



ECP proposes amendments to Election Act 2017

ECP proposed amendments to Section 57 and Section 58 of the Election Act 2017, granting the commission more flexibility in announcing the date and amending the election program for general elections. In a letter to NA Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Monday, ECP Chief Sikandar Sultan Raja requested Parliament's approval for the proposed amendments. (Details on Page 8)



Census: Population count extended for second time in select metropolitan cities

To complete the remaining census work and ensure 100% coverage, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) Monday extended the date of the ongoing digital census for the second time till April 15, a statement said. The date to complete work of the country's seventh population census has been extended by the chief census commissioner in metropolitan cities — including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Quetta, Gilgit, and Karachi.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

PM address

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a Convention to mark the Golden Jubilee of 1973 Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM vows to ensure sanctity of Constitution by making country economically independent

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday vowed to ensure the sanctity of the Constitution by making Pakistan economically developed and independent and by facilitating common people. "Constitution is the protector and guiding principle of Pakistan and we can sacrifice our lives to protect it," he said in his message to the nation. The prime minister felicitated the nation on the completion of 50 years of the 1973 Constitution of the country. He also paid tributes to all the political parties, leaders, and parliamentarians who formulated the constitution for the country. "We pay tribute to all the respected personalities who elevated the sanctity of the Constitution and continue to play role in its strength during the last 50 years," he added. PM Shehbaz said the Constitution of Pakistan 1973

was the extract of the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and other founders of Pakistan. He said the Constitution of Pakistan kept the nation united. Terming it the mother of all state institutions, he said Constitution is a unanimously agreed upon civil agreement among all the stakeholders living in Pakistan. The prime minister said despite untoward incidents and conspiracies that happened in the past, the Constitution maintained its existence in the country. He said Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was not only the architect of the Constitution but also the one to sacrifice his own life for its sanctity. "I particularly salute Benazir Bhutto and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who played a historic role in promoting, saving, and upholding the Constitution of Pakistan," he added.

Parliament's joint sitting passes SC Bill clipping CJP's suo motu power

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Amid strong protests by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers, the Joint Sitting of Parliament on Monday passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP). Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 which was passed by the Parliament. It is to mention that President Dr Arif Alvi had returned the 'judicial reforms' bill for reconsideration to the Parliament as per the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution. The minister read out the message of the President who returned the bill for reconsideration. He said that bill was discussed in detail in National Assembly and it was also approved by the Senate. The minister responded to the objections to the bill and said the "President used inappropriate

words while returning this bill and used a biased approach". He said that he should think "as the President rather than a political worker". Azam Nazeer Tarar said it was the demand of the bar associations and councils to introduce the bill and they had supported the bill. This bill, he said, was an old demand of the Bar Council which said that the indiscriminate use of 184(3) should be stopped. The joint sitting of Parliament reconsidered it and passed the legislative proposal. Former Minister for Law and Justice and Senator Farooq H. Naek and JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza spoke on the various sections of the bill and were of the view that was the right time of legislation which would ensure reforms in judicial affairs. MNA Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja moved amendments in the bill and the Minister for Law and Justice did not oppose them. He said that these amendments will bring more clarity to the judicial affairs and ensure transpar-



ency while forming bench. However, the amendments moved by JI Senator Mushtaq Ahmed were rejected. President's assent It is mentioned that the President shall give his assent within ten days, failing which such assent shall be deemed to have been given. Sub-Article 2 of Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan states "When the President has returned a Bill to the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), it shall be reconsidered by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in joint sitting and, if it is again passed, with or without amendment, by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), by the votes of the majority of the members of both Houses present and voting; it shall be deemed for the purposes of the Constitution to have been passed by both Houses and shall be presented to the President, and the President shall give his assent within ten days, failing which such assent shall be deemed to have been given. The bill – the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 – aims at giving the power of taking suo motu notice to a three-member committee comprising senior judges including Chief Justice. It also aims to have transparent proceedings in

the apex court and includes the right to appeal. Regarding the constitution of benches, the bill states that every cause, matter or appeal before the apex court would be heard and disposed of by a bench constituted by a committee comprising the CJP and the two senior-most judges. It added that the decisions of the committee would be taken by a majority. Regarding exercising the apex court's original jurisdiction, the bill said that any matter invoking the use of Article 184(3) would first be placed before the above mentioned committee. The bill says that if the committee is of the view that a question of public importance with reference to the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights conferred by Chapter I of Part II of the Constitution is involved, it shall constitute a bench comprising not less than three judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which may also include the members of the committee, for adjudication of the matter.

Senate passes resolution for same-day elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senate of Pakistan on Monday passed a resolution to hold simultaneous elections in the National and four provincial assemblies by majority. Supreme Court in its April 4 verdict, ordered the finance ministry to release Rs21 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan for the Punjab election. The resolution was tabled by Senator Tahir Bizenjo in the Senate session chaired by its chairman Sadiq Sanjrani. According to the resolution, political stability is essential for economic stability in the country, for which elections in NA and provincial assemblies must be held on the same day. The resolution said that elections in Punjab alone

would have a negative impact on other provinces while holding elections in centre and provinces at the same time would strengthen the federation. Senator Tahir Bizenjo further said in the resolution that Pakistan could not afford further political instability. We need to work for national stability instead of confrontation, he added. The resolution was passed with a majority, while opposition members protested and surrounded the chair of the Senate chairman. Earlier in the day, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presented Election Charge Expenditure Bill 2023 before National Assembly (NA), which was moved by speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf to a concerned committee.

Ishaq Dar presents election charge expenditure bill 2023 in NA

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday presented Election Charge Expenditure Bill 2023 before National Assembly (NA). Supreme Court in its April 4 verdict, ordered the finance ministry to release Rs21 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan for the Punjab election. The National Assembly will discuss the bill on Thursday as speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has forwarded the bill to the concerned committee. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, Ishaq Dar said Pakistan was heading toward prosperity and became the world's 24th-largest economy during Nawaz Sharif's tenure. But he was disqualified in Panama Papers and Imran Khan was 'imposed' on Pakistan in 2018, he added. Foreign reserves were \$24 billion and the growth rate



was 6pc, when Nawaz Sharif was ousted, Ishaq Dar said and held Imran Khan responsible for the economic turmoil. "Incumbent govt inherited ill-economy," Ishaq Dar said the PDM parties put their politics on stake for the survival of the state. Citing the current economic situation, Ishaq Dar said immediate elections are not in favour of Pakistan. Finance Ministry's report finance ministry has prepared a summary for the federal cabinet and Parliament regarding the provision of funds for Punjab elections, said sources.

Kalat Commissioner's vehicle collides with trawler, four dead

Spokesman Report

QUETTA: At least four Levies personnel were killed and two others sustained injuries when the squad of Kalat Commissioner suffered an accident in Balochistan's Surab district on Monday. According to details, the incident took place when the squad Kalat Commissioner Dawood Khan Khilji collided with a trawler coming from the opposite direction, killing four Levies personnel. Meanwhile, Commissioner Khilji remained unharmed in the accident. The deceased and injured Levies personnel were shifted to Civil Hospital, Surab.

Bilawal for following trichotomy of power principle to bring Pakistan out of problems

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while underlining the need for unity among political and democratic forces on Monday said all institutions should work in their constitutional ambit to bring Pakistan out of various problems including economic, inflation, unemployment and terrorism being confronted by the country. Speaking at a convention held in connection with the golden jubilee celebrations of the 1973 constitution, he said the undemocratic forces always took advantage of differences among the politicians and political parties in the past. It was the right time to forge unity and work jointly for political and economic stability in the country, he added. The minister said the National

Security Committee in its meeting has decided to launch operations against terrorists and defeated them again like in the past. He said the 1973 constitution which was unanimously passed by this august house and kept intact all the provinces of the country. He said April 10 was a historical day and this day should be a part of the syllabus to teach in schools to the new generation about the importance of the constitutional day like August 14, 1947. It was a historical day as the country got its unanimous constitution on April 10, 1974, he added. He said April 10 was the foundation day of our 50 years of political struggle. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto united the broken and scattered country through a unanimous constitution in 1973, he added. He said the Constitution of 1973

gave the country a way forward to tread the path of progress and constitutionalism. He went on to say that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif inked a charter of democracy (CoD) in 2006 as the undemocratic forces always took benefit of differences and communication gaps among the political forces in the past. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) not only restored the 1973 constitution in letter and spirit but also provided rights to the provinces besides giving them their identity, he added. However, the minister said undemocratic forces started conspiracies against CoD and imposed a selected prime minister aimed at abrogating the unanimous constitution of 1973 and cleared the way for setting up of One Unit again in the country.

Punjab Election: Finance ministry prepares report regarding funds

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance ministry on Monday prepared a summary for the federal cabinet and Parliament regarding the provision of funds for Punjab elections. The sources said the summary finalised by the finance ministry mentioned difficulties in the availability of large sums of money for elections separately. Sources having knowledge of the matter said that no money was kept in the budget for the elections and now it is difficult to take out Rs21 billion for the Punjab elections. The report further stated that every pool has its budget and expenses if anyone of them is disturbed, there will be financial problems.

Paigham-e-Islam Conference

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 5th Paigham-e-Islam Conference on Monday.



Photo: PID

President exhorts political leadership to sit together for country's future

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday emphasized that the entire political leadership of the country should show magnanimity by burying their bitterness and come forward for the country's progress and prosperity.

Pakistan was once a fast-developing country in the region, but now other countries were leading the path which required serious retrospection, he opined.

The president was addressing at the Paigham-e-Islam Conference as a chief guest. The event was attended by a large number of ambassadors, Ulema, parliamentarians and scholars.

The holy month of Ramadan taught the Muslims of the quality of forgiveness, therefore, all

the political leadership of the country should emulate that quality in the face of prevailing challenges faced by the country, he added.

The president said considering the current challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah, it was imperative to draw strength from the Islamic values and qualities.

He said besides focusing on economic stability, the Muslim countries should also concentrate on seeking the knowledge, enabling them to address the contemporary challenges.

The president said he was appalled at the spectacles of macabre aggression and violence unleashed on the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

A danger of genocide was

lurking over the Muslims in India as the mosques were being demolished with suppressed religious identity and freedom, he added.

He said it was indeed a difficult time for the Muslim Ummah, but he was optimistic that through collective efforts, cooperation and unity, they would overcome all the challenges.

The president further regretted that from human history, it was evident that mankind had not learnt from its bitter experiences of wrangling and tussles. The human race had witnessed large-scale massacres.

He said the teachings of the Holy Quran were eternal in nature which provided guidance to the human beings.

The president stressed upon the teaching of certain Islam-

ic values to the coming generations, including the supreme quality of forgiveness. The Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) was an embodiment of that quality who forgave all his tormentors.

President Alvi also lauded the role of leadership of Saudi Arabia for resuming ties with Iran.

Earlier, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki highlighted the significance of fraternal, historic and brotherly ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

He said the close and warm ties were rooted deeply and shaped by shared mutual interests, adding the people of Kingdom and the Muslim countries held Pakistan in high esteem.

Malki said both the countries

had been working closely to further strengthen their mutual cooperation in diverse fields, including trade and investment.

He reiterated that Saudi Arabia would continue extending its support to the people of Pakistan through different development initiatives.

Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Ahmed Rabei conveyed his gratitude on behalf of the Palestinian people for the solidarity and support shown to the Palestinian cause by the Pakistani people, government and political leadership.

He also highlighted the recent surge of brutalities by the occupation Israeli forces in the holy month of Ramadan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi and other speakers also spoke on the occasion.

ECP proposes amendments to Election Act 2017

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) proposed amendments to Section 57 and Section 58 of the Election Act 2017, granting the commission more flexibility in announcing the date and amending the election program for general elections.

In a letter to National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Monday, ECP Chief Sikandar Sultan Raja requested Parliament's approval for the proposed amendments, which would allow the election commission to change the election schedule even after the issuance of the notification.

Under the proposed amendments, the ECP would announce the date of the general elections and would be able to amend the election program announced at different stages.

The commission could issue a new election



program and give a new date as necessary.

However, the commission would be required to provide its opinion and reasons for changing the election schedule in writing.

The secretary election commission wrote letters to the secretary of parliamentary affairs and the principal secretary to the prime minister, suggesting that they amend the Election Act accordingly.

The proposed amendments would grant more autonomy to the election commission and streamline the election process.

ECP releases data of registered voters across country

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday released the latest data of registered voters across the country.

According to the ECP data, the total registered voters till March 2023 has crossed the mark of 125.6 million.

The number of male voters is 67.8 million and the number of women voters is 57.7 million.

The ratio between the male and female voters in Pakistan is 54 per cent and 46 per cent respectively.

The electoral watchdog also released the data in terms of age according to which at least 26

per cent of the voters are in the age group of 26 to 35 years.

According to the report, the number of voters in Punjab is 71.5 million, while the number of voters in Sindh is 26.3 million.

The number of voters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is 21.4 million, the number of voters in Baluchistan is 5.2 million and the number of voters in Islamabad is 1.2 million.

The total number of voters in terms of provinces and territories are:

Sindh: 26,396,053.
Punjab: 71,565,168.
Balochistan: 5,228,729.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 21,415,490.
Islamabad: 1,020,953.

PM's resolution to celebrate April 10 as National Constitution Day adopted: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the National Constitutional Convention had adopted the resolution presented by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to celebrate the National Constitution Day on April 10 every year.

The resolution was presented by the PM on the completion of 50 years of the 1973 Constitution.

The purpose of celebrating the day was to apprise the people of the importance of the Constitution, the rights of the citizens and the duties of the state institutions, she maintained.

NA passes The National University of Pakistan Bill, 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed the National University of Pakistan (The National University of Pakistan Bill, 2023) clause by clause reading.

The bill was tabled by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on behalf of Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons: - Federal Government Educational Institutions (Cantonments/Garrisons Directorate) which is an Executive Department of MoD administers a large number of educational institutions all over the country.

The degree colleges under (FGEI Directorate are presently affiliated with seven provin-



cially chartered universities.

Variations in the scheme of studies, academic forecast, admission policies, exam schedules, evaluation criteria, grading system and fee structure detrimentally affect the uniformity and surface

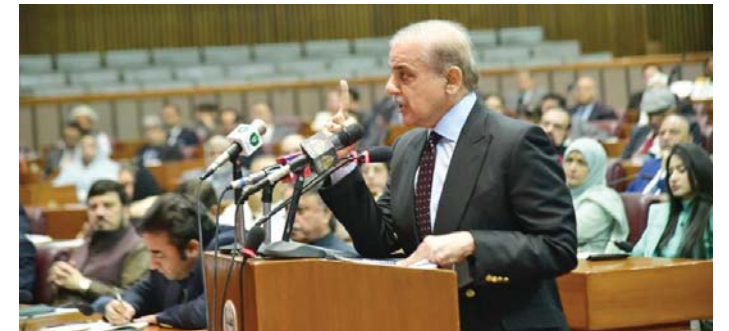
problems in the migration of students. Against this backdrop, it is imperative to establish a University that will standardize higher education and provide a single platform for the affiliation of degree colleges.

The FGEI Directorate has proposed to set up National University of Pakistan (NUP) in Islamabad. The University will be a unique model and public sector imitative with multi-disciplinary scope, focusing on strengthening and empowering affiliated colleges.

The project will provide equal opportunity to civilian youth from lower and lower-middle-income groups in pursuit of their higher education.

The university aims at achieving excellence in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in the fields of natural and applied sciences, engineering and emerging technologies, management sciences, computing, social sciences, humanities and arts and other such branches of knowledge.

Golden Jubilee Convention urges state organs to implement 1973 Constitution, protect people's rights



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Golden Jubilee Convention of the 1973 Constitution on Monday, pledging to "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution in letter and spirit, called upon the state organs to take all necessary measures to ensure its full implementation and safeguard the rights and interests of the people of Pakistan.

The resolution presented by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and unanimously adopted by the Convention held here at the National Assembly Hall, emphasized the importance of upholding the principles of federalism as one of the fundamental tenets of the Constitution.

Before reading out the resolution, the prime minister paid tribute to the framers of the 1973 Constitution who

set aside their political differences and got united for sake of the country - an achievement to be remembered forever.

Calling April 10, 1973 an important day in the country's history, he said despite multiple amendments made from time to time, the Constitution was still a living document.

Attended by the parliamentarians from both Houses of the parliament, legal and constitutional experts, educationists, and prominent figures from different fields of life, the Convention also declared April 10, 2023, as the National Constitution Day, "to be celebrated each year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of 1973 and to educate the people of Pakistan about the Constitution and its significance for the country."

Vice Chief of Naval Staff calls on Finance Minister



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Vice Chief of Naval Staff here on Monday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The meeting discussed the prevailing economic and security situation of the country, said a press release.

The minister commended the

efforts of Pakistan Navy in protecting the country's sea frontiers and maritime interests of Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar further expressed confidence on the role of Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the maritime boundaries and extended the government's full support to Pakistan Navy.

The Vice Chief of Naval Staff thanked the Finance Minister for his support and appreciation.

Imran Khan summoned by police for investigation in 9 Cases

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: police have summoned former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan for an investigation into nine cases registered against him.

As per details, Islamabad police summoned the PTI chief on April 11 (tomorrow) for an investigation into two cases, while the former premier is also directed to appear before police at Police Lines Headquarters on April 12 for a probe into 7 other cases.

All cases against the PTI chief are being investigated by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD).

The summons of all cases have been dispatched to Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence. The notices said Imran Khan should appear before the investigation teams to record his statement. "In case of non-appearance, the law will take its due course."

Earlier on Sunday, Imran Khan was summoned by the district and sessions court of Islamabad in the Toshakhana case on April 11 (tomorrow).

As per details, the summons were issued by the court on a plea seeking an immediate hearing of the Toshakhana case.

The former prime minister had been asked to appear before the court on April 11 at 8: 30 in the morning, the summon read.

Second phase of Polio vaccination drive concludes



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The second phase of the Polio vaccination drive concluded in 12 districts of Balochistan and 26 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the five-day campaign, more than 4.12 million children were vaccinated in both provinces.

Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel said that the focus was to ensure the vaccination of every child so that they remain protected from poliovirus, which has been found circulating in environmental samples.

"The presence of wild polio in the environment shows that the virus is circulating in our communities and posing a serious risk to our children," said Abdul Qadir Patel, the minister.

"With Ramadan around the corner, population movements can increase the risk of further spread, therefore, it is critical that parents and caregivers vaccinate their children in every campaign," said the minister.

"We have specifically designed this March campaign to reach areas where population movement is not just frequent but also expected during Ramadan and Eid festival," said Dr Shahzad Baig, National Emergency Operations Center.

Enhanced Rs.8500 disbursed to 7.5 million BISP beneficiaries

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Program is disbursing quarterly stipends, from January to March, among the 9 million deserving families across the country who are registered under Benazir Kafaalat. So far 7.5 million have received their cash assistance through designated banks or their Point of Sale (POS) agents.

Besides the disbursement of Benazir Kafaalat quarterly tranche, quarterly installment of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif is also being paid to the deserving families. Children of the regis-

tered beneficiaries who are enrolled in schools with an attendance rate of over 70% are entitled for the 'Teleemi Wazaif'.

Moreover, the distribution of Rupees 2000 per family as Atta subsidy, announced by the Government of Sindh, is also going on. Out of the total 64 lac deserving families registered with Benazir Income Support Program, 26 lac, 80 thousand beneficiaries have been paid the atta subsidy amount in Sindh Province.

Under Wheat Seed Subsidy Programme of the Sindh government, Rs. 3.15 billion have been disbursed,

among 1 lac and 33 thousand flood affected farmers, through Benazir Income Support Programme.

The crackdown operations against alleged bank agents who are involved in deductions from beneficiaries cash are also being carried out with full force. Multiple FIRs, have been registered, and arrests have been made after receiving complaints of illegal deductions during payment of money to Benazir Income Support Programme. Moreover, monitoring teams under the leadership of the senior officials of Benazir Income Support Program have paid surprise visits in Punjab, Sindh,

Balochistan, and other areas. These surprise visits were made at payment centers and agents involved in illegal deductions were also blacklisted. Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program, Ms. Shazia Marri has directed the relevant authorities to take strict action against the agents who are found involved in illegal deductions.

The beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Program are urged to lodge complaints in the nearest Tehsil office of Benazir Income Support Program or contact helpline number 0800-26477 in case of any complaint.

Country's Constitution and Parliamentary are most supreme: PMAJK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has participated in the golden jubilee ceremony of the Parliament of Pakistan. Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while talking to the media said that the country's constitution and parliament are the most supreme, all institutions will have to respect them. The people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have hopes from Azad Kashmir and Pakistan to fight against Indian oppression. Attempts are being made to weaken the PTI government in Azad Kashmir, the people elected Tehreek-e-Insaf for five years, this government will complete its term in any case, an attempt is being made to tamper with the political system of Azad Kashmir. If done, there will be strong resistance at the public level. Those who make all kinds of conspiracies will face failure, under no circumstances will they allow the state to become a hostage, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said that political work should be done by political people. All the institutions of the state have to work within their constitutional limits.

The CAA staff has set another example of honest & trustworthy duty

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: The CAA vigilance staff at Faisalabad Airport has set another example of honest & trustworthy duty. According to the details, the currency worth lakhs of rupees was returned to the passenger coming from Dubai, which had fallen from the passenger somewhere at the airport.

But the vigilance staff found the bag/purse lying in the trolley from the drop lane and managed to access the affected person.

The vigilance staff took the purse/bag into custody and handed it over to the airport administration and Saudi Riyal and some rupees were found in this purse. According to the sources, the total currency in this bag is equal to five and a half lakh rupees. Moreover, there were other important documents including the passport in the wallet.

A passenger resident of district Sargodha was contacted through his ticket and the passenger was informed that his bag was safe.

Later the bag/purse was handed over to the passenger at the airport and the passenger thanked CAA and ASF staffers.

The passenger further thanked the CAA vigilance staff in particular for their efforts for tracing the currency and documents to him and said that he was proud of such trustworthy staffers of Pakistan.



District price control magistrates improve the performance

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak has issued special orders to maintain stability in the prices of essential commodities. The action against the mafia should be speeded up. The district administration should coordinate with the food authority to conduct a joint operation against the adulteration mafia. The district price control magistrates should improve their performance.

Make sure the price control magistrates have their presence in the markets. Apart from the price control, no representative of them can do field inspection at all. No mafia will be allowed to act arbitrarily. In the meeting, the deputy commissioners gave a detailed briefing and said that so far 46 lakh 51 thousand 2 hundred and 64 flours are sold in the division. Bags were distributed. 11 lakh 330 bags of flour were distributed in one day. After providing quota to lakhs of citizens, the rush has reduced. So far in the month of Siam in the division, price control magistrates have conducted 44748 raids, imposed a fine of Rs 411500, filed 48 FIRs, arrested 146 people. Officers of the relevant departments were present in the meeting.

Dangerous

FAISALABAD: A biker is refuelling tank illegally from road side trader, which is very dangerous and may cause any incident suddenly. Government bans such activity but due to the laziness of local administration the implementation is still waiting in City.



Photo: Online

Govt of Punjab released funds for expansion second phase of Multan Institute of Cardiology

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Government of Punjab has released funds for the expansion of the second phase of Multan Institute of Cardiology and the purchase of equipment for it. I played my role to provide the best medical facilities. These views were expressed by Chairman Board of Management Cardiac Institute Multan Khawaja Jalaluddin Romi while presiding over the important meeting of the board.

He said that the expansion project of Multan Institute of Cardiology has been

delayed for the past several years, due to which thousands of patients are in a life and death struggle due to lack of treatment facilities. Considering these problems, our request But the health and finance secretaries immediately released the funds, after which the construction of Phase Two of the Cardiac Hospital will not only speed up, but it will also buy Missionaries, which will provide state-of-the-art medical facilities, in the next two months, will go

Also, within three months, the outdoor emergency ward will not only start functioning, but the construc-

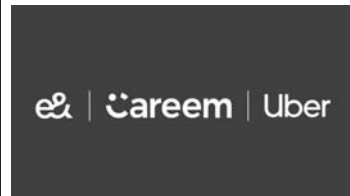
tion of phase two will start again. Additional Secretary Procurement Dr. Ayesha Parvez in the meeting Executive Director Cardiac Institute Multan Dr. Mujtabi Ali Siddiqui, MS Cardiac Institute Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Prof. Tariq Abbas, Board Members Ibn Hussain, Mahnaz Farid, Justice (Rtd) Zafar Yasin, Prof. Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, Director Tankinkel Dr. Farhan Khan.

DMS Purchase Dr. Hafiz Khabib Zia, DM Technical Dr. Muhammad Waqas Chaudhry, DMS Admin Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Asad participated. The board meeting unanimously

approved the immediate purchase of medical equipment and other equipment used in the new block consisting of 208 beds. After the purchase of which the new block will be fully functional. The number of beds will increase from 279 to 500.

Chairman Board Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi said that with the support of the Punjab government, they will provide full financial support in the purchase of five modern operation theaters. After that, patients undergoing bypass in South Punjab will not have to wait for long.

e& to acquire a majority stake in Careem Super App



Commerce Report

KARACHI: e& today announced the signing of a binding agreement with Uber Technologies, Inc. ("Uber") and its subsidiary Careem to acquire a majority stake in Careem's Super App spinout. Careem's ride hailing business will remain fully owned by Uber and continue to be available with all other Careem services on the existing app for customers.

This investment is in line with e&'s strategic ambition of scaling up consumer digital offerings and accelerating its transformation to a global technology and investments group. It provides e& with access to multiple digital verticals, new innovative digital services, strong talent, and new geographies.

In recent years e& has transformed into a global technology and investment group. The company is integrating emerging technologies into its expanding business verticals. e& has 163 million subscribers across 16 countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Hatem Dowidar, Group CEO of e&, commented, "super apps have catalysed the economic, social and cultural growth of emerging markets today. The popularity of Super Apps has come from the need to provide a unique and seamless customer experience."

Dara Khosrowshahi, CEO of Uber, said, "Over the last decade, Careem helped revolutionize mobility across the greater Middle East while building an incredible brand."

Khalifa Al Shamsi CEO of e& life said: "We are thrilled to welcome Careem into the e& family with this exciting and ground-breaking deal. There are several growth opportunities between Careem and e& life as the "consumer digital" arm of e&."

Careem CEO and co-founder Mudassar Sheikha said, "The opportunity to use technology to leapfrog the lives of people in the region is enormous."

Uber has been an incredible partner over the last three years as we expanded our mission to simplify the lives of people with everyday services beyond ride-hailing. We are excited to bring e& into the family.

Faisalabad will become CyberAbad soon: Dr. Khurram

Menahill Rashid

FAISALABAD: The youth of Faisalabad are rich in diverse, unique and untapped business ideas which need the guidance of successful entrepreneurs and a conducive environment to implement them and in this regard Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of TIE, would do a hallmark where Faisalabad will become CyberAbad soon. It would work to settle it in a unique opportunity. This was said by Dr. Khurram Tariq, President of Faisalabad Chamber (FCCI) while addressing the Iftar dinner of the Islamabad Chapter of TIE.

On this occasion Tele- nor Chief Executive Officer Irfan Wahab, Ignite, Asim Shehryar Hussain of National Technology Fund, Shafiqur Rehman of Rehman Medical Institute, Panasin Group Chairman Zubair Mohiuddin and other charter members were



also present. He said that after bringing Pakistan's textile sector to its peak, now he wants to make this city an IT center and for this purpose, a conducive environment will be provided here in which the youth can realize their untapped imaginations.

He further said that in this regard, successful businessmen have to mentor the young entrants in this sector as much as possible so that

the journey which they have traversed in decades can be completed in a few months and years.

He also proposed an endowment fund for the financial support of youth with untouchable ideas and said that this work will be carried forward in collaboration with TI and other non-profit organizations.

He talked about the provision of necessary facilities for new start-ups in tech

style and Fidmak, however, he said that in this regard, he had to cooperate with Ty and Indus Valley Entrepreneurs, who should be connected with the institutions.

Earlier, Murtaza Zaidi, the president of Ty, also addressed and emphasized on the establishment of business ecosystem in Pakistan and said that the charter members will play their full role in this regard.

Martyred FC personal laid to rest in Tank with full military honour



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: The funeral prayer of Frontier Corps personnel Nazir Ullah Mehsud, who were martyred yesterday, was offered in local graveyard with full military honours.

Sector Commander FC South Suhail Bajwa, Pak Army Officers, relatives and large number of local people attended the funeral prayer. Sector Commander South laid floral wreath on behalf of Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Corps

Commander Peshawar, IG FC South and Sector Headquarter FC South.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented guard of honour, Sector Commander FC South also handed-over the national flag and uniform to the martyr's brother and son.

On this occasion, martyred Nazir Ullah's brother said that we are proud of our brother's martyrdom. He considered it his duty to help everyone in the village.

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Climate change's impact on agri and food security in Pakistan

According to the UN "Long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns are referred to as climate change. These changes may be organic, but since the 1800s, human activity has been the primary cause of climate change. This is mainly because burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, releases gases that trap heat."

Pakistan's location, topography, and socioeconomic conditions make it particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. Temperatures have risen, rainfall patterns have changed, and extreme weather events like floods and droughts have become more frequent as a result of climate change.

These effects have had serious repercussions for the nation, including harm to infrastructure, loss of cattle and crops, eviction of entire towns, and detrimental effects on public health. Additionally, populations living downstream face a serious risk from glacial lake outburst floods as a result of the melting of the Himalayan glaciers.

Pakistan's economy is mostly dependent on agriculture, which is susceptible to the effects of climate change such as water scarcity, soil degradation, decreased agricultural yields and lowered crop production, etc. This can then result in financial losses and food insecurity.

The recent rainfall in Pakistan has had a detrimental effect on the wheat crop. The majority of the crop has been damaged due to heavy rain and hailstorms. Normally, March and April are relatively dry months in Pakistan, and farmers look forward to harvesting their wheat crops in full bloom. However, the sudden onset of rains, accompanied by hailstorms, has left many farmers devastated, with substantial losses incurred due to the damage caused

by the rains. The impact on the wheat crop has been significant, with many farmers facing reduced yields and financial losses. This is a cause for concern, as wheat is a staple crop in Pakistan and plays a critical role in ensuring food security for the country's population. This loss will make Pakistan's already difficult struggle to meet domestic wheat demand even more difficult.

Currently, Pakistan is facing a severe wheat flour crisis, leading to tragic deaths among individuals in the crowds that are struggling to obtain flour bags from trucks sent by the government to wheat-scarce regions of the country. Despite government efforts, the crisis persists and has yet to be resolved. The wheat flour crisis is a critical issue as it affects the daily life and livelihoods of millions of Pakistanis who rely on wheat flour for their staple food needs. It is imperative that immediate and effective action is taken to address the crisis and provide necessary relief to affected communities and urgent action is needed to support affected farmers and address the underlying issue of climate change to prevent further damage to crops in the future.

Climate change is having a significant impact on the food system in Pakistan. The prices of essential commodities such as vegetables and fruits are skyrocketing due to the reduced surplus production caused by the changing climate. The erratic weather patterns are affecting crop production on farms, resulting in lower yields and an increased risk of crop failures. The shortage of crops can disrupt the supply chain, resulting in reduced availability of food, leading to food insecurity for

communities who rely on these crops as their primary source of sustenance.

The adverse impact of climate change is becoming increasingly evident, and Pakistan is not immune to its effects. The agricultural sector, which is the backbone of the country's economy, is particularly vulnerable to such erratic weather patterns that are hindering its growth, causing inflation and malnutrition in the country. It is therefore imperative that urgent steps are taken to mitigate the impact of climate change on this sector.

The devastating floods back then had forced many people to flee their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. The resulting homelessness, coupled with the profound impact of the floods on the agricultural sector, has had a significant negative impact on Pakistan's economy. Unfortunately, the losses from these floods have yet to be fully addressed, and the region has already been hit by subsequent rainfall.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) report, "Most of the disaster displacement recorded globally has taken place in the Asia and Pacific region. An estimated 225.3 million internal displacements—or forced movements—were recorded during 2010–2021. Large-scale storms and floods, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions keep displacing millions of people every year across this vast region, that is home to most of the world's population. Weather-related hazards—such as monsoon rains and tropical storms—were responsible for 95% of all disaster displacements across the region during 2010–2021."

It is crucial to acknowledge the severity of the situation and take immediate action to support those affected by these natural disasters. By providing aid and resources to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, we can begin to mitigate the long-term effects of these floods on the region's economy and ensure that the affected communities have the resources they need to rebuild and recover.

In conclusion, Pakistan is facing serious and far-reaching consequences as a result of climate change. The impacts of rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events have had devastating effects on infrastructure, agriculture, and public health. The recent heavy rainfall has severely impacted the wheat crop, exacerbating the existing wheat flour crisis in the country. This crisis is a critical issue that affects the daily lives of millions of Pakistanis. It is essential to take immediate and proactive measures to address climate change's adverse impact on agriculture to ensure food security for the people of Pakistan. If the Pakistan Meteorology Department could provide accurate weather predictions and the government could take proactive measures to address potential disasters, it would be possible to control the situation to some extent.

Additionally, the floods and subsequent displacement of people have had profound negative effects on Pakistan's economy. It is essential to acknowledge the severity of the situation and take immediate action to support affected communities, mitigate the long-term effects of these disasters, and address the underlying issue of climate change. By working together, we can help ensure a more secure future for Pakistan and its people.

Writer is the student of MS Linguistics and literature at COMSATS University Islamabad



Amjad Rasmi

A hidden significance of Kashmir

Asadullah Mahesar

Kashmir is a beautiful mountainous region located in South Asia, which is currently administered by three countries: India, Pakistan, and China. The region has been a subject of conflict and dispute between India and Pakistan since the partition of India in 1947. The region is situated at the crossroads of Central, South, and East Asia and serves as a gateway to the Indian subcontinent. There are numerous significances of Kashmir like, its strategic location, natural resources, tourism, and historical and cultural significance. But the most significant of them is the water of Kashmir. The region is home of several rivers and streams that flow into Pakistan. The Indus River, which is one of the major rivers of South Asia, originates in Tibet and flows through Kashmir and Pakistan, providing water for irrigation, hydropower generation, and several other purposes. According to the World Bank Pakistan is an agricultural country with more than 62% of its population living in rural areas and depending on agriculture for their livelihood. The country's economy is heavily reliant on the agricultural sector which contributes significantly 22.7% to its GDP reported by the Finance Division of Pakistan. The Indus River system, which is fed by the rivers of Kashmir, is the lifeline of Pakistan's agriculture which provides water for crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane etc. Kashmir's water is also important for Pakistan's energy needs. The region became the cause of several hydroelectric power plants, which generate electricity from the water of the Indus River system. According to NEPRA the power plants in Kashmir and Pakistan collectively generate more than 29% of the country's electricity, reducing

Pakistan's dependence on fossil fuels and helping to mitigate climate change. However, the use of these water resources originated from Kashmir has been a point of contention between India and Pakistan. Though, the first ever war between India and Pakistan had fought for the region in 1947 and resultantly, India cut off Pakistan's water supply in early 1948 without any official notice. From here the water dispute between two countries had begun which was resolved through the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 in which the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) and the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas) were given to Pakistan and India respectively. Moreover, the ongoing dispute over the use of these water resources has been a major source of tension between the two countries for decades. Thus, India violates the Treaty to construct the Baglihar Power Projects on Chenab River in Indian Occupied Kashmir. Furthermore, Kashmir's water has a great significance for Pakistan because several major rivers that flow through Pakistan originate from Kashmir. These rivers include the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab. The waters of these rivers are essential for the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of Pakistan's economy as well as for the generation of hydroelectric power. Additionally, the waters of these rivers are also used for domestic, industrial, and recreational purposes in Pakistan. It is estimated that the Indus Basin Irrigation System, the largest contiguous irrigation system in the world, irrigates more than 17 million hectares of agricultural land in Pakistan. This vast agricultural land includes the fertile plains of Punjab and Sindh provinces, which are major agricultural regions in Pakistan, producing crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton. The Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers are the three major rivers that flow from the disputed region of Kashmir and are the primary sources of irrigation water for Pakistan's agricultural lands. The following are the estimated irrigation water amounts provided by these rivers to Pakistan: The Indus River provides water to over 14 million hectares of agricultural land in Pakistan. It is estimated that the Indus River alone irrigates about 45% of Pakistan's total cultivated area. The Jhelum River, which also originates in Kashmir, is a tributary of the Indus River and provides irrigation water to about 1.2 million hectares of land in Pakistan's Punjab province. The Chenab River is another major tributary of the Indus River and provides irrigation water to about 2.5 million hectares of land in Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces. Therefore, according to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) these three rivers collectively irrigate more than 80% of the country's total cultivated area. Consequently, the importance of Kashmir's water for Pakistan cannot be overstated. The water from Kashmir is a crucial resource for the country's agriculture, energy, and industrial needs. Pakistan's economic and social development is closely linked to the availability of water from Kashmir, and any disruption in the flow of water could have serious consequences for the country. Pakistan has been politicizing on the issue of Kashmiri Muslims since the inception. But indeed, it's the politics of water resources that is the need of both neighbouring countries India and Pakistan. Therefore, it is crucial that Pakistan and India work together to ensure the sustainable use of the water resources in the region, and to resolve any outstanding issues related to the sharing of water from the rivers of Kashmir. *Writer is Post Graduated from NIPS, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and reached on aliasad326@gmail.com*

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

Shoab Aijaz /Amna Khan

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) is playing a very crucial role in this complex and economically integrated world. It spurs economic growth by legitimating trade and investment. Moreover, it underpins innovation in the economy by motivating research and development activities. Basically, IPRs include Patents, Trademarks, Copy Rights Industrial Design, and Geographical Indications. The IPRs enforcement may help to correct the market mechanism and to turn the market competitive. It ultimately improves product quality and service delivery in the economy. However, it has been witnessed that there is weak enforcement of the IPRs among developing countries, subsequently, it leads to significant discourage innovation, trade, investment, and output among the developing countries. Similarly, the enforcement and production of IPRs related activities in Pakistan is also deplorable. The IPR production and registration in regional contexts such as Bangladesh, Iran, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and India. The patent applications of Indian residents are at the top of the list, with the above 23 thousand followed by Iranian residents, one of the regional countries over filed 11,000 patent applications in 2020. Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka are likely to have around 300 to 400 patent applications in 2020. The Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan reports that 35720 and 3211 applications for Trademark and Copyright were received in 2022 respectively. Additionally, within the same period of time, it also received 346 design applications and 726 patent applications. In 2022 the IPO registered only 15471 for Trademarks and in 2028 for Copyright applications. Similarly, 179 applications were registered for Patent and 183 for design. Pakistan has passed several laws to protect intellectual, novel, and artistic work, like the copyright ordinance 1962 and Copyright rules 1967, Patent ordinance, 2000. Moreover, for trademarks legislation

in Pakistan use of trademarks ordinances, 2001 and trademarks rules, 2003. The government of Pakistan has taken a new initiative to notify a new Geographical indication law in 2022. GI recognizes the natural, Agricultural, and manufactured goods originating. Pakistan approved the geographic indication right of 79 products. A Geographical indication is an act that provides registration and protection of those goods for public interest and advances the economic development in less developed areas in Pakistan. Pakistan made a Geographical indication rule to protect demotic products in the international market. As India get their GI right for the Basmati rice in the European Union in September 2020. Pakistan also was facing the issue of registration regarding demotic products; The local items were not protected through GI law. Nonetheless, the violation of the IPRs is rampant in Pakistan. The domestic market is flooded with spurious and imitative products; that significantly discourage innovation and competition in the economy and cost the consumer and producer both. The prime factor for the weak enforcement of IPR is burgeoning corruption and weak market regulation. According to the Reform Agenda Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (2021) states that the enforcement of the Intellectual property Rights mechanism is weak in the country. The poor enforcement of IPRs discourages the sector that made any invention, hence the IPRs regime must be strengthened. There is a lack of R&D and new inventions. As mentioned in the reform agenda through enforcement of Intellectual property Rights make more R&D and new innovations. IPR is a very effective tool to spur growth by attracting foreign investment and substantially enhancing trade. For the sustainable and long-term growth of the economy of the country, solid enforcement of IPR laws is essential. Besides, the government and private sector collectively invest in R&D activities to increase innovation and knowledge production in the economy. *Shoab Aijaz is Mphil scholar and Reserach Assistant (PIDE) and Amna Khan: Mphil scholar Economics and Finance in PIDE*

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 39,835.90 | 40,049.65 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 40,183.81 | 39,815.86 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 1,443,097,876 | -213.75 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.53% | 10 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 |
| 33,525.57 | +40.28 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.12% | 10 Apr, 12: 44 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 27,633.66 | +115.35 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.42% | 10 Apr, 3: 15 pm GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 190 | 192 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 760.96 | 768.96 |
| Canadian Dollar | 210 | 212 |
| China Yuan | 41.89 | 42.29 |
| Danish Krone | 42 | 42.29 |
| Euro | 312 | 315 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 36.45 | 36.8 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.5 | 3.61 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.2 | 2.25 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 929.58 | 938.58 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 64.98 | 65.58 |
| New Zealand \$ | 179.34 | 181.34 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.26 | 27.56 |
| Omani Riyal | 743.17 | 751.17 |
| Qatari Riyal | 78.6 | 79.3 |
| Saudi Riyal | 76.2 | 77 |
| Singapore Dollar | 215 | 217 |
| Swedish Korona | 27.32 | 27.62 |
| Swiss Franc | 315.98 | 318.48 |
| Thai Bhat | 8.43 | 8.58 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 78.2 | 79 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 356 | 359 |
| US Dollar | 288.25 | 291 |

Conflict is not about principles but about political interests: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the continuous decline in the confidence of businessmen, industrialists and investors is alarming.

The business community is troubled by unending economic problems, businesses are closing down and people are losing their jobs, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that for the first time in the country's history, the situation is rapidly deteriorating due to the simultaneous political, economic and constitutional crisis.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that street crimes



are increasing and insecurity in the business community is continuously increasing which is causing the flight of capital and exodus of industries from the country.

Many business people believe that the country is not moving in the right direction and that things are getting worse instead of better which is detrimental to them, he remarked.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community is also worried due to the rising inflation because the majority of the country's population is spending a large part of their income on food and their purchasing power has eroded therefore, they are unable to buy other things.

As a result, many businesses have closed down while others continue to shrink. At the same time, the value of the local currency is also continuously depreciating while the bank

markup, electricity and fuel prices are continuously increasing, which has made business more difficult and worsened the situation for the people.

The business leader added that delay in the IMF loan and the early election controversy have created uncertainty and fears among the public and the business community, which is affecting their confidence.

The public and the business community have been hearing nothing but comforting statements about the IMF loan for months, adding to their anxiety.

They believe that the disputes between politicians and institutions in the country have nothing to do with the country's development, constitution and law, but the whole effort is to achieve their own political interests, for which the integrity of the country is put at stake.

GFS Builders & Development organized Iftar Dinner

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: GFS Builders & Development organized an Iftar Dinner that was attended by the former MNA, Aftab Jahangir, former MPA Bilal Ghaffar, Head of JDC, Zafar Abbas, Abid Majeed, Mian Aslam Noor, Hanif Talu, Faisal Aziz Khan, and Khurram Jafarani, including businessmen, builders, and eminent personalities from different walks of life and media representatives.

Expressing his views on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer of GFS Builders and Developers, Irfan Wahid, said that Ramadan is the month of virtues and blessings.

It is a divine month that brings us close to God. As per tradition, GFS has organized this event this year also and we thank all the dignitaries who came to attend the soulful event.

CEO Irfan Wahid said that public



service is one of our top priorities and we are too passionate about to see every Pakistani has his own house. We not only offer better service in Pakistan, but our services are also available abroad.

Despite inflation and crisis in the construction business, GFS Builders are launching and completing projects in different cities one after the other. People have blind faith in us now.

P@SHA Supporting Gaming Industry to Bring Foreign Exchange: Zohaib Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), has apprised that gaming industry is on the rise in Pakistan with a focus on mobile gaming – and, mobile games alone have generated US\$171.30 million in the year 2022. As per the latest statistics, US\$21.34 million were generated by online games and US\$16.13 million through download games as well.

P@SHA Chief predicted that the revenue in the video games segment is projected to cross US\$200 million in 2023; with an annual growth rate of 9.77% from 2023 – 2027. However, this is not enough, given the true potential & expandable HR pool of Pakistan's gaming industry, he added.

Currently, Pakistan employs around 8,500 game developers in three major sub-sectors; namely, gaming products, middleware and gaming services. He stressed that we can easily add 3000 gaming developers to the HR pool every year; and, in that fashion, Pakistan can comfortably attain a 30 percent year on year (YoY) growth in gaming industry's foreign remittances – provided we can invest into HR & skills development for the aspiring game developers.

Muhammad Zohaib Khan referred to Statista Market Forecast & International



Trade Center (ITC) and informed that Pakistan has the potential to become next regional hub in game development as its 64 percent population is young; and, through targeted skills development, Pakistan can surpass its yearly projections.

Muhammad Zohaib Khan elaborated that ease of doing business for IT & ITeS industry can only be ensured if they are allowed to freely manage their finances and remittances through banking channels; as IT professionals are a pool of dynamic entrepreneurs, young professionals in various verticals and aligned with international best practices.

It is pertinent to note that P@SHA and its member firms supported & participated in Game Developers Conference 2023 held in California with the support of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Ministry of IT & Telecom (MoITT), USAID and Pakistani Consulate in Los Angeles; and, Pakistani Pavilion attracted who's who of the global gaming fraternity due to the excellent presentation of the game development potential we have in Pakistan and it is our aim to make Pakistan a serious contender in the US\$315 billion global gaming industry, Zohaib Khan added.

ZONERGY won the Energy Storage Emerging Enterprise Award

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The three-day 11th Energy Storage International Summit and Exhibition ESIE2023 came to a successful conclusion. Guo Jun, executive director and president of ZONERGY, personally led a team to participate in this exhibition. ZONERGY showed its main products such as household energy storage, industrial and commercial energy storage, and portable power supply, and received high recognition and attention from industry colleagues, media reporters, and audiences, and the scene was very popular.

With the help of the exhibition, ZONERGY actively communicated and interacted with industry experts, colleagues, and customers, discussed new ideas for the integration of optical storage and storage, and signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Beijing HyperStrong Technology Co., Ltd. Build a brand and win the market together.

At the same time, ZONERGY also released and exhibited the star product Panda and industrial and commercial



energy storage product series on the spot, which received high attention. Many industry media came to the ZONERGY booth to visit and interview and report on ZONERGY products. During the exhibition, ZONERGY also actively participated in keynote speeches to share the development of ZONERGY with the industry. Liu Yang, vice president of ZONERGY and vice president of Chengdu Research Institute, gave a keynote speech entitled "Research

and Application of Sodium-ion Batteries", introducing the material properties and industrialization of Na-ion batteries, and the R&D and application of ZONERGY Na-ion batteries.

Under the "Double Carbon" goal, ZONERGY will continue to take advantage of the global market, integrate resources, deepen the energy storage industry, and contribute to the high-quality development of energy in my country

The second Quetta International Property Expo and Convention will be held in Quetta



Commerce Desk

QUETTA: Chairman, Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas met Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shaihaq Baloch in his office yesterday. And discuss about 2nd Quetta International Property Expo and Convention, which is a three-day exhibition from May 26 to 28, 2023 at Aljanat Palace Quetta, Exhibition will be Exhibited by renowned builders, developers, allied construction industry from across the country, including bank projects and a large number of different business communities associated with the tourism industry. Will participate

During the conversation, Khurshid Barlas told the Deputy Commissioner that the purpose of the exhibition is to promote the construction and development in Balochistan, Pakistan and to improve the reputation of Pakistan, and efforts are being made to increase trade and investment in the country. Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shaihaq Baloch appreciated the initiatives of Khurshid Barlas regarding trade and assured him that holding the exhibition in Quetta is welcome.

This exhibition will play an important role in the development of Balochistan that they will actively participate in the Investment in Balochistan Business Conference on 25 May and the exhibition starting from May 26 to 28, 2023 the shield was also presented to Deputy Commissioner Quetta by Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition of Industry.

Another FIRST by TPL Insurance-Giving Customers More Control Over Their Auto Insurance

News Desk

LAHORE: TPL Insurance, the market leader in innovations underpinned by customer-centricity in the insurance segment, is proud to announce another first in the industry. The company has completed a pilot launch of a new auto insurance product, giving customers more control over their coverage options.

Unlike traditional comprehensive and deductible insurance options, which offer limited flexibility, TPL Insurance's new product allows customers to select and pay for only the coverage options they want. This means that customers no longer have to pay for coverage they don't need and can instead focus on the specific risks they face as car owners.

A used car customer may not want to purchase comprehensive insurance as they will have to pay depreciation on parts replacement. However, with TPL Insurance's new product, customers can also choose to cover their vehicle against theft/total loss/third party or additional zero depreciation cover in order to avoid paying depreciation for parts replacement. This gives customers greater flexibility and control over their insurance coverage.

ICCI to organize Shopping Festival in the last week of Ramadan

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry has planned to organize a shopping festival in F-7 and F-10 markets in collaboration

with ICT Administration, MCI and concerned Market Associations from 21st Ramadan till Chand Raat. The festival will feature many activities including traditional food area, art & crafts corner, mehndi stalls, kids' area, corporate stalls, live music stage, lucky draws, quizzes, laser lights, lighting displays and first aid medical camp. All entry and exit points of both markets would be decorated with gigantic arches displaying event branding. The shopping festival would increase footfall of customers and provide a good opportunity to the traders of the area to generate more business.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in his statement, said that shopping festivals have become increasingly important in the retail world in recent years, as they not only drive sales, they also provide variety of more brands to the customers and help them to purchase items of their choice. He hoped that the shopping festival in F-7 and F-10 markets would boost trade activities and provide customers better choices for shopping.

FaadWahed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that shopping festivals are very effective in promoting trade activities and hoped that the shopping festival in Islamabad would provide good opportunity to the customers to buy different products at affordable prices in a festive environment.

Engr. Muhammad Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the trend of shopping festivals is on the rise in the world and it is important that all relevant institutions should facilitate in organizing shopping festivals in the Capital.

After Babar, Doull slams Kohli for slowing down to reach 'personal milestone'

By A Sports -

Former New Zealand cricketer and renowned commentator Simon Doull criticised India's star batter Virat Kohli for slowing down to reach his personal milestone during the Indian Premier League (IPL) fixture.

Kohli played a flamboyant half-century knock amid his side's fixture against Lucknow Super Giants and propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore to a massive total of 212/2.

His magnificent knock, however, failed to impress Kiwi commentator Doull, who accused the former of slowing down to reach his half-century after a flying start.

"Kohli started off like a train, he was going hammer and tongs, playing a lot of



shots," stated Doull during commentary. Concerned about a milestone. I don't think there's room for that in this game

any more. You've just got to keep going especially with wickets in hand at that stage. You've got to keep going," he added.

Earlier, during the recently-held eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), Doull passed alike remarks for Babar Azam and asserted that Peshawar Zalmi's captain slowed down to reach his maiden PSL century.

"Rather than putting the team first... the last little while, that's all that been happening. Rather than looking for boundaries, still, so much firepower to come. Hundreds are brilliant, stats are great, but it has to be team first," Doull said.

The Kiwi commentator has been in hot water since then and received major backlash from Babar's fans.

Envoy Inaugurates Sports Festival for Photojournalists

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abadula on Monday inaugurated a sports festival for photojournalists here at National Press Club (NPC).

On arrival, he was accorded warm welcome by the new elected regime of NPC including President Anwar Raza, General Secretary Khalil Raja, Finance Secretary Nayyar Ali and executive members.

The ambassador also held detailed meeting with the NPC office bearers and discussed bilateral cooperation in media sector.

Addressing the media persons, he said Journalism was a noble and dignified profession which played a critical role in the national development.

However, development in media sector of Pakistan, which was vibrant and independent, had really impressed me.

"Pakistan and Ethiopia



shares similarities in many ways and somehow, our problems are also similar whether these are related to climate change, terrorism or hybrid war imposed on us by others," he said while urging the mainstream media to lead from front in fighting information warfare waged against the country.

He said doors of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia were opened for

the media persons who would be welcomed and served with coffee during their visit to the premises.

H.E. Jemal Beker said his country was a land of origins, land of coffee and above all, the land of King Najeshi and Bilal Habshi.

"Coffee was first discovered from Ethiopia and first Islamic Hijra took place towards our country and it our land where remains of first human have been found and its name is Lucy,"

the ambassador remarked.

He also extended gratitude to the NPC and Photojournalist Association for inviting him to the auspicious event.

H.E. Jemal Beker also congratulated the Photojournalist Association and newly elected regime of the National Press Club for organizing a wonderful sports festival for the journalists who worked hard to bring forth factual information.

PAK vs NZ: Fakhar Zaman joins training camp for New Zealand series

By A Sports -

LAHORE: Left-handed opener Fakhar Zaman has joined the national team's training camp for the upcoming home white-ball series against New Zealand, scheduled to commence on April 14.

Fakhar Zaman, who turned 33 today, reported at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) here and joined Pakistan's white-ball squads, which are undergoing training camp for the five-match each T20I and ODI series against New Zealand.

Taking to Twitter, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also shared the aforementioned news.

"Birthday boy [Fakhar Zaman] joins the camp," wrote PCB.

The left-handed opener was also named in Babar Azam-led Badshahs' lineup for the intra-squad practice match against Shadab Khan's Stallions.

Pakistan's white-ball squads' training has been in full swing since Friday after they reported at the NCA with senior players including the trio of Babar, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi returned to the national setup.

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.

Tickets for Pak v NZ matches in Rawalpindi and Karachi to go on sale tomorrow

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The tickets for the fourth and fifth T20 Internationals and the five One-Day Internationals between Pakistan and New Zealand will be available online from 11 April. The fans can log on to pcb.bookme.pk from 1600 to buy the tickets.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has once again set affordable prices so the cricket lovers in Rawalpindi and Karachi can watch their stars in action.

Tickets for the last two T20Is at Rawalpindi are priced at PKR500 for Premium enclosures (Miran Bakhsh, Shoaib Akhtar, Sohail Tanvir and Yasir Arafat) and at PKR1,000 for VIP enclosures (Imran Khan, Javed Akhtar, Azhar Mehmood and Javed Miandad). The third-floor gallery for the two matches on 20 and 24 April is available at PKR3,500.

The tickets for the first two ODIs on 27 and 29 April at the Pindi Cricket Stadium will be available for PKR300 (Premium enclosure), PKR500 (VIP enclosure) and PKR3,000 (third floor gallery).

Fans can buy tickets in Karachi in the range of PKR250 to PKR1,000.

General enclosure (Iqbal Qasim, Nasimul Ghani, Wasim Bari, Mohammad Brothers and Intikhar Alam) tickets are available for PKR250. Fans will have to pay PKR500 for a seat in First class enclosure (Asif Iqbal, Waqar Hasan, Zaheer Abbas and Majid Khan). A seat in Premium enclosure (Quaid, Wasim Akram and Imran Khan) is available for PKR750 and VIP enclosure (Hanif Mohammad, Javed Miandad and Fazal Mahmood) is priced at PKR1,000.

The final three ODIs will be played on 3, 5 and 7 May at the National Stadium.

Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club Green Clinched 2nd Mehtab Chawla Ramazan Hockey Tournament title



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club (Green) won the second Mehtab Chawla Flood-Lights Ramazan Veterans Hockey Tournament, beat Karachi Fitness Club by six 6-1 in the final, Olympian Sameer Hussain was the best player of the final. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori distributed the prizes.

According to the details, last night in Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy final was one-sided. In the first two quarters of the match, the competition was equal 1-1 goal, but in the next two quarters, the experienced team scored five more goals and claimed the victory. Olympian Qamar Ibrahim, Olympian Sameer Hussain, Olympian Kashif Jawad, former international Muhammad Ali Khan, Muhammad Irfan and Syed Al Hassan scored one goal each while right-in Imran Khan scored the only goal of Karachi Fitness Club. Olympian Samir Hussain was declared the best player of the final.

Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori was the chief guest of the final match. He said in his address that the hockey game in Karachi is alive because of Olympian Islahuddin. In his academy, national sports activities continue throughout the year he Dedicated his life to hockey, I am his big fan and my support for the promotion of the national game will always be with him.

On this occasion, Olympian Islahuddin said that he is the Pioneer of veteran's hockey under his captaincy, Pakistan won the World Cup twice and now he is determined to win it for the third time. He said that he will continue the mission of late Mehtab Chawla and Mehtab Chawla Hockey Tournament will be held regularly in Ramazan every year.

The Governor of Sindh awarded Olympian Sameer Hussain the best player award and a prize of Rs.10,000. The Chief Guest, Kashif Chawla, Farrukh Chawla, Asma Ali Shah was presented with a commemorative shield by the Academy on this occasion, Olympian Ayaz Mehmood, coach of Pakistan Hockey Team, Secretary General of Pakistan Hockey Federation Haidar Hussain, Mustafa Jameel, Vice President of Sindh Olympic Association Mahfooz ul Haq, President of Karachi Basketball Association Ghulam Muhammad, Rao Javed Iqbal, Ejaz uddin and there were others.

Pakistan's table tennis star Perniya Khan eyes Paris Olympics 2024

The country's number-one table tennis player Perniya Khan on Monday said that she wants to represent Pakistan in Paris Olympics 2024.

Talking to journalists Khan said: "My target is Paris Olympics 2024. A lot of hard work is needed for that. I am confident that I will make it to the mega event."

She expressed gratitude to Advisor to Punjab Chief Minister on Sports Wahab Riaz for organising a highly competitive sports series.

Delegation of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Mini Hockey Stadium

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Top cricket stars and a delegation of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) visited Mini Hockey Stadium to watch Ramzan Sports Series Hockey Championship on Sunday night.

Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser were also present on this occasion.

It is pertinent to mention that the Ramzan Sports Series Hockey Championship is being organised under the directions of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and under the supervision of Advisor to CM Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz from April 7 to 11.

Members of national cricket



team Mohammad Haris, Saim Ayub, Shan Masood and Ehsanullah also played hockey for some time along with Wahab Riaz.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, national cricketer M Haris said that the first Ramazan Sports Series is a good effort to revive sports particularly hockey. Fast bowler Ehsanullah said that the Punjab

government and Wahab Riaz are making a good efforts to revive the game of hockey among young generation.

Cricketer star Saim Ayub said that hockey is our national game and such events should be held in other provinces to revive hockey. Shan Masood said that his father was also a hockey player.

The delegation of Lahore

Chamber of Commerce also witnessed hockey match under the leadership of President LCCI Kashif Anwar. The delegation included Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Khalid Khokhar, Shahzeb Akram, Shahid Beg, Arshad Beg, Siddique Anwar and Umar Farooq.

They said that there is a lot of sports talent among the young

players and we are ready to sponsor any sports event to bring forward the youth talent.

They said the Ramzan Sports series 2023 is a very good initiative which will promote hockey.

Sports Adviser Punjab Wahab Riaz and Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman also watched the badminton competitions at NPSC Gymnasium Hall.

First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 Competitions continued

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The competitions of the First Ramzan Sports Series 2023 were continued at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex on the third day on the instructions of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz, Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Shahid Zaman, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser also watched the exciting competitions on Sunday night.

According to the results,

Lahore division won the Women's Badminton Doubles title against Faisalabad. Lahore's Ghazala Siddique and Saima Waqas defeated their opponents Zubaira Islam and Huma Javed by 21-14 and 21-12.

Gujranwala defeated Faisalabad by 21-14 and 21-15 in Badminton Men's doubles final.

Bahawalpur Division won the Table Tennis Women's Doubles title. Mehmuda and Sadia of Bahawalpur defeated Ayesha and Zunaira of Rawalpindi by 3-1 in the final.

Faisalabad won the table tennis title of men's doubles against Lahore by 3-1. Rahim and Hamza of Faisalabad defeated Asim



Qureshi and Awais of Lahore in the final.

Raiwind Green won the

Ramzan Sports Series cricket tape ball tournament at LCCA ground.

Raiwind Green defeated Lahore

Blue team by 8 wickets in the final match.

While playing first, Lahore Blue

scored 76 runs for the loss of two wickets. Ghaffar of Lahore Blue scored 44 runs.

Raiwind Green achieved the target quite comfortably after losing two wickets. Raiwind Green's top scorer was Nauman, who scored 42 runs.

The Lahore and Faisalabad Division teams reached the final of the Ramzan Sports Series Hockey Championship.

In the first semifinal, Lahore division defeated Rawalpindi division by 3-0. Ali Aziz of Lahore scored 2 goals while Abdul Manan scored 1 goal.

Asim Qureshi of Lahore and Hafeezur Rahman of Faisalabad reached the finals of Table Tennis Championship Men's Singles.

Asim Qureshi of Lahore defeated Faizan Zahoor of Faisalabad 3-1 in the first semi-final.

In the second semi-final, Faisalabad's Hafeezur Rahman defeated Lahore's Awais Hassan by 3-2. Both semi-finals were thrilling contests and all the players played well.

In Ramzan Sports Series football event, Lahore edged out Sahiwal 1-0 in the football match. Mosin Wattoo scored the match winning goal in the final moments of the match.

Faisalabad defeated Multan 3-0, Sardogha defeated Bahawalpur by 2-1 while Gujranwala topped Rawalpindi by 5-4 on penalty shootout.