs.5000/month for furniture showrooms/shops covering area of above 2000 sq. ft. up to 5000 sq. ft., Rs. 10,000/month for showrooms/shops covering area of above 5000 sq. ft. up to 10,000 sq. ft. and Rs.15000/month for showrooms/shops covering area of above 10,000 sq. ft. up to 15,000 sq. ft. He said that such a fixed tax regime would protect the furniture businesses from unnecessary harassment and facilitate better growth of their business activities.

Mian Muhammad Ramzan, Convener, ICCI Tax Committee said that the furniture showrooms/shops which are not part of a national or international chain store nor are they located in air-conditioned malls, should be excluded from the category of Sub-Sec-43-A of Sec-2 of Sales Tax Act 1990 and should be declared as cottage industry with inclusion in Tier-2 regime.

China's forex reserves rise to \$3.1839 trillion

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China's foreign exchange reserves came in at \$3.1839 trillion at the end of March, up 1.62 percent or \$50.7 billion from a month earlier, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

Affected by monetary policy and expectations for major economies, the dollar index fell and the prices of global financial assets climbed last month, the regulator said, attributing the increase in foreign exchange reserves to the combined impact of currency translation and asset price changes.

It added that China's foreign exchange reserves are expected to stay generally stable as the country has solid economic foundations and broad prospects for development.

Dong Dengxin, director of the Finance

and Securities Institute at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology, told the Global Times that the foreign exchange rise was mainly the result of dollar depreciation.

Observers said that global investors' anticipation of dollar depreciation has led to looming recession concerns for the US economy, with the Fed showing no sign of reversing the rate hike cycle despite the recent banking crisis.

"The Fed's continued interest rate hikes previously pushed up the dollar index, but it fell in March as many countries, including Russia, India and many oil exporters, abandoned the dollar and settled in local currency or the yuan," he said.

"It indicates that the dollar is facing a credit crisis, whether represented by the West reducing its holdings of US debt or developing countries using the local

currency for settlement," Dong noted.

China's international reserves are composed of gold reserves and foreign exchange reserves.

At present, the country's foreign exchange reserves maintain a level of around \$3.1 trillion to \$3.2 trillion. Dong suggested that the country could cut US debt holdings to prevent further risks.

The world's second-largest economy has been diversifying its international portfolio to ensure reserve security. Data from the United States Treasury Department showed that China's holdings of US Treasury securities slid for six consecutive months to \$859.4 billion as of the end of January, down from \$867.1 billion in December.

The country's foreign exchange reserves stood at more than \$3.21 trillion at the end of February, down 0.24 percent from the end of January.

Baidu sues Apple, app developers over fake Ernie bot apps

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese search engine giant Baidu, has filed lawsuits against "relevant" app developers and Apple over fake copies of its Ernie bot app available on Apple's app store.

The company's artificial intelligence powered Ernie bot, launched last month, has been touted as China's closest answer to the U.S.-developed chatbot ChatGPT.

Baidu said it had lodged lawsuits in Beijing Haidian People's Court against the developers behind the counterfeit applications of its Ernie bot and the Apple company.

"At present, Ernie does not have any official app," Baidu

said in a statement late on Friday posted on its official "Baidu AI" WeChat account.

It also posted a photograph of its court filing.

"Until our company's official announcement, any Ernie app you see from App Store or other stores are fake," it said.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A Reuters search on Saturday found there were still at least four apps bearing the Chinese-language name of the Ernie bot, all fake, in Apple's App Store.

The Baidu bot is only available to users who apply for and receive access codes. In its statement, Baidu also warned against people selling access codes.

Iftar - Dinner

Karachi: The Mehran Commercial Enterprises hosted Iftar and Dinner for the friends, Media persons and prominent businessmen. Mashood Khan, Director MCE, welcomed the guests.



Spotify continues to cherish the blessings of Ramadan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: As Muslims around the world continue to cherish and celebrate the blessed month of Ramadan, embracing spirituality, togetherness, and gratitude, Spotify celebrates the essence of this grand occasion by amplifying this journey of emotions and holiness for its listeners through a dedicated Ramadan hub. The audio streaming service is offering users the unique opportunity to embody the essence of this holy month through personalized and creatively-curated playlists for all Ramadan moments.

And the chain of exciting announcements continues with the EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador for April, and the face that will light up a digital billboard on Times Square, NYC this time, is none other than the titan of Sufi music, Sanam Marvi. Marking the occasion of Ramadan, Sanam Marvi has released a new soulful kalam, "Aye Khuda", that will also be featured on Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan playlist.

Revered throughout Pakistan and beyond, Sanam Marvi is a legend with a career spanning almost 14 years. Singing in Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi, and Saraiki, she offers



a uniquely beautiful interpretation of Sufi poetry supported by an unbelievable vocal range. Trained by her father, classical music legends Abida Parveen and Ustad Fateh Ali Khan, Sanam spent her childhood singing at festivals and shrines across Pakistan. Her music has reached Bollywood and earned her recognition from UNESCO as well as Pakistan's highest civilian award.

From recitations of the Holy Quran to soulful kalaams, Spotify's playlists showcase its relevance for every moment. According to data made available by the audio streaming

service, listeners gravitate toward recitation of the Quran peaking at 6:00 AM during Ramadan. Ismail An Nouri's recitation of Surah Al-Kahf, Rehman, Waqiah, Mulk and Yaseen tops the list of the most streamed track during the month followed by Mishary Rashid Alafasy's recitation of the same Surahs.

"At Spotify, we embrace the spirit of Ramadan alongside our listeners," said Rutaba Yaqub, Senior Manager Editorial, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, & Bangladesh. "Our Ramadan Hub has a collection of soulful prayers that entice listeners and Salam! is amongst the most streamed playlists. The collection of kalaams titled Hamd-o-Naat is also visibly popular among the listeners featuring the legend Junaid Jamshed's Mera Dil Badal De, Illahi Teri Chaukhat Per, and Ae Nabi Pyare Nabi in top 5 along with Hafiz Ahmed Raza Qadri's Dar e Nabi Par and Zulfikar Ali's Hum Madinay Se Allah," she added further.

In addition to religious sentiments, Ramadan is also about gratitude and joy. This reflects in the three most popular moods during the month which are 'chill' followed by 'happy' and 'free'.

Binance's US arm struggles to find bank to take its customers' cash: report

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. arm of cryptocurrency exchange Binance is struggling to find a bank to handle its customers' cash after the failure of Signature Bank (SBNY.PK) last month, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Previously, the deposits were sent to either Signature Bank or Silvergate Capital Corp (SLN), both seen as crypto-friendly banks. However, after both failed, the exchange is rushing to find a new banking partner, according to the report.

Binance.US is using at least one intermediary to store funds, the report said, adding that since the money

is being held by a third party, it can slow down sending and moving funds.

The company has unsuccessfully tried to establish relationships with Cross River Bank and Customers Bancorp Inc (CUBLN), the report said, adding that banks are reluctant due to concerns over regulatory risk. All three companies did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request for comment outside normal business hours.

"We work with multiple U.S.-based banking and payment providers and continue to onboard new partners while upgrading our internal systems to create a more stable fiat platform and offer additional services," a spokesperson for Binance.US told the WSJ.

Pakistan U19 team holds training session ahead of Bangladesh Tour

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Under-19 Men's cricket team on Saturday, held its first training session at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for their upcoming tour of Bangladesh.

In the first session of the ongoing camp at the NCA, coach Sabih Azhar and team manager Tauseef Ahmed gave briefing to the players regarding the camp.

The junior players engaged in rigorous batting, fielding and bowling drills throughout the day as they gear up for the upcoming away assignment against Bangladesh.

It is worth mentioning that the Pakistan U19 team, under the leadership of Saib Baig, will tour Bangladesh to play one four-dayer, five One Day and one T20 from April 30 to May 17 in Chit-



tagong and Rajshahi. **PAKISTAN U19 Squad:** Saad Baig (captain) (Karachi), Ali Asfand (vice-captain) (Fais-

alabad), Ahmed Hussain (Peshawar), Aimal Khan (Peshawar), Amir Hussain (Rawalpindi), Arafat Minhas (Multan), Azan Awais (Sialkot), Hamza Nawaz (Lahore), Mohammad Ibtisam (Sargodha), Mohammad Ismail (Sahiwal), Mohammad Tahir (Fata), Mohammad Tayyab Arif (Sialkot), Obaid Shahid (Lahore), Sajjad Ali (Lahore), Shahzaib Khan (Manshera), Shamiy Hussain (Islamabad) and Wahaj Riaz (Karachi). Abidullah (Islamabad), Ikramullah Tareen (Quetta) and Muhammad Zulkifal (Charsadda) (all reserves)

Series Schedule:

30 Apr - Only Four-Day, Chattogram
6 May - 1st One-Day, Chattogram
8 May - 2nd One-Day, Chattogram
11 May - 3rd One-Day, Rajshahi
15 May - 4th One-Day, Rajshahi
17 May - Only T20, Rajshahi



LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports Wahab Riaz is introducing the players on the occasion of the Kabaddi Championship to be held at the Punjab Stadium regarding the "First Ramadan Sports Series 2023".

Islamabad Ramzan flood light hockey tournament

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ramzan flood light tournament is going on Abpara CDA hockey ground last night 1st quarter final played between Islamabad Tigers and NHC lines hockey clubs where Islamabad Tigers beat NHC lines by 2-1 both beautiful goals scored by Captain of Islamabad tigers hockey club Najeeb Khattak and Malik Saifdar scored from NHC lines. Islamabad tigers qualify for semi finals. Semi finals will be played on Sunday at Abpara CDA hockey ground



Final Score: Pakistan 0, Hong Kong 2

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan women's football team was defeated at the hands of Hong Kong in their second clash of AFC Women's Olympic Qualifier at Hisor Central Stadium in Tajikistan.

Vice-Captain Malika Noor wore the captain's armband today in the absence of the injured Maria Khan and along with the side played impressively in the first half, the opponent missed an unchallenging penalty in the 33rd minute which skied over the keeper whereas goal-keeper Nisha Ashraf has been phenomenal today as she saved an exceptional attempt of goal by Hong Kong in the 35th minute. The first half of the encounter remained goalless.

In the second half of the game, Hong Kong showed its dominance in the dying moments of the match. In the 73rd minute, goalkeeper Nisha turned the long hit of Hong Kong's captain Chan Wing Sze into an unfortunate own goal. The defensive side put up again a relatively better show but defender Sara Khan tried getting the ball away from the bar, causing a goal in favour of Hong Kong in the 90th minute.

With a second consecutive loss, Pakistan's journey in AFC Women's Olympic Qualifier 2024 Paris has ended. Pakistan team faces the host Tajikistan on the 11th of April.

Abbas achieves milestone with Hampshire in County Championship



By A Sports -

SOUTHAMPTON: Pakistan's right-arm speedster Mohammad Abbas completed 100 wickets for Hampshire County Cricket Club amid his side's County Championship 2023 fixture against Nottinghamshire on Saturday.

Abbas, who decimated Nottinghamshire's batting line-up with a six-for in the first innings, continued his ruthless bowling in the second to further push the visitors to the backfoot.

Nottinghamshire, resuming their second innings at 146/6 on the third day of their ongoing first fixture of the season, rocked with Abbas's magic as the right-arm pacer soon booked their lineup by taking three quick wickets and amassed the 100-wicket mark for the club.

Abbas maintained Hampshire's domination with a wicket in the first over of the third day as he dismissed wicketkeeper batter Tom Moores with a beautiful outswinger.

He then castled Ollly Stone to draw eighth success for the home side before trapping Dane Paterson in his legs to wrap up a dominant show with the ball.

Abbas returned with the match figures of 9/116 and played a pivotal role in restricting Nottinghamshire to a modest total.

Following Abbas's magic, Hampshire now need to chase down 132 runs with almost two days of action to script a winning start to their County Championship campaign.

Bismah's 66* goes in vain as Warriors edge Spirit in low-scoring thriller

By A Sports -

KOWLOON: Bismah Maroof's fighting 66-run knock went in vain as Warriors Women edged Spirit Women by three runs in the low-scoring thriller in the ongoing FairBreak Invitational.

Set to chase a modest 119, the Spirit could only accumulate 115/8 in their set of 20 overs despite Bismah's 66 not out.

The Spirit were off to a poor start to the run chase as the side lost two wickets for just 11 runs as both openers Sophia Dunkley (8) and Sarah Bryce (0) perished cheaply.

Coming out to bat at

number four with her side in heaps of trouble, Bismah soaked the pressure and looked to stitch an anchoring partnership with Natthakan Chantham.

Chantham, however, could not hang for long and fell in the seventh over after managing to score 18 off 19.

Her dismissal sparked a match-defining collapse and the Spirit batting line-up crumbled.

Meanwhile, Bismah held her ground firm and kept the scoreboard ticking single-handedly until the end of the innings but no support from the other end, resulted in her efforts going in vain.

Bismah remained the top scorer for the Spirit with an

unbeaten 60-ball 66, laced with five boundaries and a six.

Besides Bismah and Chantham, no Spirit batter could enter the double figures.

Amanda-Jade Wellington led the bowling attack for the Warriors with 3/27, followed by Shamilia Connell's 2/16 while Kathryn Bryce and Esha Oza could pick up a wicket.

Put into bat first, the Warriors also struggled with the bat and could only pile 118 runs before bundling out in the 18th over.

The Warriors also had a dismal start to their innings - losing the first wicket for just one run - but soon recovered, courtesy of a grit-

ty second-wicket partnership between Mignon du Preez and Ellie Johnston.

The pair had settled things down as they took the Warriors to 58/1 in seven overs before Betty Chan found the breakthrough for the Spirit by dismissing du Preez, who scored 23-ball 27.

The Warriors then ran into a collapse following du Preez's dismissal with their mainstay Johnston also falling victim and could not recover. They lost wickets at an alarming rate and soon bundled out for a meagre total.

Johnston remained the top-scorer for the Warriors with a brisk 24-ball 40, laced with two boundaries and three sixes.

PCB Nominated Aleem Dar on the ICC International Panel of Umpires.



Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board has nominated Aleem Dar on the ICC International Panel of Umpires. The 54-year-old three-time ICC Umpire of the Year has replaced Ahsan Raza in the international panel, who has been promoted to the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires.

Aleem's appointment to the international panel means he will remain eligible to umpire in international matches, including Pakistan's home international fixtures as well as the upcoming ICC Major Events such as the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

As per ICC regulations, match officials on the international panel are only qualified to officiate in international matches. Match officials in this panel are nominated by the ICC Members.

PCB Manager- Umpires and Referees, Bilal Qureshi: "The PCB had a detailed internal discussion on Aleem Dar and there was a consensus to recommend him to the ICC's International Panel of Umpires as a PCB nominee so that international cricket can continue to benefit from his wealth of experience and knowledge."

Furthermore, the PCB will continue to involve him in its domestic season so that it can develop and groom its own emerging umpires under his tutelage."

To date, Aleem, who was included in the elite panel in 2004, has officiated in a world record 439 international matches, including 145 Tests, 225 ODIs, and 69 T20Is. He has officiated in five ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, seven ICC Men's T20 World Cups and five ICC Champions Trophy events, including finals of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2007 and 2011, ICC Champions Trophy 2009 and ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2010 and 2012.

Pakistan's other three umpires on the international panel are Faisal Khan Afridi, Mohammad Asif Yaqoob and Rashid Riaz Waqar.

Mehtab Chawla Ramadan Veterans Hockey entered the semi-finals

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Second Mehtab Chawla Ramadan Flood lights Veterans Hockey Tournament semi-final line-up completed, Pakistan Veterans White and Sea hawks Hockey Club made it to the final four. Last night, in the first match played under the lights of Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy, Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club (White) beat Noor XI by 9 goals to nil in a one-sided match. Irfan Khan Jr scored second hat-trick of the tournament, Faisal Waheed scored two beautiful goals while Zahid Ghaffar, Tasneem Usmani, Azam Khan and Arif Bhopali netted once each.

In the second match, Sea Hawks Hockey Club easily win over Baldia Hockey Club by 6 goals to nil Nazakat Ali's hat trick. Nazakat scored four goals, Zahid Fareed and



Faheem scored one each. The Chief Guest was Javed Ali Memon, Director Sports, Higher Education Commission. Olympian Islahuddin introduced the Chief Guest to the athletes.

Javed Ali Memon said in his speech Olympian Islahuddin has played a big role in restoring the glory of hockey in Karachi. Every modern facility related to hockey is available here. He said that he wants hockey activities to be

organized here from the platform of HEC and he wishes that the training camp of HEC women's hockey team should also be organized here in connection with the preparations for the National Games to be held in Quetta. Because in their eyes there is no better ground

Begum Asma Ali Shah, former international Mubashir Mukhtar, tournament coordinator Syed Alay Hasan, Muhammad Aslam

Khan and others were also present on this occasion. Nadeem Saeed, Taqreem Iftikhar, Talha Ghori and Uzeer Ahmed umpired while Tariq Khan, Asad Zaheer, Wahid Hussain performed the duties of technical officials.

In the first semi-final, Pakistan Veterans White will face Pakistan Veterans Green at 11pm and Sea hawks Hockey Club will face Karachi Fitness Club at 12:30 pm.

First Ramzan Sports Series competitions start at different sports venues

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The competitions of First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 got underway at different sports venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Friday night.

Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz inaugurated the Ramzan Sports Series tape ball cricket tournament at LCCA ground. Wahab Riaz bowled while former captain Salman Butt and Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa batted for a while to launch the cricket event. Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and others were present on this occasion.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail inaugurated the Ramzan Sports Series Badminton

Championship by playing a shot at NPSC Gymnasium Hall while DC Lahore Rafia Haider and table tennis star Pernia Khan inaugurated the table tennis championship by playing a shot at the same venue.

Similarly, Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz launched the Kabaddi Championship at Punjab Stadium. Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, DC Lahore Rafia Haider, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman and DG Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail were also present on this occasion.

According to the results of the first day's competitions, Lahore Division defeated Multan Division by 51-40 in the first Kabaddi competition. In the cricket tape ball tournament, Tehsil Lahore Cantt (Black) defeated Tehsil

Model Town (Grey) by 38 runs. Majeed scored 38 runs while Azhar took 2 wickets.

Lahore Division defeated Bahawalpur Division 7-1 in the Hockey Championship, Ghazanfar, Abdul Manan, Rana Sohail scored 2 goals each and Gul Sher scored one goal while Abdul Hannan scored the only goal for Bahawalpur team. In the second match, Faisalabad defeated Sargodha by 6-4. Faisalabad beat DG Khan 4-0 in football match. Faisalabad's Adeel scored 3 goals while Basit scored 1 goal.

Men's Singles Table Tennis results:

Ahsan of Sahiwal Division beat Ghayyur of Sargodha Division 3-0, Talha of Gujranwala Division beat Adil of DG Khan Division 3-0, Sajjad Ali of Sargodha Division beat Asif Ali of Sargodha Division 3-0, Awais Hassan of Lahore Division beat Harris of Multan Division



3-2, Paras of Multan Division beat Zain Islam of Bahawalpur by 3-0, Hamza of Faisalabad division beat Abu Huraira of Rawalpindi 3-1, Owais Mukhtar of Rawalpindi beat Arshad Tasakin of Bahawalpur 3-0, Faizan of Faisalabad beat Nauman of Sahiwal 3-0, Mohsin of Multan beat Sargodha's Bilal by 3-0, Hadi of Gujranwala beat Haroon of DG Khan 3-0, Hafeezur Rehman of Faisalabad beat Asadullah of Bahawalpur 3-0, Bilal Yasin of Lahore beat Talha

of Gujranwala 3-0, Rawalpindi's Abdullah beat Sahiwal's Tashif 3-1, Lahore's Anas Pirzada beat Sargodha's Sajjad Ali 3-0, Lahore's Asim Qureshi beat Gujranwala's Hamad 3-0 and Bahawalpur's Abid Ali beat Multan's Sarkhab 3-1.

Women's Singles Table Tennis results:

Sadia Pirzada (Bwp) bt Nisha (DGK) by 3-0, Ayesha Fahim (Fsb) bt Anila (DGK) by 3-0, Kalsoom (Lhr) bt Mehvish (Mlt)

by 3-0, Pernia Khan (Lhr) bt Zunaira (Rwp) by 3-0, Mehmooda (Bwp) bt Fatima (Guj) by 3-0, Mubeen (Swl) by Shumaila (Mlt) by 3-0, Ayesha Sharjeel (Rwp) bt Ayesha (Guj) by 3-0, Saba Mush-taq (Fsb) bt Zill-e-Huma (Swl) by 3-0.

Men's Singles Badminton results:

Rehan Ali (Srg) bt Shahab Shah (DGK) 21-10, 21-2, Hamza Latif (Srg) bt Asad (DGK) by 21-13, 21-7, Sohaib Yasir (Srg) bt Zunain Javed (Fsb) by 21-6,

21-9, Sheraz Ali (Srg) bt Abdul Waheed (Bwp) by 21-15, 21-15, Raja Hasnain (Guj) bt Khuzaima Altaf (Mlt) 21-8, 21-4, Shab-bar Hussain (Rwp) bt Abdullah Tahir (Mlt) by 21-14, 21-10, Saad Amir (Lhr) bt Ahsan Asif (Fsb) by 21-7, 21-19.

Women's Singles Badminton results:

Sadaf Barkat (Swl) bt Sumera (DGK) by 21-8, 21-10, Kashme-na Nadeem (Mlt) bt Ammara Shaheen (Srg) by 21-16, 21-14.

