

**Israel wants to leave sooner...**

As for the Zionist regime — which is another enemy of ours — in its 75 years of existence, it had never faced a dire crisis like the one it is facing today. Firstly, it is gripped by “political instability.” They have changed four prime ministers in four years.  
 (The Supreme Leader’s View of Palestine on Page 2)

**China welcomes regional countries’ efforts to ease situation in Yemen: Wang Wenbin**

China on Thursday welcomed and commended the efforts of regional countries, including Saudi Arabia and Oman to ease situation in Yemen and seek a permanent ceasefire. “We welcome and commend the efforts of regional countries including Saudi Arabia and Oman to ease the situation in Yemen and seek a permanent ceasefire,” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan



# Govt rejects SC’s decision barring implementation of bill clipping CJP’s powers

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The ruling coalition on Thursday rejected the Supreme Court’s (SC) decision, barring the implementation of Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).

The decision was taken during a meeting of leaders of ruling coalition, which came hours after the apex court barred the government from implementing Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023.

The meeting — chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif — was attended by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) president Maulana



Fazlur Rehman and other federal ministers.

In a statement, the ruling coalition said the implementation of bill, which has not yet come to effect, has been barred by constituting a “unilateral bench”.

While condemning the Supreme Court’s orders, the meeting termed the decision “a result of one-man show”. “The

written judgement is the clearest example of conflict of interest”, it added.

The statement noted that a strategy will be chalked out to “bring balance to justice system”, adding that they will protect the Parliament and its constitutional authority.

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court (SC) barred the government from implementing Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).

According to details, an eight-member bench — headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) — took up a set of three petitions challenging the bill.

The apex court, in a written order issued today, termed the bill “interference with and intrusion into the independence of the judiciary.”

The order stated that while the bill is “not yet law it is nonetheless, with exactitude, that what will have the force of law, when the act comes into being,” adding that it could be considered and examined even at this stage.

On Monday, the Joint Sitting of Parliament 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).

**The bill**

The passed 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.

# Imran’s lies, lust for power imperilled Pakistan’s foreign policy interests: PM

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that through his lies and the lust for power, Imran Khan had imperilled the vital foreign policy interests of Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a tweet, said that from accusing the United States of toppling his government to now wooing the US to mend fences, Imran Niazi’s hypocrisy knows no bounds. In the process, his lies & lust for power have imperilled Pakistan’s vital foreign policy interests,” he wrote on Twitter.

“From accusing the United States of toppling his government to now wooing the US to mend fences, Imran Niazi’s hypocrisy knows no bounds. In the process, his lies & lust for power have imperilled Pakistan’s vital foreign policy interests,” he wrote on Twitter.



# Supreme Court bars implementation of bill curtailing CJP’s powers

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday barred the government from implementing Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).

According to details, an eight-member bench — headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) — took up a set of three petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023.

During the hearing, the court issued notices to the political parties, the federal government, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SBCA) and other respondents in the case.

The apex court, in a written order issued today, termed the bill “interference with and intrusion into the independence of the judiciary.”

The order stated that while the bill is “not yet law it is nonetheless, with exactitude, that what will have the force of law, when the act comes into being,” adding that it could be considered and examined even at this stage.

“Prima facie, the bill seems to be open to question on the constitutional plane on several grounds which, inter alia, raise issues of a serious nature in relation to the independence of the judiciary,” it added.

The order stated that the contentions raised disclosed that there was a “substantial, immediate and direct interference with the independence of the judiciary in the form of multiple intrusions, in the guise of regulating the practice and procedure of this court and conferring upon it a jurisdiction that appears not to be permissible under any constitutional provision”.

“Such intermeddling in the functioning of the court, even on the most tentative assessment, will commence as soon as the bill becomes the act. Accordingly, in our view an interim measure ought to be put in place, in the nature of an anticipatory injunction.

It concluded by stating, “The moment that the bill receives the assent of the president or (as the case may be) it is deemed that such assent has been given, then from that very moment onwards and till further orders, the act that comes into being shall not have, take or be given any effect nor be acted upon in any manner.”

# PM, Zardari, Bilawal discuss political situation

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday here held a meeting with former president Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The prime minister received the two leaders. During the meeting, the leaders discussed in detail the prevailing political situation in the country.

They held consultation on the recent decision of the Supreme Court on the elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

# CJP says court has utmost respect for Parliament

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday issued notices to the government, AGP, political parties, bar councils, and others in petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, aimed at clipping the powers of the CJP.

An eight-member bench of the Supreme Court adjourned the hearing on the pleas challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023.

The bench is headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and comprises Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed.

The attorney general of Pakistan and the lawyers of the petitioners Azhar Siddique advocate and Imtiaz Siddiqui appeared before the court.

In his arguments, Imtiaz Siddiqui said the political crisis emerged after the restoration of the National Assembly. The federal government and the ECP are not ‘interested’ in holding elections after which the SC had to take suo moto notice.

After the decision, the judges were criticized for which the government, ministers and the members of the parliament are ‘responsible’ he added.

Imtiaz Siddiqui said that the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 is against the independence of the judiciary. The bill was rejected but later it was passed by the joint session of the parliament, he maintained and added as per article 191, the SC forms its rules and procedure.

SC rules are available, which cannot be amended by the Parliament, he added. To this, the CJP remarked: “You mean to say that the freedom of judiciary is basic fundamental which is safeguarded by the constitution.”

Umar Ata Bandial remarked that the court has the utmost respect for the parliament and issued notices to AGP, political parties, bar councils and others during the hearing of petitions challenging a bill clipping the powers of the chief justice.

CJP Bandial said the next hearing of the case will be decided after consultation with the fellow judges and added that the court will release the order of today’s hearing.



# ECP postpones by-polls in three NA constituencies

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has postponed by-polls in three constituencies of the National Assembly (NA) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

Earlier, the ECP had scheduled to conduct by-polls in three NA constituencies on April 30. The constituencies include NA-22 Mardan, NA-24 Charsadda and NA-31 Peshawar.

According to the commission’s spokesperson, the by-polls will not be conducted in the constituencies until the Peshawar High Court (PHC) issues further orders. Moreover, the ECP also suspended its March notification.

# PPP, JWP for dialogue to bring about stability in country

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) have stressed the need for dialogue among the political forces to steer the country out of the prevailing political, economic and constitutional crises.

During a joint press conference after their meeting with JWP head Nawabzada Shazain Bugti on Thursday, PPP leaders Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani, Qamar Zaman Kaira, and Syed Naveed Qamar called for meaningful dialogue to be initiated among the coalition parties first to address the crisis that Pakistan was currently facing.

Yusuf Raza Gillani highlighted that they approached Shazain Bugti as they believed that only the heads of political parties and political workers could diffuse the “heat and tension” in the country. He mentioned that PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had also stressed the need for initiating meaningful dialogue among political parties to “diffuse the tension in the country.”

Nawabzada Shazain Bugti welcomed the PPP delegation for dialogue and stressed that the dialogue should never be deadlocked. He assured the PPP delegation that they will meet again in the next two days after consulting with his “friends in Quetta.” Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar explained that they took the initiative to reach out to other political leaders because they believed that only the political forces could solve the problems the country had been facing.

He clarified that they did not carry the agenda of any particular element, but were taking the first step towards a grand dialogue as they thought building consensus among coalition partners was crucial before inviting the opposition to talks. He also believed that dialogue is the only solution to the political, economic, and social issues faced by the country.

## Funeral Prayer

KARACHI: People participating in the funeral prayers of dead persons, in New Karachi factory incident, at Shah Faisal Colony in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Security forces kill three terrorists in Hoshab: ISPR

Raja Furqan Ahmed

RAWALPINDI: Security forces on Thursday killed three terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) on Hoshab road in Balochistan's city of Turbat.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the whereabouts of the terrorists were identified due to constant surveillance and reconnaissance of the area. The roads were completely blocked during the operation.

The ISPR stated that the terrorists opened fire as soon as the security forces arrived. A heavy exchange of fire took place and a large number of ammunition and weapons were

also recovered from the killed terrorists.

The ISPR added that the forces are determined to defeat every attempt to sabotage peace, stability and development of Balochistan.

Earlier, security forces had apprehended a high-value target Gulzar Imam alias Shambay in a successful intelligence operation, said military's media wing in a statement.

According to the ISPR, the operation was conducted by the "Lead Intelligence Agency," adding that Imam had been a hardcore militant as well as founder and leader of the banned outfit responsible for dozens of violent terrorist attacks in Pakistan including



attacks on law-enforcement agencies (LEAs), and installations in Panjgur and Noshki.

Gulzar Imam also remained deputy to Brahamdagh Bugti in the Baloch Republican Army (BRA) till 2018. He was also instrumental in formation of Baloch Raji Aajoi Sang-

stan and its national interests.

He was apprehended after a carefully planned operation spanned over months over various geographical locations.

"The arrest of Gulzar Imam Shambay is a serious blow to BNA as well as other militant groups which have been attempting to destabilise the hard-earned peace in Balochistan," reads the statement.

Apprehension of a militant leader of this stature demonstrates the capability and resolve of LEAs to uproot the menace of terrorism as well as speaks volumes for the successes garnered through supreme sacrifices of unsung heroes, it said.

# President upholds 'dismissal from service' penalty against woman harasser

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of dismissal from service on the Assistant Vice President of the Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) after it was proven beyond doubt that he had sexually harassed a female employee of the bank.

The President also enhanced the fine of Rs 500,000, imposed by the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAAH), to Rs 600,000 on the accused considering the serious mental trauma he must have caused to the victim.

The President gave this decision while rejecting a representation filed by an Assistant Vice President



ZTBL (the accused) against the decision of FOSPAAH. He also rejected the representation filed by ZTBL in this case on account of the bank having no locus standi, said a press release issued by the President's Secretariat.

In his decision, the President stated that the accused

had failed to point out any irregularity in the proceedings conducted by FOSPAAH which were based on the true appraisal of evidence. "In Pakistan, the message of the constitution, the law, and its implementation is loud and clear that we want to ensure a society where women are free to work and

have a safe environment in all public places that allows them to become fully participating members of society", he added.

The President also upheld the order that since the complainant had been terminated from service in utter violation of the law and rules i.e., conducting no regular inquiry against her and providing no opportunity of hearing to her, the termination order of the victim was quite illegal and unlawful and could not stand intact. He further upheld FOSPAAH's direction that it would be deemed as if no order of termination was made and the complainant was still a bank employee, and she would be entitled to all her benefits till today.

The President rejected the representation by stating that

the accused failed to cross-examine the complainant on vital aspects of the matter i.e., the allegation of sexual harassment and hence for that matter the said allegations were presumed to be admitted and proved on the record. He noted that the evidence produced by the complainant seemed credible and confidence-inspiring, whereas the accused had been unable to shatter or discredit the evidence adduced by the complainant. He held that the Ombudsman had rightly observed in the impugned order that admittedly other male staff was also working in the branch but none of them had been charged by the complainant for any sexual harassment and there seemed no reason to falsely charge the accused.

## Govt announces five holidays for Eidul Fitr

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday announced a five-day-long holiday for Eidul Fitr in Pakistan.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Interior, Eidul Fitr holidays will be observed from Friday, April 21 to Tuesday, April 25.

The holidays were approved on the recommendation of the Cabinet Division. A formal notification will be issued by the interior ministry.

# Pakistan delegation to attend 2023-Spring Meetings of WBG, IMF in Washington

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Pakistan delegation, comprising Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary Finance Division Hamed Yaqub Sheikh and Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed is currently in Washington DC to participate in the 2023-Spring Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) started from April 10-16, 2023.

The Spring Meetings are held annually to bring together central bankers, heads of IFIs, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, representatives from



civil society organizations, and academics to discuss issues of global concern, including the world economic outlook, poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness, said a press release issued here.

During Spring Meetings, the delegation is to hold, inter-alia, a number of bilateral meetings with the senior

management of WBG and IMF and to interact with finance and economic ministers from around the world to discuss development initiatives and other issues that have an impact on Pakistan's economy.

Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar

Ayaz Sadiq, also join and lead the delegation in important bilateral meetings virtually.

So far, Pakistan delegation has held/participated in 17 bilateral meetings during the first three days, particularly with senior management of IMF and WBG, Rating Agencies, IFC, JICA, US Treasury and Economic teams etc.

The Secretary EAD, Dr. Kazim Niaz, also represented Pakistan in the high level WBG event titled "Operationalizing the World Bank Group's Country Climate and Development Report" which illustrate a vision for building long-term and systemic resilience against climate and natural disasters while promoting green and inclusive socio-economic development.

# Govt striving hard for redressal of excesses committed against journalists in PTI tenure: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said that during the past year, the incumbent government had strived hard for the redressal of the excesses committed by the past regime against the media persons.

She was speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected office bearers of the Jhang Press Club and Jhang Union of Journalists here.

The minister reiterated that the incumbent government fully believed in freedom of media and freedom of expression and was taking all possible steps for that purpose. On the contrary, she said the previous government had instituted numerous baseless cases against journalists during its tenure.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the government had not taken any vindictive action against any journalist since coming to power in April last year, adding it was taking measures for the welfare of journalists and



media workers.

She said that the Ministry of Information had organized training programmes to enhance the professional skills of journalists.

Taking a jibe at the PTI regime, the minister said that the dark period of four years was over now when programmes, columns and channels were shut down.

She expressed the hope that the newly elected office bearers of Jhang Press Club would work for the welfare of the journalist community of the area.

The minister administered the oath to the 11-member body of Jhang Press Club, including its President Liaquat Ali Anjum and Secretary Khurram Saeed.

# Hina Khar, Tajik FM commit to deepen ties



Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Thursday held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhriddin on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of the Neighbouring Countries on Afghanistan in

Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The two ministers exchanged views on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen bilateral relations, especially trade and economic ties after signing of Transit Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

# Fawad says SC decision is final, elections must be held within 90 days

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and former minister Fawad Chaudhry has said that under the Constitution, the decision of the Supreme Court is final and elections must be held within 90 days.

Talking to media here on Thursday, he said that the judicial system in Pakistan is being ridiculed. The courts give orders but they are flouted, he added.

According to the constitution, the decision of the Supreme Court is final and no government can refuse to obey the order, Fawad added.

The PTI leader said that the PTI was fighting to uphold the supremacy of the judiciary. "Today lawyers are appearing in the courts as usual, the whole country is standing by the Supreme Court."

He said the PML-N has a history of attacks on the judiciary.

Fawad said that the incumbent government was running away from the election. The prime minister has to invite the PTI for talks; and the party would constitute a negotiating team, he continued.

The PTI leader said that the house of lawyer Azhar Siddique was attacked at night. A Molotov was thrown at his house in an attempt to frighten him.

Speaking on the occasion, Hammad Azhar said that the PDM government was shaking in the boots. Police tortured Zile Shah to death. When the police officials talk with us privately, they say they are "under pressure".

He said that an attempt was made to scare Azhar Siddique by throwing Molotov at his house.

# China welcomes regional countries' efforts to ease situation in Yemen: Wang Wenbin

News Desk

BEIJING: China on Thursday welcomed and commended the efforts of regional countries, including Saudi Arabia and Oman to ease situation in Yemen and seek a permanent ceasefire.

"We welcome and commend the efforts of regional countries including Saudi Arabia and Oman to ease the situation in Yemen and seek a permanent ceasefire," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing.

The delegations from Saudi Arabia and Oman recently held talks with the Houthis in Yemen's capital Sanaa to seek an end to the long-running conflicts in Yemen.

The Saudi Foreign Minister received the visiting Syrian Foreign Minister on Tuesday, in the first such



trip since the Syrian crisis broke out 12 years ago.

While commenting on the development, Wang Wenbin said the Chinese side supported the parties concerned in seeking a political settlement of the issue of Yemen through dialogue and consultation.

"We stand ready to continue to play a constructive role in advancing the political settlement of the issue and upholding regional peace and stability," he added.

## IS The Supreme Leader's View of Palestine

# Israel wants to leave sooner...

As for the Zionist regime — which is another enemy of ours — in its 75 years of existence, it had never faced a dire crisis like the one it is facing today. Firstly, it is gripped by "political instability." They have changed four prime ministers in four years. Their political coalitions fall apart before they have even been formed completely. They form a coalition, but the coalition falls apart after just a short time. The parties that have already been formed or are gradually being formed dissolve. That is, they become so weak that it is like dissolution.

An extreme bipolarity exists throughout the fake regime. [If] you look at it now — the Palestinian issue is a different matter — there is bipolarity among them. The demonstrations of 100,000 and 200,000 or more people in Tel Aviv and various other cities are a sign of this. Now, they may strike a place with a few rockets here and there, [but] this won't compensate for that issue. They are truly suffering from political weakness and instability. They have announced that the number of people, the number of Jews, who will leave Israel soon will reach to two million. They have announced this. They have said that in the near future some two million people will leave the Zionist regime [the Occupied Territories].

Their own officials continuously warn that their collapse is nearing. Their president says this, their former prime minister says this, their [national] security chief says this, their defense minister says this. They all say it. They say our collapse is close. We will not make it to our 80th birthday. We had said [in 2015] that they would not see 25 years from then, but they themselves are in a rush and want to leave sooner.

We shouldn't say that the strength of the Palestinian groups has increased by several times compared to the past. [Rather,] it has increased by perhaps tens of times. We received a report saying that the Palestinians carried out 27 operations in the Occupied Territories in 24 hours, in all parts of Palestine. They operate in Jerusalem, in the lands of the West Bank, and in the lands of 1948. They operate everywhere. The Palestine of Oslo — you remember the disgrace that Yasser Arafat and others made for

Palestine in the Oslo Accords — has become the Palestine of Areen al-Ousoud [The Lion's Den]. The Palestine of "ousoud," the lions! This is how much it has changed. This is how the Palestinians have transformed. On the other hand, they [the Zionist regime] have become weak. Praise God, the Resistance Front is gaining power, examples of this are the Palestinian [groups] that I mentioned. This was something that I wanted to share with you.

Palestine is the pivot of Islamic Awakening After the Islamic Revolution in Iran and Imam Khomeini's (r.a.) movement, the wave of Islamic Awakening spread vigorously to other parts of the region and the world in two decades. Today the issue of Palestine is the pivot of this movement. The al-Aqsa Intifada managed to go beyond the borders of Palestine and engage all Muslim and Arab nations.

Massive demonstrations of Muslim nations throughout the world of Islam showed that the people of Palestine could count on their support and that Palestinians can play an important role in creating unity among Muslims.

The day Islamic resistance was formed in Lebanon on Imam Khomeini's advice and through the efforts made by valorous Lebanese men, Israel had already occupied Beirut — that is, the capital city of Lebanon — and had control over this country's political fate. At that time, when Islamic resistance shouted the slogan "march, march towards al-Quds," some misinformed group of people called them naïve and sarcastically asked, "Is it possible to move towards al-Quds while you [Leba-

nese people] are unable to go to your own capital city." It took 18 years for Islamic resistance to gain that historic victory. Eighteen years is not a long time in the history of a nation.

Resistance: A prerequisite for liberation The al-Aqsa Intifada was an uprising staged by the people, which showed that Palestinians are disappointed in all solutions that involve compromise. The al-Aqsa Intifada showed that Palestinians have real-

ized that victory can only be gained through resistance. As a successful paradigm for the Islamic Ummah, resistance could for the first time liberate the occupied lands without making any concessions to Israel and prevented the realization of the Zionist regime's wishes of raising its flag in the capital city of Lebanon. According to the Camp David Accords, Israel agreed to retreat on condition that Egypt did not send its army to the Sinai Peninsula in the north. But in the south, it is Israel that is begging Lebanon to send its army to the borders of Palestine and Lebanon due

to its fear of the power of Islamic resistance. That is to say, Islamic resistance could fully restore Lebanon's national authority over the southern parts of Lebanon as well as other parts of the Lebanese occupied lands.

Survival of Palestine and annihilation of Israel Today the leaders of the usurping Zionist regime and their American supporters — who are foolishly giving them unconditional support — are trying to erase the name

of Palestine from history and from the minds of the world's people. Since the year 1947 and 1948, when Palestine was fully occupied and the Zionist regime came to power, they have not managed to achieve this goal and they will not be able to do so for decades. They will not be able to annihilate the name of Palestine.

It is the Zionists who will disappear from the face of the earth and from history. But Palestine and the Palestinian nation will stay. They mistakenly think that Palestine and the Palestinian nation will be annihilated. The Palestinian nation will

survive. Palestine will survive as well. By Allah's favor, Palestine's flag will be raised by the faithful Palestinian and Lebanese youth.

Zionism and the fake usurping Zionist regime in Palestine are doomed to annihilation.

The people of Palestine must ask Allah the Exalted for assistance and rely on Him. Palestinian and Lebanese youth as well as all youth of the world of Islam and all intellectuals

of the definite future that Allah the Exalted has promised for sincere and determined mujahids. And this divine promise is inviolable. The oppressive and brutal Zionist regime as well as American politicians and global Zionism wrongly think that they will manage to defeat the Palestinian nation through their brutal actions. They think they will manage to force the Palestinian nation to surrender.

This is a fatal mistake. And those who make this mistake will be severely punished in the future.

Palestine belongs to the Palestinian nation. Sooner or later, the usurpers will inevitably surrender to this reality. Today the faithful and resisting Palestinian youth are entrusted with a great historic responsibility, and they should rely on divine assistance and God's inviolable promises. Through their hope, faith, and selfless efforts, they should ensure a bright future for their nation. Through the continuation of resistance by the faithful Palestinian people and the support of the world of Islam, Palestine will, by Allah's favor, be liberated. And al-Quds and Masjid al-Aqsa and the other parts of the occupied Islamic lands will be restored to the world of Islam.

The victory of blood over the sword The people of the world of Islam should also know that America and the arrogant powers cannot get engaged in the issues of Muslim countries as a benevolent and sympathetic mediator. Their role is that of an enemy, a supporter of oppressors and aggressors.

The duty of Muslims does not end here. This duty will remain on the shoulders of all Muslims. The faithful people of Palestine must be armed. They should be assisted and emotionally supported so that they can pursue their courageous jihad. Today the Palestinian nation has proven through its resistance, valor, and tireless efforts that blood can stand up to the sword. And by Allah's favor, the Palestinian nation will prove that blood can defeat the sword.



*Zionism and the fake usurping Zionist regime in Palestine are doomed to annihilation.*

## IS International Quds Day

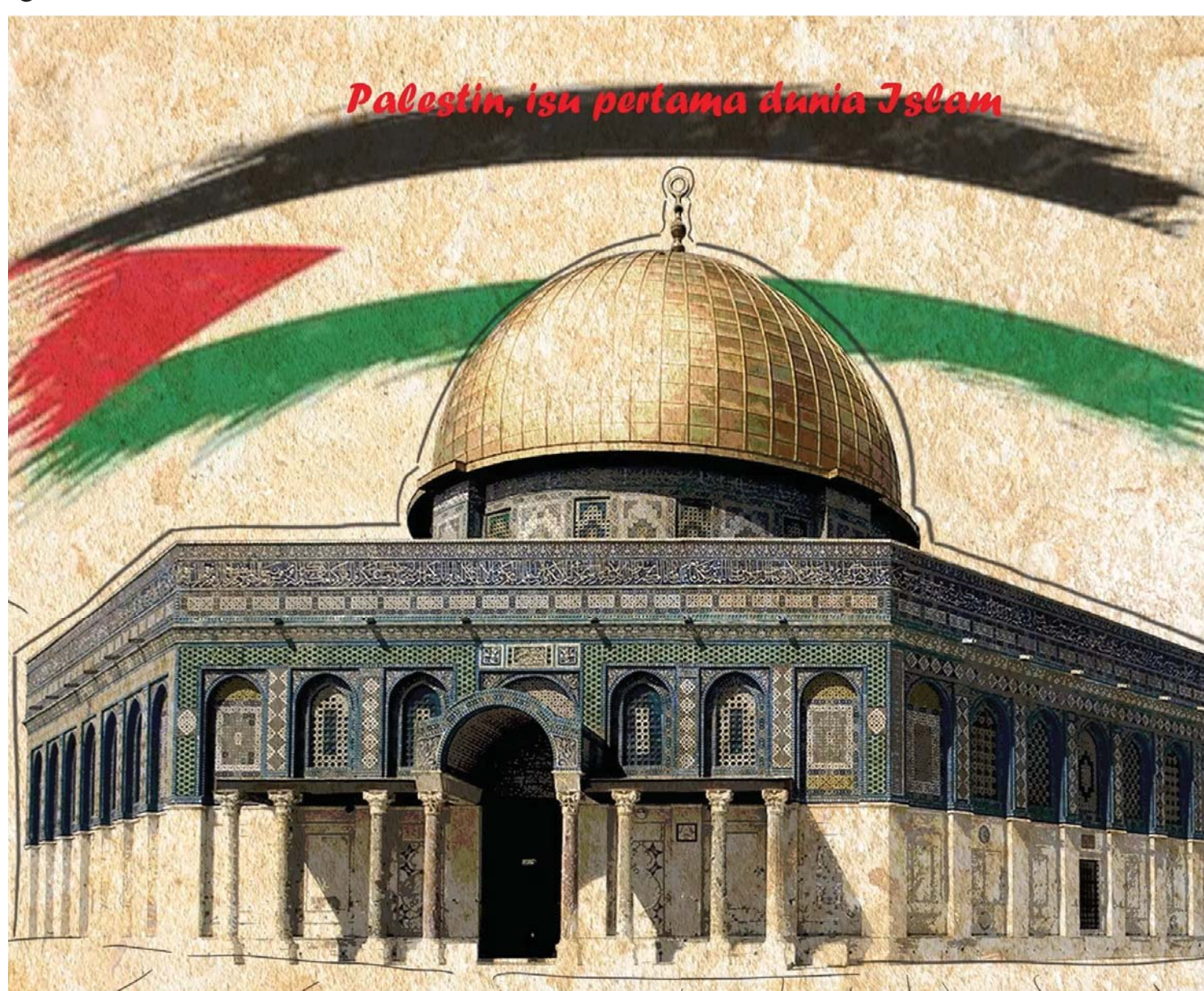
# Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Islamabad

On the eve of the last Friday of the Holy month of Ramazan, named as the International Quds Day in the initiative of Imam Khomeini (R.A.), the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in 1979, simultaneously with the attacks of the apartheid regime and the Zionist usurper in the Southern Lebanon. Therefore, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramazan is one of the symbols of unity among the Muslims all over the world, which is known as the International Quds Day, during which, support is extended to the oppressed Palestinian nation and the Palestinian cause every year. This occasion is commemorated by most of the Muslim countries and free thinkers around the world.

Undoubtedly, Palestine is the first and the most important issue of the Islamic world. Although Al-Quds has special significance to Palestine and the Palestinian cause, but beyond that, it is the axis of unity and integration of the Islamic world. It is the day of unity of Muslim countries in fighting against oppression, massacre and occupation. This day is an opportunity for the world to remember more than 70 years oppression of the displaced Palestinian nation and to renew the commitments regarding the formation of an independent Palestinian state based on the principle of self-determination.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been a supporter of the cause of Palestine and has openly declared it. Supporting the oppressed people of Palestine is not a short-term and tactical policy and not only rooted in religious beliefs, but most importantly, it has humanitarian aspects and a humanitarian duty based on objectives and nature of the Islamic Republic and its Constitution.

As expected, the heroic nation of Palestine has no expectations from the arrogant powers that support international Zionism. However, Islamic countries as well as international institutions that claim to protect human rights are expected to take appropriate



and timely action against these chronic and continuous crimes and condemn this oppressive regime in words and deeds and to frustrate it from the continuation of these crimes.

It is appropriate for the countries of the region and the world to avoid any action that causes this regime to become more arrogant that strength-

ens and encourages this regime to continue committing its crimes in the occupied Palestine.

The so-called peace plans that are presented and followed under different titles and under outdated excuses are not an action to result in the fulfillment of the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation and stop the crimes

of the fake Israeli regime. Such plans encourage this usurper Regime to completely destroy the rights of the Palestinian people and destabilize the important and strategic region of West Asia.

One of the reasons of the failure of the solutions of the Palestinian issue is that all proposed solutions have

been unilateral, inequitable, and biased. The Islamic Republic of Iran has presented a democratic and fair plan to solve the Palestinian crisis, entitled "Holding a national referendum in Palestine," which is submitted and registered in the United Nations Secretariat. In this plan, the return of the Palestinian refugees to their

homeland and holding a referendum to determine the future and the type of the political system in Palestine, are regarded to be the most effective solution to this conflict. Based on this plan, Muslims, Jews and Christians of Palestinian origin can choose their own legal system and enjoy their rights freely and equally. The plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been compiled and presented based on the principles of democracy and international law accepted by all the governments and nations. This plan is a good alternative to the failed and destabilizing plans such as the deal of the century and the Abraham Accords.

Until the time this important goal is archived, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers its duty to support the resistance of the Palestinian people against this fake regime as much as possible and support them to achieve their legitimate and legal rights. Iran considers the basic and vital principle of resistance to be the only way to win and to completely liberate the land of Palestine from the hands of the Zionist demons.

While commemorating Quds Day and reiterating the need for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based upon the proposed plan, it insists that Iran and Pakistan are committed to protect Palestinian rights and the two brotherly countries share a close position on the issue of Palestine and Quds.

Quds Day is a growing global campaign to condemn violence, massacre and discrimination, to assert the rights of the Palestinian people, and to defend the right to self-determination. The Islamic Republic of Iran underscores the importance of the complete freedom of Palestine, as a pivotal issue of the Islamic World and has emphasized the necessity of confronting the occupation and expansionism of the Zionist regime.

It invites all Muslims and free people all over the world to join the campaign of the International Quds Day - 2023 to support the cause of free Palestine as the emblem of Unity and Integrity among the Muslims world.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 4: 14 am  
Zohr ..... 12: 09 pm  
Asr ..... 4: 46 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6: 37 pm  
Isha ..... 8: 04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

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

COMPLAINTS

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

A system of freehold properties needs to be introduced in Pakistan: Adil Nawaz Bhatti

Asad Hashmi

RAWALPINDI: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that there is a need to introduce a system of freehold properties in Pakistan. Now there is a need to introduce the system of freehold properties in Pakistan. Steps are awaited from the government to revive the real estate sector. Addressing the RECA meeting, General Secretary RECA Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that the real estate sector should be regulated and given the status of a regular industry. The Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act should be implemented immediately to give this industry a chance to play its role in the country's development. He said that there is a shortage of 12 million houses in Pakistan. A government-private partnership can revolutionize this sector. Overseas Pakistanis have immense confidence in this sector. The real estate sector is the path to recovery of the country's economy and the way out of the current situation.

Acting British High Commissioner hosts interfaith Iftar dinner

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting British High Commissioner, Andrew Dalglish, hosted an Iftar dinner at the British High Commission for leading members of different religious communities from across Pakistan to celebrate the country's rich cultural diversity.

At the event, religious leaders broke bread together and discussed issues surrounding tolerance, acceptance and inclusion amongst the multi-faith and multi-cultural groups of Pakistan.

The Acting British High Commissioner, Andrew Dalglish, said the following: "This is my first Ramazan in Pakistan and I am struck by how people from across communities have come together to support each other. As I get to know Pakistan better, I have come to appreciate the diversity of its population; Pakistan is home to a rich range of cultures, faiths,



and traditions. Religion and faith remind us that we need to come closer together, to be ek saath and to share understanding and respect."

The Beautiful

Beautiful View of Panja Sahib Gurdwara Hasan Abdal.

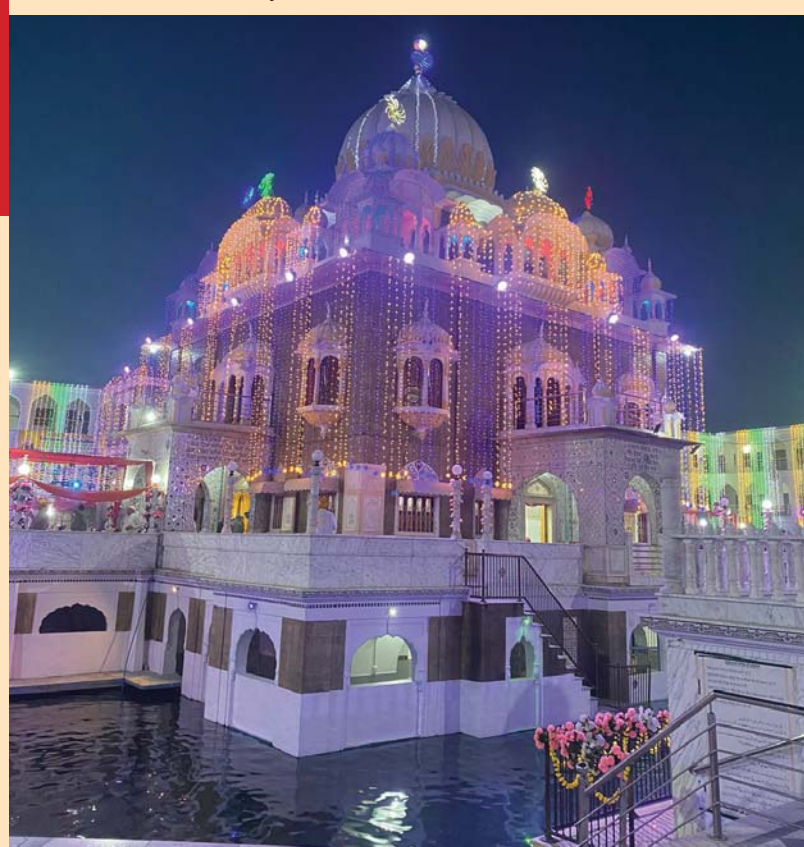


Photo by Raza Naqvi

SBP launches Rs 50 commemorative coin on Friday to mark Golden Jubilee of 1973 Constitution



KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan will launch the Rs 50 Commemorative Coin on Friday to mark the Golden Jubilee of the 1973 Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The coin would be available at the exchange counters of all the field offices of SBP's Banking Services Corporation from April 14, an SBP news release said on Thursday.

The SBP said, "The Constitution of Pakistan was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on April 10, 1973 and therefore also known as the 1973 Constitution and the year 2023 marks the Golden Jubilee of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

"It is the supreme law of Pakistan, intended to guide Pakistan's law, political culture, and system.

Weakening global response encouraging Israeli and Indian aggression: International webinar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A weakening global response due to systemic failures in global governance—under the UN's umbrella—is emboldening Israel and India to carry out aggression and human rights violations with impunity. This is clearly illustrated by the latest Israeli assaults on Palestinians in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound which have failed to elicit any firm response beyond the routine statements of condemnation from OIC, Arab League and a few countries.

These views were expressed during an international webinar titled 'Israeli Actions in the Middle East: Normalizing Aggression and Weakening

Response' organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

The forum was chaired by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, Vice Chairman, IPS, while the speakers included Dr. Hatem Bazian, chair, Islamophobia Research & Documentation Project, USA; Dr. Zeenat Adam, Deputy Executive Director, Afro-Middle East Centre, South Africa; Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, president, JUST, Malaysia; Dr. Ali Hossain Zadeh, Al-Mustafa University, Iran; Nazir Hussain, former dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU; and Dr. Junaid S. Ahmed, professor at College of William & Mary, USA.

The speakers observed that Israel thrives on conflict and

war, which have been fundamental elements of its creation, consolidation and expansion. Israel claims to be a democratic state but harbors colonial ambitions and wants to colonize the remaining Palestinian lands.

Israel has been working on Judaism of Jerusalem since 1967. The Judaic project is still underway which envisions demographic superiority to consolidate hold of the Jewish state in the occupied lands. As such the Arabs in Israel have been relegated to the status of second-class citizens irrespective of their religion as the Christians are also facing restrictions on carrying out their religious activities.

The speakers were of the view

that the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice are unlikely to entertain cases against Israeli and Indian violation of international humanitarian law due to US pressure.

They also censured the deafening silence of the international community, and particularly most of the Muslim countries, which give precedence to geo-economic aspects and national interests rather than taking a stand for justice and human dignity. The speakers suggested that the major Muslim countries such as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran should raise this issue at every possible international forum.

District Administration Decided to provide Education and training to special children. Umar Jahangir

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the direction of the Punjab government, the district administration has decided to provide exemplary education and training to special children. Basic educational facilities will be ensured in the institutions of the Department of Special Education. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir while visiting the Government Secondary School of Special Education. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the educational facilities provided to deaf and dumb children while District Officer Special Education Muhammad Majid gave a briefing on the education system.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the Punjab government has provided ample funding for special children. Special education institutions are being upgraded under the reform program. Umar Jahangir said that "Tare Zameen Par" Trust is providing full support in the public sector. The government will provide free treatment to more than 200 deaf and dumb children. Umar Jahangir emphasized that special children can play an active role in our society with special attention, in this regard all the stakeholders of the society have to play their role.

Federal Board authorities change their attitude: Malik Abrar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: There has been a strong wave of concern in the private education sector against the irrational decision of the chairman of the Federal Board not to assign duties to the teachers associated with the private education sector in the matric annual examinations, who have demanded the government of Pakistan, especially the Ministry of Education, that the Federal Board Private teachers should also be given their legitimate right in examination duties to ensure transparency in the examination system as well as to prevent possible violation of the rights of private students.



All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Central President Malik Abrar Hussain said that if the Federal Board authorities do not change their attitude, private educational institutions will not cooperate with the Federal Board authorities. About 70% of the registration fee is paid by the private sector. Regarding the duties in the examination centers of the annual matriculation examinations under the Federal Board, which are starting immediately after Eid-ul-Fitr, the Federal Board has for the first time refused to give examination duties to teachers belonging to private educational institutions. On the other hand, the roll number slips of the examination have not been released yet, which causes serious concern in the private education sector.

who have demanded from the concerned authorities to withdraw the policy of completely neglecting the important part of the education sector and include the teachers of private schools in the examination duties so that the students of the private sector can appear in the examinations. Exam transparency can be maintained along with avoiding obstacles. Malik Abrar Hussain, Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, said in his response to the media that if the Federal Board authorities do not change their attitude, private educational institutions will not cooperate with the Federal Board. In this regard, the elected representative of the Federal Board, Muhammad Ashraf Haraj, has also been informed by the private educational institutions. He said that the Chairman of the Federal Board has come down to arbitrary decisions and the appointment of the inexperienced Controller of Examinations Imran Aqeel, who has completely failed to handle the examination system, has removed him. He said that a large number of private educational institutions across the country are affiliated to the Federal Board and about 70 percent of the educational institutions are from the private sector. A lot of revenue is also paid by the private sector. He said that the annual examinations are starting from April 27 but the roll number slips have not been released yet.

DGM/o Human Rights urges all to work on war footing for sustainable development



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General Ministry of Human Rights, Government of Pakistan Abdul Sattar has said that to achieve the goals of sustainable development, there is a need to work actively on a war footing. Government, Civil Society, Line Departments, Ministries including Parliament and Corporate Sector to make the poverty, ignorance, unemployment, injustice, gender discrimination, public health and peace and order sustainable in the beloved country through mutual cooperation and cooperation. Therefore, continuing on the 21st century plan and program of the United Nations is actually the guarantee of our independence and national development. He expressed these views while addressing the national seminar in connection with World Health Day organized by the Department of Social Welfare Training Institute (SWTI) and Islamabad Crescent Lions Club. On this occasion, former Additional Director General FIA Cyber Expert Syed Amar Jaffri, Chief Executive SDGs Academy Pakistan was the chief guest while Sibtain Raza Lodhi Deputy Director Public Relations NHA HQ, Sr. Journalist Munir Ahmed Chief Executive Dev-Com Pakistan, Madam Zeib-Nisa Assistant Director Social Welfare Training Institute Islamabad (SWTI)- Ms. Raibil Pirzada Chief Executive Blind Fighting Foundation Pakistan, Syed Ansar Gilani YouTube Vlogger, Sultan Mehmoond Shaheen Columnist, Muhammad Bilal Advocacy Officer Helpage International and other speakers were included.

Chief Guest Syed Ammar Jaffri said that the My beloved country is currently trapped in the grip of international powers. For the sake of the country, the entire nation has to unite and show patriotism with equality. To make the people prosperous, all sections of the society & Stakeholders must ensure progress with mutual struggle. By ensuring the attainment of the speakers, while addressing, expressed their resolve that "Every individual is the star of the nation's destiny" by moving forward in the true sense, the goal can be reached. Only empty slogans and empty treasure and without vision, the achievement of goals will be impossible and uncertain. Later, the guest speakers answered the questions of the audience. The seminar was attended by experts, teachers, officers and representatives of civil society.

ANP staged a protest in Azamwarsak Bazar against possible military operation

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower South Waziristan Awami National Party (ANP) staged a protest in Azamwarsak Bazar against the resumption of military operations in the tribal districts and a rally was also held.

They will raise their voices at every forum against starting military operations again, we want peace, not war, Speakers said.

It should be remembered that a few days ago, in the 41st National Security Council (NSC) meeting under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the security forces have been approved for military operations to crush the banned organization TTP in the tribal areas.

In which especially North Waziristan, South Waziristan Lower and Upper both districts are at the top, where military



operations are considered inevitable.

In this response, the Awami National Party, Lower South Waziristan district, staged a protest and held a rally in Azam-

warsak Bazar on Wednesday, among the local leaders of ANP, Ayaz Wazir, Noor Zaman Wazir and Taj Wazir were leading the protest demonstration.

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# Occupied Kashmir needs practical implementation of UN resolution for liberation

**U**NO will have to come forward and resolve the issue of occupied Kashmir from the brutal clutches of India on priority without any resistance or pressure.

the illegal settlement of Indian citizens to distort technically the population ratio. India has illegally occupied large part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and spreading brutality has become a sign. No doubt, Indian occupation is a clear violation of the passed resolutions and international regulations of the United Nations Security Council but question is that why these decisions have not been implemented with true spirit?

When Narendra Modi is taking worst steps to distort the population ratio of Jammu and Kashmir, it must be dealt with iron hands by United Nations.



When the world does not play role to stop the Bharatiya Janata Party from committing these heinous crimes, then in the near future the Kashmiri citizens in South Asia will have to face worse situation like Palestine, and in these circumstances the whole world must focus on these illegal steps very soon in the salvation of occupied Kashmir.

and the people must raise their voices against Indian brutality and terrorism in the occupied state.

The struggle of the Kashmiri people will continue until they get the right to self-determination besides freedom from Indian usurpation, and India will have to admit the ground realities and it should liberate it on the basis of humanitarian laws.

It shows clearly that Indian government has issued domiciles to 4.2 million Indian citizens and 185 Indian citizens has bought land in the disputed state contrary to United Nation Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir & wants to have complete control over it.

Numerous protests & demonstrations have been organized by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir against the distortion of the population ratio in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), but UNO has been observing it but all in vain still, but why?



Analysis

Mian Rashid Asghar

A large number of citizens often participate in protests & chant slogans against Indian government's illegal actions in IIOJ&K and the world organisations are silent.

It seems that there is no international law to resist the oppressors engaged in engulfing human rights?

It means there is dire need to amend in UNO charter where the independence of humanity might be ensured.

It is big question mark that the United Nations is dormant to take notice of

brought its citizens in Jammu and Kashmir through military forces and black laws like Israeli did in occupied Palestine.

This illegitimate phenomena of India must be abolished if there exists any weightage in UNO resolutions, then India could stop all such illegitimate movement.

By granting the domiciles illegally to the citizens of India will solve the issue and prove the Indian government as true in its population numbers? India's illegal function is an international crime which must be noticed.

## Progress review

**P**akistan and Chinese authorities on Monday held a 'progress review' meeting to discuss important CPEC projects and minutes of the 11th JCC sitting, following a crucial visit of Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal to Beijing and interaction with Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin.

Chief Economist of Planning Division at the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Secretariat Nadeem Javaid and his Chinese counterpart NDRC Director General Pan Jiang co-chaired the meeting, which was attended among others by senior officials from Ministries of Planning, Energy, Industry, Communication, Agriculture, Interior, Science & Technology, Information Technology & Telecommunication and Board of Investment, a news release said here.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the smooth implementation of various CPEC projects and agreed that all the pending issues would be resolved amicably in the spirit of traditional cooperation, mutual understanding, complete trust and brotherhood.

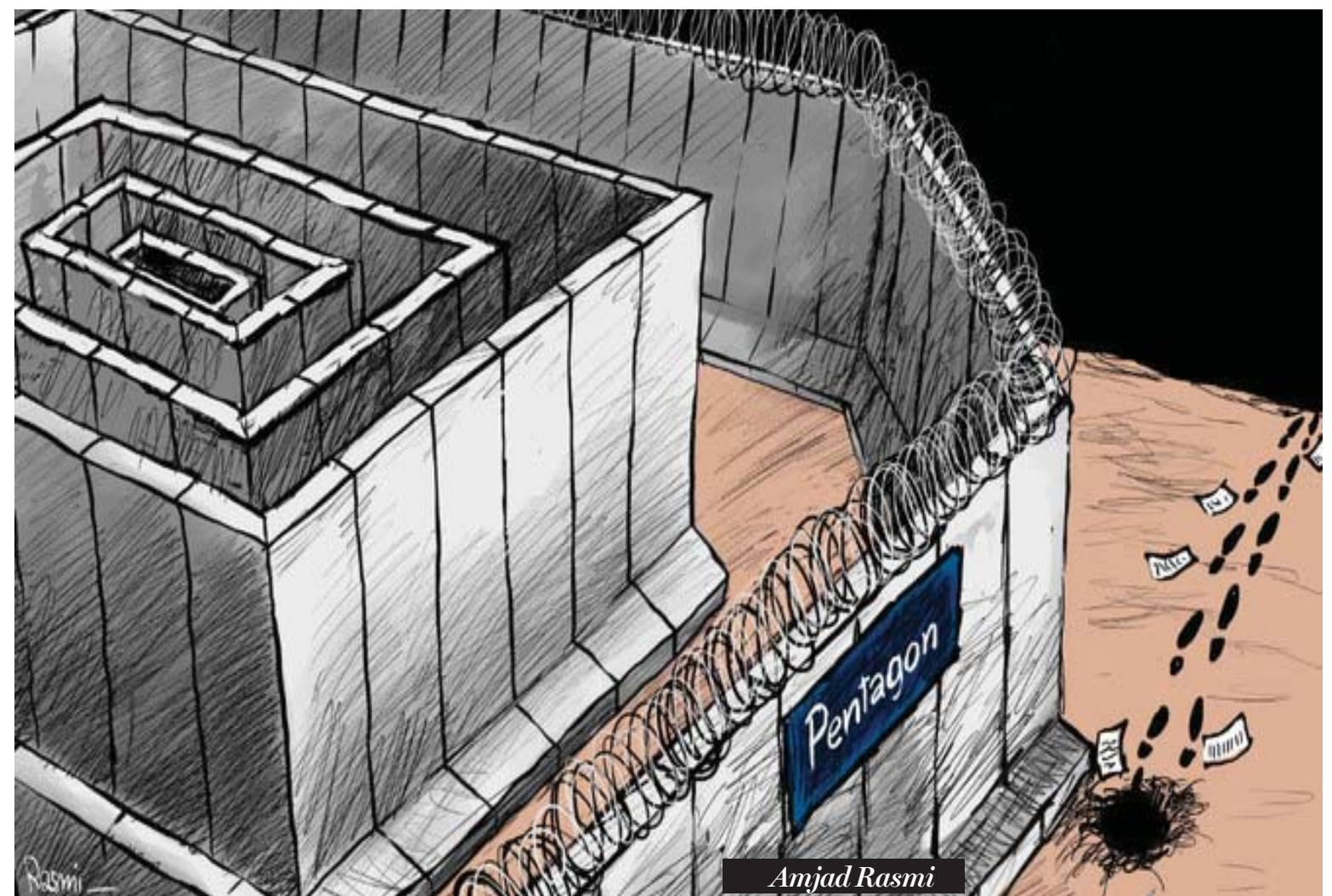
The two sides expressed satisfaction on the progress made in the four priority Special Economic Zones (SEZs) namely Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Dhabeji and Bostan, agreeing to 'further expedite' the progress to attract relocation of high-quality industries.

The signing of the Framework Agreement for Industrial Cooperation was highly appreciated and both sides committed to holding bi-annual meetings to review the implementation of the framework.

Chief Economist Nadeem Javaid also requested strong support from the NDRC and other relevant Chinese government institutions to advance the implementation of important projects like Main-Line (ML-1), Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and key energy projects in line with the consensus reached between the leadership of the two countries.

As the year 2023 marks the Decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China, both Pakistan and China are celebrating 10 Years of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC on July 5, 2023 whereby high-level Chinese delegations are scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness the achievements made since the inception of CPEC.

To make the 10 years' celebrations memorable, both sides expressed the desire to sign the minutes of the 11th Joint Cooperation Council (JCC) meeting before the end of April 2023 so that relevant Technical Joint Working Groups (JWGs) could hold their meetings by mid of May 2023 and workout the tangible outcomes for the 12th JCC Meeting; being planned to be held in the first week of July 2023 at Islamabad.



Amjad Rasmi

## Discouraging and Excluding Youth of Pakistan

**Y**outh are considered as important assets in the development and progress of a country. In countries like Pakistan, where society faces several economic, social and political issues; they are supposed to get more attention from the government sectors. The country is comprised of about 60 per cent of young people; facing serious economic, social and administrative problems. Similarly, in a country, where non-traditional and traditional security threats have a significant impact; Youth should be engaged in much positive ways in order to compete with non-traditional security issues like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and social disorder.

The contemporary era is highly based on interconnectedness and globalization. Media particularly social media has got tremendous importance and is easily accessible. In order to get the maximum positive advantage of this sector, the previous government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took a remarkable step and engaged hundreds of youth in the Governmental apparatus. It recruited social media influencers who were supposed to highlight welfare projects of the province and help in social awareness among the people.

These young people were able to earn few moneys for their outstanding services. Their responsibilities were uncovering progress of provincial institutions, exploring welfare initiatives and countering fake news and disinformation. More importantly, they were curbing bridges between government and public, which is one of the important hurdles in the Pakistani system. Additionally, this project was the first but important step to empower youth and make them independent so that, they can play a healthy role in the society. This program was highly professional and technical in nature; having no political agenda or party affiliation.

However, the current in-term government of KPK terminated those young social media influencers and stopped their wages and other finances. Unfortunately, stopping such a profitable project seems to be a highly biased move; backed by specific political motives. Regardless of the intentions,

one thing is pretty sure that, terminating hundreds of youth from their responsibilities will yield nothing but, unemployment, desperation, and anxiety in the young people of the province. Such initiative will definitely impact the confidence and trust level of youth; the already depressed class of Pakistani society. Due to unemployment, youth are facing frustration. Under such situations, initiating such an unjust move against them, will further their problems. Moreover, it will further increase the trust deficit between youth and government; which is already there in majority of the areas.

Generally, governments spend a lot of money and resources on advertising their projects and initiatives. For one advertisement on TV channels and newspapers, governments issue millions of moneys. In a country like Pakistan, where the economy is drowning day by day, it is complete injustice to spend such a huge amount unnecessarily. On contrary, the previous government of KP was doing this job with highly effective way and much more affordable cost. With very little expenses as compared to traditional mechanisms, these youth i.e, social media influencers, were doing their duties in highly effective and professional way. However, closing the project will not only bring financial complexes to the economically deficient province; but is highly unconstitutional from the in-term government as well.

Lastly, irony is that a nominated temporary government is reversing decisions and policies of a popularly elected previous government. The only legitimate mandate an in-term government have, is to facilitate free and fair elections for the fresh mandate. Unlikely, in the case of KP, this in-term government is doing all those things which they are not supposed to do constitutionally. This will do nothing but weaken democracy, and damage people's trust and confidence on the democratic process.

*(The writer is an Islamabad-based Columnist, having wide experience of writing for various English Newspapers. He tweets on @BarkatViews.)*

Analysis



Barkat Ullah

## Kashmir & the Turkish elections

**Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai**

**F**irst of all, let me make it clear that we would love to stay out of internal politics of Turkey. We believe that it is none of our business to suggest to the educated people of Turkey how to vote in the next election. However, here are some facts that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has proved to be the voice of all voiceless people of the Ummah, be it Palestine, Rohingya Muslims, Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, Kashmir and else. And secondly, he seems to be uniquely positioned to raise the issue of Kashmir at various world fora as he did in the past. The nation of Kashmir was heartened to learn about the statements made by him at various occasions not only domestically and regionally but also internationally.

His proposal for resolving Kashmir is the most sensible, feasible and practical one when he said that "We should not allow more casualties to occur, and by strengthening multilateral dialogue, we can be involved, and through multilateral dialogue, I think we have to seek out ways to settle this question (of Kashmir) once and for all." The proposal at the time was seen rather unconventional but we believe that it would be a striking demonstration of the global statesmanship which the United Nations can summon in the cause of peace, international security

and human betterment

It is pertinent to mention here that President Erdogan heard plenty from both India and Pakistan and their stated positions on Kashmir, but he concluded that the urgent goal of resolving the Kashmir dispute cannot be left to the two governments of India and Pakistan to achieve. It requires the engagement of a multilateral effort — one or two OIC members, the United Nations along with India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri leadership.

Over 100 world leaders participated in the debate of the UN General Assembly's iconic hall in 2022. But it was none other than President Erdogan who once again made a reference to Kashmir during his speech at the UN GA. We were informed that the 'deep gratitude was felt by the tortured people of Kashmir at the forthright and noble stand taken by President for their release from savage Indian occupation'.

President Erdogan called for resolving the decades-old Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan on the basis of United Nations resolutions when he addressed the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. "We maintain our stance in favour of solving the ongoing problem in Kashmir for 74 years, through dialogue between the parties and within the framework of relevant United Nations resolutions." These words gave the people of Kashmir encouragement.

At the 75th session, he said, "The Kashmir conflict, which is also key to

the stability and peace in South Asia, is still a burning issue. Steps taken following the abolition of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir further complicated the problem." His words at the 75th session of the U.N. General Assembly were the true reflection of the aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

Addressing the 74th General Assembly, President said that a solution to the Kashmir issue, which has persisted for 72 years, can only be found through dialogue.

President has been consistent and persistent with his vision of Kashmir when he said, "In order for the Kashmiri people to look at a safe future together with their Pakistani and Indian neighbors, it is imperative to solve the problem through dialogue and on the basis of justice and equity, not through clashes." He added that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are "virtually under blockade with 8 million people, unfortunately, unable to step outside of Kashmir," referring to an Indian government clampdown imposed on August 5, 2019.

As we all know that the people of Kashmir have suffered long and needlessly because of this brutal conflict. They demand, and they deserve peace, and they want it now.

*(Dr. Fai is the Chairman of 'World Forum for Peace & Justice.' He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. Or [gnfai2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gnfai2003@yahoo.com))*

# Monal Group arranges historic Iftar Party of Capital City

*Tourism industry with adequate policy & facilities can surge Pak economy says, Luqman Afzal*



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: CEO and founder Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal said that Ramazan is a month of self-introspection and restraint. This holy month essentially highlights the importance of sharing and helping our lesser fortunate fellow human beings. He said that Iftar meals bring people together and promote coherence between different segments of the society.

He shared these thoughts on the occasion of Iftar-dinner hosted by Luqman Ali Afzal and his spouse at Monal Marquee, Main Service Road, Sector E-11, Islamabad which was the biggest 'IFTAR' party of the federal capital so far.

A huge number of participants including Ex-Federal Ministers, senior political leaders, senior diplomats, and distinguished businessmen from Rawalpindi & Islamabad Chambers of Commerce and Industries, senior bureaucrats, intellectuals and media persons were present on this occasion.

He said Tourism can be a multi-billion dollar industry in Pakistan provided there is awareness and policy on the part of stakeholders to promote the culture of tourism. A country's image and reputation is judged on the basis of its capacity to provide basic facilities to tourists, particularly foreigners.

Mr. Luqman said "There is no doubt that Pakistan has a lot of potential in tourism but in order to attract tourists, we need to set our house in order. Quoting an example he said, leave alone a foreign tourist, even if a local tourist wants to travel from Islamabad to Hunza, will he find decent clean toilets on this long journey? Will there be a nice restaurant where a family can eat or a workshop where he can fix his car if the brakes fail? So the answer is, unless and until we have our basic infrastructure in place, the volume of tourists will not increase. Our infrastructure has to be looked into before we open our areas to foreign tourists".

Regarding tourism and hospitality he said if taken care of properly, the tourism and hospitality industry has the potential of contributing to the national economy to great proportions. Look at our regional countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal and even Uzbekistan, where tourism and hospitality industries contribute significantly to the national exchequer.

He said India and China can earn more than \$20 billion from tourism and various European countries like Switzerland, France, the UK, Italy and Greece can fetch several hundred billion dollars from tourism, why cannot Pakistan, a country blessed with enviable natural beauty?



He said Pakistan is blessed with beautiful tourists as well as historical and religious sites where tourists from abroad visit in large numbers. The north of Pakistan is known for its peaks, glaciers, lakes and forests where not only homegrown tourism can flourish but millions of tourists

from abroad can also be attracted. Likewise, the historical sites of Taxila and Mohenjo Daro can be a big draw for foreign tourists. The deserts of Tharparkar in Sindh and Cholistan in Punjab, as well as the coast of Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, also have the potential to attract local

and foreign tourists in large numbers.

He said If the government and other stakeholders are interested in promoting the tourist industry and homegrown tourism, they must make sure that adequate facilities are provided. Policy decisions to promote

the culture of tourism must take into account three major requirements.

Mr. Luqman is quite famous for his hospitality and that was the reason the guest opted not to miss the occasion. The multi-dish reception was thoroughly enjoyed by the guests as Sheikh

Luqman Ali Afzal provided personal care for every guest of the evening. Luqman became the first Pakistani to be awarded a Pride of Performance award for 'entrepreneurship'.

The guests kept on discussing political developments taking place in the country especially

supreme court Suo Motu regarding current political situations. European diplomats shown their worrisome about Imran Khan cases and critical situations of Human rights violations in Pakistan.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,205.54	40,126.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,418.60	40,126.05
Index Value	Change
2,379,110,333	+79.49
Percentage	Time
+0.2%	13 Apr, 2023 1:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,843.38	+18.54
Percentage	Time
+0.24%	13 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,821.27	+174.77
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	13 Apr, 11:42 am GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
28,156.97	+74.27
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	13 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190	192
Bahrain Dinar	761.94	769.94
Canadian Dollar	213	215
China Yuan	41.57	41.97
Danish Krone	41.67	42.07
Euro	312	315
Hong Kong Dollar	36.5	36.85
Indian Rupee	3.49	3.6
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.04	942.04
Malaysian Ringgit	64.96	65.56
New Zealand \$	177.63	179.63
Norwegians Krone	27.26	27.56
Omani Riyal	744.11	752.11
Qatari Riyal	78.6	79.3
Saudi Riyal	76.4	77.2
Singapore Dollar	212.5	213.2
Swedish Korona	27.32	27.62
Swiss Franc	314.37	316.87
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	78.5	79.3
UK Pound Sterling	359	362
US Dollar	290	292

# ECC okays E-Bikes & Rickshaws loan facility under PMYB&ALS model

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYB&ALS) model for E-Bikes and Rickshaws, under which the facility of Rs 0.5 million would be provided with zero per cent markup for a period of three years.

"Under the scheme, clean loan up to Rs 0.5 million will be given under Tier-I of PMYB&ALS at 0% markup rate for repayment in three years. This facility will be available for upto 15,000 E-Bikes/Rickshaws in the current financial year. The modalities of the scheme will be worked out by the Ministry of Industries and Production in coordination with PMYB&ALS", said a press release.

The ECC approved Technical Supplementary Grants including Rs261 million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works for execution of development scheme—Construction of railway underpass Jahanian, District Khanewal and \$0.5 million equivalent to Rs142.5 million cover in favour of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, committed by SAARC Development Fund for standard package for strengthening



preventive and curative activities for mental health and condition of Covid-19 research activities.

The ECC also approved Technical Supplementary Grants of Rs250 million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works for repair and maintenance of Supreme Court of Pakistan

building, Judges residences, rest houses and sub-offices in various cities and Rs. 22 million in favour of Ministry of Foreign Affairs for payment of liabilities of electricity.

Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Industries and Production Syed

Murtaza Mahmud, Minister for National Food Security and Research Chaudhry Tariq Bashir Cheema, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Coordinator to the PM on Economy Bilal Azhar Kayani, federal secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## Eid shopping

ISLAMABAD: A girl is buying bangles from stall at Jinnah Super Market as the preparation of Eid-ul-Fitr.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## IRC, CAR ink MoU to enable healthcare, essential services for Afghan refugees

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) on Tuesday signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) that outlined operations and activities where CAR and IRC intend to collaborate to facilitate Afghan refugees in access to health and essential services.

Commissioner Afghan Refugee, Muhammad Abbas Khan speaking at the MoU signing ceremony appreciated IRC's longstanding commitment towards the cause of Afghan refugees and reaffirmed the support of Commissionerate in working collaboratively for provision of quality services with dignity and diligence.

He further noted that Pakistan is very proudly hosting millions of Afghan Refugees and this hospitality was only possible due to the generosity of host communities. "The financial and technical support of international community is paramount along with fostering partnerships for this noble cause."

Country Director, IRC-Pakistan, Shabnam Baloch opined that this collaboration between International Rescue Committee and Commissionerate for



Afghan Refugees would pave way for pragmatic programming that was based on evidence-based research and triple nexus approach. She further reiterated IRC's commitment to work alongside government counterparts for fostering a conducive environment for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

A representative of UNCHR, Raymond Tagle was also present at the MoU signing ceremony and congratulated both agencies on the envisioned partnership. Pakistan has a long history of hosting

Afghan refugees, dating back to 1979. Since then, millions of Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan. Even today, Pakistan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world. To streamline the process of coordination the "Commissionerate Afghan Refugees" (CAR) was established in 1979 with the mandate for refugee camp management and to facilitate access to health and education services, skills training for livelihood opportunities, and helping refugees in voluntary repatriation.

## Govt. will generate 60 bn more revenue with existing tax rates on Tobacco Products

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Health activists have urged the government to remain steadfast on its decision to double the Federal Excise Duty (FED) on Cigarettes. In a press release shared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), health activists shared that this decision can solve Pakistan's financial dejection, provided that the government is not misled by the tobacco industry's misinformation campaign.

Malik Imran, country head, Campaign for tobacco-free kids (CTFK), mentioned that tobacco induced disease causes an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP. Although tobacco industry is one of the major tax payers but the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is 120 billion.

Therefore, the industry can't claim that it is fulfilling the duty. An industry which is causing such severe damage to people's health and finances, should not use victim card that it is being 'burdened' by taxes. Therefore, instead of listening to the misinformation spread by tobacco industry, everyone must appreciate government's decision which is in interest of Pakistan's health and economy. And the government must be consistent about the decision it took on tax increase regarding tobacco products because existing tobacco taxes can generate 60 bn more in revenue.

Imran also mentioned that in order to gain sympathies tobacco industry uses emotional tactics e.g., provider for poor families etc. Reality is that the deadly products of tobacco industry are snatching people's precious resources.



es. He mentioned that on average Pakistani smokers spend 10% of their monthly income on cigarettes. Therefore, this increase will make cigarettes go out of reach of low-income citizens and children, thus saving them for its harms.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager (SPARC) said that illicit trade is a harsh reality however its percentage is far less than the figure claimed by the industry.

This is a cover used by tobacco industry to divert people from the under-reporting. These companies under-report their production and then sell their non-reported products in the illicit market, causing a loss in billions of rupees to the national exchequer. Furthermore, illicit trade is not an excuse because industry is making deadly non-essential products. Consequently, it should have no qualms in paying the taxes.

Two wrongs don't make a right. Yes, the government needs to counter illicit trade but it also needs to increase the taxes on tobacco companies.

Khalil mentioned that increasing FED in February was a good step which shouldn't remain a onetime activity. Keeping World Health Organization's recommendation in consideration, Pakistan should increase taxes on regular intervals so that inflation and per capita income is accounted for and Pakistanis remain protected from harms of tobacco products.

## Chief Commissioner RTO to form Tax Advisory Committee to address issues of taxpayers

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Khurshid Ahmed Khan Marwat, Chief Commissioner, Regional Tax Office Islamabad said that he would provide all possible cooperation to facilitate the taxpayers in tax compliance and announced to form a Tax Advisory Committee (TAC) comprising representatives of ICCI and RTO to address the issues of taxpayers. He said that TAC would hold monthly meetings to facilitate the taxpayers. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Freedun Akram Shaik and Said Munaaf Commissioners RTO accompanied him at the occasion.

Khurshid Ahmed Khan Marwat said that POS would stay and said that ICCI should cooperate in expanding its coverage to bring new taxpayers in this system.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the Chief Commissioner RTO about the tax issues of the business community. He welcomed the formation of ATC as it would help address hardships of taxpayers. He said that FBR should provide a level-playing field for integration of businesses with POS. Otherwise, the survival of POS integrated businesses would be in danger. He said that FBR should introduce incentives for taxpayers in proportion to their tax contribution that would help promote tax culture.



Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI highlighted the high tax rate on rental income and input issues of steel industry and said that FBR should address these issues. He said that FBR should promote a friendly taxation system that should help promote business activities and improve tax

revenue. Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that RTO the practice of issuing notices to taxpayers should be avoided and RTO should take ICCI on board before taking action against any taxpayers to resolve such issues amicably.

Mian Muhammad Ramazan Chavner ICCI Tax Committee, Zahid Hussain Chairman Pakistan Furniture Association, Mian Waqas Masud, Khalid Chaudhry and others also highlighted tax issues of various sectors and gave proposals to simplify the tax system.

### CDC engages industry stakeholders on the new eVoting related amendments in Companies Regulations, 2018 by SECP

**News Desk**

KARACHI: SECP has recently made amendments in the Companies (Postal Ballot) Regulations, 2018 whereby the right to vote through electronic voting facility must be provided to members of every listed company for all businesses classified as special business under the Companies Act 2017.

These amendments have especially been introduced to add greater value to the shareholders for their maximum participation by facilitating them to cast their votes with the accessibility of e-voting system from anywhere in the world, thus bringing greater ease and transparency in the election/polling process while reducing/eliminating paper-based working at the issuer(s) end.

Being the leading Share Registrar Service partner, CDC Share Registrar Services Limited (CDCSR), a wholly owned subsidiary of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited, recently conducted a series of awareness sessions regarding these recent amendments, held at CDC's Karachi and Lahore Offices with representatives of listed companies.

These sessions, hosted by CDCSR representatives, included a detailed presentation, system demo and Q&A sessions. It must be highlighted here that CDCSR, being a proactive industry leader, has already been providing e-voting services since 2018 and is therefore fully capable of optimizing the challenges faced by capital market stakeholders due to the subject amendments.

These sessions were successful as the companies showed their confidence and willingness to opt for the e-voting solution offered by CDCSR for their upcoming events. CDCSR has successfully extended its eVoting facility to leverage the shareholders of National Bank of Pakistan, Faysal Bank Limited, United Bank Limited, Askari Bank Limited, Allied Bank Limited, Saqar Engineering Works Limited & Synthetic Products Limited etc.

# UAE leadership invites PM to COP28

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and delivered an invitation to him from his country's leadership to attend COP28, which is scheduled to be held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023.

The prime minister thanked the leadership of United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the invitation. He also expressed his gratitude for their support in relief efforts in the wake of devastating floods in Pakistan last year.

The PM appreciated the UAE's role in combating climate change and expressed the hope that the UAE's stewardship of COP28 would yield meaningful outcomes for countries like Pakistan, which were the most vulnerable to climate change.

Recalling his successful visit to the UAE in January this year, the prime minister emphasised that it was the common resolve of the leadership of both countries to translate the fraternal bonds into mutually rewarding economic ties.

He also stated that the UAE was home to 1.7 million Pakistanis, who were contributing to the progress, prosperity and economic development of the two brotherly countries.



# Iranian Ambassador bids farewell to Speaker National Assembly

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan His Excellency Seyed Mohammad Ali called on Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf today at the Parliament House. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, including strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields, promoting regional peace and security, and enhancing trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Iran.

Speaker Ashraf congratulated Seyed Mohammad Ali on his successful diplomatic assignment in Pakistan and appreciated his contributions in further strengthening the brotherly ties between the two countries. He expressed gratitude to the Supreme Leader and President Raisi for their continued support to the Kashmir cause and assured Iran



of Pakistan's support on its core issues, including the JCPOA and human rights issues.

The speaker felicitated the Iranian

Ambassador on the revival of Iran and Saudi Arab diplomatic relations. Under-scoring Pakistan's close fraternal relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia, he

termed it as a positive step that would lead to improving regional peace and stability as well as increasing cooperation among Muslim countries to overcome the current challenges faced by Muslim Ummah.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to fighting terrorism, which poses a common threat to both Iran and Pakistan, through joint concerted efforts.

Both sides also agreed to hold an Iranian art/photo exhibition at the Parliament displaying rare manuscripts of Holy Quran and other sacred documents. The event would be in continuation of golden jubilee celebratory activities of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan passed in 1973.

The Speaker concluded by thanking Seyed Mohammad Ali for his productive and fruitful tenure in Pakistan and wished him all the best for his next diplomatic assignment.

# Shah urges G-20 nations to boycott its upcoming event being hosted by India in IoK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader and chairman Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has urged the member countries of G-20 to boycott its upcoming event being hosted by India in the UN recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the Indian government's nefarious designs behind the move, Shah said that the Indian government's motive behind arranging the G-20 meeting in Srinagar and Leh was an attempt to hoodwink the international community.

"New Delhi, which in brazen violation of the UNSC resolutions had unilaterally and unlawfully changed the special status of Kashmir in 2019, has since then been remorselessly peddling lies to be-fool the global community on Kashmir", the illegally detained leader said, adding that Modi government's motives behind holding the G20 Summit in Kashmir was to deflect world attention away from the simmering situation in the region and white wash crimes its forces have been committing against Kashmiris.

Urging the G-20 countries to take a holistic review of the prevailing situation



in the region, he said that it was high time that the member countries of the highest forum should realize the Indian government's motives and the meeting's

far-reaching consequences on the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for the right to self determination.

"We hope that members of the Group will not allow the Indian government to use this meeting to project its baseless normalcy narrative without giving due thought to what has been happening in the region for the past several decades", he said.

In view of the highly volatile situation, Shah expressed the hope that the G-20 countries would revisit their decision and boycott the upcoming event to reinforce their commitment to a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

# Caretaker CM has sought a report from CCPO



News Desk

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has sought a report from CCPO Lahore about the injury of a youth due to kite twine and extended displeasure over kite-flying incidents. He ordered departmental action against those who are responsible for the negligence that led to the incident, adding that such incidents are unfortunate. He directed the strict implementation of a law prohibiting kite-flying across Punjab and asserted that an effective crackdown should be done against those violating the law.

# Caretaker CM conducts a surprise visit of Sabzazar Model Bazaar

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi made a surprise visit to Sabzazar Model Bazaar today. Mohsin Naqvi inspected the distribution process of free flour. The citizens made complaints with regard to the closure of a few centers in the city. Mohsin Naqvi took notice of the closure of few centers in the city and ordered the administration to immediately open up the closed free flour centers. Caretaker CM stated that the closed flour centers should be opened up for the facilitation of citizens forthwith because due to the closure of few centers public rush on other centers has increased. Mohsin Naqvi remarked that he went on a visit to inspect free flour centers in the city and few centers were found to be closed down on which he issued directions to the administration with regard to promptly opening up the closed centers. Caretaker CM talked with a few men and women present in the Sabzazar Model Bazaar and inquired from them about the provision of free flour. Few citizens made complaints about non-verification of their CNICs on which Mohsin Naqvi ordered to promptly redress their complaints forthwith. Mohsin Naqvi himself got the registration of CNICs of few men and women present in the model bazaar. Mohsin Naqvi appealed to the citizens to make a queue and directed the verification staff members to complete the flour distribution process in the least span of time. Mohsin Naqvi directed that the elderly citizens should be ensured provision of free flour without any delay.

# Caretaker CM, approval for holding sports competitions in the schools, colleges

Bureau Report

LAHORE: On the special direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, approval for holding sports competitions in the schools, colleges, universities and at the club level has been granted. Sports competitions will be held at the tehsil, district, division and provincial level across the province. Cricket, hockey, football, volleyball and athletics competitions will be held in the sports event which will continue for one month. Online registration of players and clubs will be made on the site of Punjab Information Technology Board. Caretaker CM sought a comprehensive plan from the Sports Department in this regard. Mohsin Naqvi remarked that the Punjab government wants to provide equal opportunities to the youth to advance forward in the field of sports. Mohsin Naqvi revealed that the hidden talent in the villages and far-flung areas will be brought forward and the winning teams will be awarded with prizes. Caretaker CM presided over a high-level meeting at CM Office in which Provincial Minister for information Amir Mir, Provincial Advisor for Sports Wahab Riaz, Secretary Sports, Secretary Finance, Secretary Information, Commissioner Lahore division, DG Sports Board, Chairman PITB, Deputy Commission Lahore, DG PHA and concerned officials attended the meeting.

# Engineers from different departments of MAPCO saved 6 crores of rupees

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Engineers from different departments of Multan Electric Power Company (MAPCO) saved 6 crores of rupees by making 2 bad power transformers usable under "Apni Madhad Aap". 35,000 liters of transformers oil also visited the reclamation workshop. Kudos to the teams of GSO Sahiwal and GSC branches of CEO MEPCO. Superintending Engineer GSO Sahiwal Circle Syed Javad Mansoor has said.

That the fault of additional 20/26 MVA power transformer placed in 132KV Bongahyat grid station was checked and repaired by the team of GSO Sahiwal circle. The power transformer was put on testing after repair and after repair it was made usable. The GSC team repaired the transformer to provide electricity with better voltage to consumers during Ramadan and summer and to eliminate complaints of overloading. After installed in NTDC 220KV Vahari grid station.

Execin SS&T Vihari Division Shiraz Ghafoor, Execin GSC Khalid Joya, Execin Rana Saifullah Kaleem, Line Superintendent Rana Muhammad Anwar and other officers were also present on this occasion. While the damaged 20/26MVA additional power transformer placed in 132KV Huta grid station was repaired and made usable. This power transformer will be installed in the newly constructed 132KV Moosa Work substation under Khanewal Circle.

About 49 million rupees were incurred for repairing the two power transformers from the manufacturing company, which has been saved and benefited the company, while about 35 thousand liters of transformer oil was also handed over to MEPCO's transformer reclamation workshop for the repair of distribution transformers, which is worth 1 crore 5 lakh rupees. Chief Executive Officer Mapco Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana congratulated SEGSO Sahiwal Circle Syed Jawad Mansoor, Project Director GSC Farhan Shabir Malik and his team.



Pakistan Captain Babar Azam and New Zealand Cricket Team Captain Yom Latham during the Trophy Unveiling Ceremony before Starting the five T-20 matches series.

# Progress on the ongoing development schemes under the Department of Agriculture: Saqib Ali Attil

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil. The progress on the ongoing development schemes under the Department of Agriculture was reviewed. All officers should prove their performance in practice, Saqib Ali Attil Agriculture Department has allocated 5317 million rupees for 49 development schemes of South Punjab, Secretary Agriculture.

South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil has said that the development program of the Department of Agriculture is actually a farmer's development program. The sooner development projects are completed, the sooner the farmer will develop. While addressing the meeting held in the Committee Room of the Agriculture Secretariat to review the progress of the ongoing development schemes under the Department of Agriculture, he added that the timely completion of the annual development projects is my first priority. No

compromise on quality of work and deadlines.

Strict legal action will be taken against the officers who do not complete the agricultural projects by June 30. During the briefing on this occasion, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab was told that the Department of Agriculture South Punjab has a total of 49 development schemes, of which 35 are ongoing and 14 new schemes are included, for which 5317 million rupees have been allocated, of which 45.5% of the funds have been spent. have

been done. The new agriculture development schemes in South Punjab include water management, agricultural extension, research institute for fruits, research, agricultural engineering, cotton research, registration of nurseries.

On this occasion, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil said that all the officers should prove their performance practically in relation to these projects. Closely monitor the development work and ensure 100% correct utilization of funds. He directed all officers

to submit performance reports regarding development schemes regularly and said that all schemes will be monitored. He said that development projects should be completed in a timely and transparent manner.

Any kind of negligence in work will not be tolerated. Additional Secretary Task Force South Punjab Intiaz Ahmed Waraich, Deputy Secretaries Muhammad Iqbal, Dr. Haider Karar and other officers of various wings of the Department of Agriculture participated in the meeting.