



Zardari insists on 'elections in one go'

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari said on Friday that the elections should be held simultaneously. He was giving his remarks while speaking to a private channel, during which he made it clear that none of the political parties were escaping the elections, adding that even there was no issue of somebody's popularity. (Details on Page 8)



BISP budget increased to Rs400 billion

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Shazia Marri announced on Friday that the budget for the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) had been increased from Rs235 billion to Rs400 billion. The BISP is a government program designed to alleviate poverty by providing financial assistance to the most vulnerable and needy families in Pakistan. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

In-camera session

ISLAMABAD: COAS Gen Asim Munir addressing to National Assembly in-camera session.



SC orders SBP to release funds for Punjab, KP elections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) has ordered the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to release funds for elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to sources, the Supreme Court ordered to release of Rs 21 billion for the elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The hearing on the Punjab and KP elections by the three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan was concluded.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) officials has submitted the complete record to the court and the officials from the finance ministry and

State Bank briefed the court on the economic situation and election funds.

Source said that the judges made it clear that the court orders must be implemented, the Attorney General had to face the tough question on the stance of the government.

The Attorney General of Pakistan was in the chamber during the hearing.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) told the court in a letter that they still did not receive the funds to conduct Punjab elections.

The report mentioned lack of funds and security for conducting elections in Punjab. The ECP informed the top court that they didn't receive Rs21 billion yet.

Army dispels impression about new anti-terror operation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir on Friday dismissed the impression regarding the launch of a new operation against terrorism while adding the people of Pakistan were the source of power and they completely trusted the army.

He said the opinion of the masses was evident in the form of the constitution and the parliament.

Addressing an in-camera session of the National Assembly (NA) chaired by Speaker NA Raja Pervaiz, he congratulated the lower house of the parliament on the completion of fifty years of the

promulgation of the 1973 Constitution.

COAS Munir said the parliament and the constitution reflected people's opinion adding that people showed it through the constitution and the parliament. "Sovereignty belongs to Allah and He has vested power in the constitution," he added.

He said the elected representatives should set a direction. "The army will support them in achieving their goals," he added.

The army chief said elected representatives would use the power vested in them by the constitution. He also paid tribute to those who promulgated the 1973 Constitution.

He said the army was not about to launch a new operation but it was a reflection of the unflinching trust of people in the army. "There is no more a no-go area in the country," he added. It was made possible, he said, by the sacrifices paid by martyrs.

COAS went on to say that negotiations with terrorists resulted in their emergence adding that it was a wrong decision to hold talks with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "Intelligence-based operations are being conducted on daily basis to counter terrorism," he added.

He concluded by saying we

should get out of the debate of "New Pakistan" and "Old Pakistan" and should talk about "Our [united] Pakistan".

COAS Munir and Director General Inter-Services Intelligence Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum briefed the participants about the current security situation in the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the police, rangers, and the army for their sacrifices in the war against terror. "The peace reinstated by martyrs' sacrifices was wasted [by the PTI] in four years," he added.

The PM questioned where the amount earmarked for anti-terrorism was spent. He also brought

funds released by provinces for FATA reforms into question.

He resolved to seek answers to funds allocated to KP for security.

Speaking in the NA earlier, the PM had said the lawmakers would be allowed to raise their questions and concerns regarding the security situation at the special session.

As for the concerns of some lawmakers regarding the National Security Committee's decision to launch a military operation against terrorists in areas bordering Afghanistan, the premier assured that their concerns would be addressed and that no such step would be taken which deteriorates the situation.

Khawaja Asif lauds COAS Asim Munir's statement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif lauded the views of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir during an in-camera session of the National Assembly (NA) on Friday.

While addressing an in-camera National Assembly session, Khawaja Asif lauded the COAS General Asim Munir's thoughts and termed it 'very welcoming'.

The defence minister further said that the Supreme Court is resisting the legislation to protect its power, adding that the power should be divided so that democracy should prevail.

He said that the politicians did not interfere in anyone's powers and the Parliament will also not tolerate any interference.

Khawaja Asif said that politics is the domain of political



parties, but politics is happening in the Supreme Court. He said that the justice institution should be strengthened as 51,000 pending cases are awaiting justice for the underprivileged.

Earlier in the day, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Syed Asim Munir said that the Constitution of Pakistan and the Parliament reflect the opinion of Pakistanis.

During an in-camera session of the National Security Committee, COAS Syed Asim Munir said that the nation is the centre of gravity for the state of Pakistan. He congratulated the Parliament and lawmakers on the completion of 50 years of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan.

Imran laments 'establishment's inclination towards government'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Friday said he regretted that the establishment had chosen to stand beside mafia politicians.

Addressing the party members via video link, he said they [the federal government] were destroying the country's system to cover their theft. "They fear that I might come to power," he added.

"They have one-point agenda of only keeping me out of power," he said.

The former PM said they were planning a conspiracy against the Supreme Court (SC). "Members of the National Assembly are using foul language against SC judges," he said.

Mr Khan claimed that they saved themselves Rs1100 billion by constituting amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance. "They are afraid that their

NROs [their tenure in power] might end," he added. PM Shehbaz and his son, he said, were facing a corruption case amounting to Rs24 billion.

He said the PM got cases against him quashed as soon as he came to power adding that four witnesses in the case died. "FIA disposed of the cases against them and started victimising the PTI," he added.

Shahbaz Gill was tortured naked and Azam Swati was booked over tweeting against former COAS Gen (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa. "Mr Swati was beaten in front of his grandchildren and PTI leaders were shown a film showing Mr Swati," he added.

Mr Khan went on to say that police officers who meted torture on us on May 25 were reposted [after the incumbent government came to power]. "We approached the ECP against appointing 22 [biased] officers but the commission finalised their names," he

claimed. ECP chief Sikandar Sultan Raja formed the Punjab caretaker government in connivance with PM Shehbaz, PDM chief Molana Fazlur Rehman, and others, he alleged.

The PTI chief said Punjab interim government committed human rights violations adding that it harmed them in every possible way. "Journalists were beaten," he added. Who beat Arshad Sharif, he asked.

Mr Khan alluded that deceased PTI activist Ali Bilal alias Zille Shah's autopsy report showed that he had suffered torture on 26 places of his body. "Punjab interim government blamed for Shah's death [the PTI claims to be a murder]," he added.

He said the PTI's popularity was on the rise adding that they [federal government] conspired to murder me on accusations of religious extremism. "Elections are the only way out," he added.

Denial of false news report

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Reference an utterly false news report regarding an alleged altercation and scuffle between Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan during their walk in the evening on 13.04.2023 in the Judges' Colony Park. This report has been carried and highlighted through various social media platforms.

The report is hereby refuted in the strongest terms. It is false, mischievous and malicious. No such incident took place. The fake reporting about the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan is a serious violation of the law and represents an effort by disaffected elements to diminish the dignity of the Court and its Hon'ble members.

Reference filed against eight SC judges including CJP Bandial

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A reference was filed in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against eight judges of the Supreme Court (SC) including Chief Justice Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial for 'violation' of Article 209 of the Constitution and the Judges Code of Conduct.

The reference was moved by a renowned lawyer Mian Dawood Advocate against CJP

Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayeed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed over 'violation' of Article 209 of the Constitution and Sections 3 to 6 and 9 of the Judges Code of Conduct.

The CJP 'violated' his code of conduct by fixing a case of a bill passed by the Parliament of Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar says UAE confirms \$1bn support to unlock IMF bailout

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has confirmed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that it will provide support of \$1 billion to Pakistan.

"UAE authorities have confirmed to IMF for their bilateral support of US \$1 billion to Paki-

stan," Dar said in a tweet today. Ishaq Dar added that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was now "engaged for needful documentation for taking the said deposit from UAE authorities".

The move will pave way for Pakistan to unlock the months-long delayed \$1.1 billion IMF loan tranche to shore up the country's struggling economy.

Separately, Dar announced that

the SBP would also receive today the third and last disbursement from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) worth \$300 million.

Saudi Arabia last week had also told the IMF it will provide \$2 billion in financing to Pakistan.

Pakistan has less than a month's worth of foreign exchange reserves and is awaiting a bailout package of \$1.1 billion from the IMF that

has been delayed since November over issues related to fiscal policy adjustments.

To unlock the funding, the government has cut back on subsidies, removed an artificial cap on the exchange rate, added taxes and raised fuel prices.

The IMF's managing director Kristalina Georgieva said the previous day the fund was also in talks with friendly countries

of Pakistan to provide financial assurances so it can complete the programme.

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has hoped that Pakistan won't face Sri Lanka and Ghana-like situations. "Pakistan won't default. It is best not to get there, and currently, we are not there yet," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said at a news briefing in Washington.

70 new Corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Friday said that 70 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 1.89 per cent while 17 patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 3,695 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.

NA Session

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends a session of the National Assembly on Friday.



Photo: PID

NA passes SC review of judgments and orders bill 2023

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Friday passed the Supreme Court Review of Judgments and Orders Bill 2023 which aims at facilitating and strengthening the Supreme Court in the exercise of its powers to review its judgments and orders.

Article 188 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court, subject to the provision of any Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and any rules made by the Supreme Court, to review any judgment pronounced or any order made by it.

The bill moved by MNA Shaza Fatima Khawja of PML-N proposes to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as expressly provided under Article 188 of the Constitution and strengthen the exercise of this power by the apex court.

According to the statement of the objects and reasons of the bill, it is necessary to ensure that fundamental rights to justice by providing for meaningful review of judgments and orders passed by the Supreme Court in exercise of its original jurisdiction under Article 184.

The bill states that in case

of judgment and orders of the supreme court in exercise of its original jurisdiction under Article 184 of the Constitution, the scope of review on both facts and law, shall be the same as an appeal under Article 185 of the Constitution. It proposes that a review petition shall be heard by a bench larger than the bench which passed the original judgment in order. It suggests that the review petitioner shall have the right to appoint any advocate of the supreme court of his choice for the review petition.

The bill states that the right to file a review petition shall also be available to

an aggrieved person against whom an order has been made under clause (3) of the Article 184 of the Constitution, prior to the recommendation of this legislative piece. It suggests the petition shall be filed within sixty days of the commencement of this legislative piece.

It asks that a review petition may be filed within sixty days of the passing of the original orders. It states that this legislation shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, rules or regulations for the time being in force of the judgment of any court including the supreme court and a high

court.

Speaking on the occasion, Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that legislation is the prerogative of the parliament which has never interfered in the affairs of other institutions. He said this bill will facilitate the litigants and also strengthen the judiciary.

Minister for Power Khuram Dastagir said this piece of legislation does not infringe upon the independence of the judiciary. He said through this legislation, the House wants to ensure that there is greater transparency in the procedures of the apex court.

SAPM Malik urges meaningful Pak-Saudia bilateral collaboration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik recently met with Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, in Islamabad to discuss enhancing bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

During the meeting, Jawad expressed his gratitude for Saudi Arabia's unwavering support to Pakistan and thanked the ambassador for confirming the deposit of the \$2 billion pledged by the Kingdom would take place within the next seven working



days in the SBP account. Both parties showed a commitment to strengthening the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The SAPM highlighted the

significance of Saudi Arabia's assistance and stated that the \$2 billion loan would help Pakistan overcome the ongoing financial crisis.

The Saudi envoy expressed

a keen interest on behalf of the Saudi government to recruit more manpower from Pakistan during the current and next year for various sectors of the kingdom. He stated that the Saudi labor market is continuing to expand, mainly due to the launch of several mega projects under the Saudi Vision 2030.

While highlighting the diverse business landscape in Pakistan, the SAPM expressed that Pakistan has a lot to offer in both the goods and services sectors and can immensely gain from exports to the Gulf. He commended the Kingdom's commitment to providing enhanced employment opportunities for the Paki-

stani workforce in its future development ventures, as well as the valuable contributions of Saudi FDI in boosting the country's economic outlook.

During the meeting, both dignitaries engaged in fruitful discussions on further strengthening of bilateral business relations, recruitment of more workforce from Pakistan, and enhancing FDI in potential sectors of the economy. Both the Saudi Ambassador and SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik expressed confidence that their discussions would pave the way for a new era of deeper and more meaningful collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Fawad claims government pressurising judiciary

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senior leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Friday that steps were being taken to dissolve the Supreme Court as an institution while adding this behavior was unacceptable.

Talking to Twitter he said the people and lawyers were standing with the judiciary and the orders of the court should implemented immediately while adding parliament could not stop the spending of the elections under another 81.

In his another Tweet, he said various unimportant petitions were being filed against the chief justice of the Supreme which was shameful mentioning that Maryam Nawaz was leading all these efforts to defame the judiciary.

BISP budget increased to Rs400 billion

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Shazia Marri announced on Friday that the budget for the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) had been increased from Rs235 billion to Rs400 billion.

The BISP is a government program designed to alleviate poverty by providing financial assistance to the most vulnerable and needy families in Pakistan.

During the conference, Ms Marri revealed that nine million families were currently enrolled in the program, and the stipend provided under BISP was increased from Rs7,000 to Rs8,750.

She also noted that the number of families receiving Benazir Education Wazif (scholarship) increased from Rs2.6 million to Rs7.1 million.

Additionally, the Benazir



Development program was expanded across Pakistan, with 474 facilitation centers established nationwide.

Ms Marri expressed concern about the inflation faced by the poor and middle-class due to the current government's policies,

and highlighted that Rs70 billion was distributed to 2.8 million flood-affected families in the country.

She also announced that the transgender community was included in the BISP program, and encouraged them to register

themselves at the tehsil offices of the BISP.

The increased budget and expanded coverage of the BISP program would provide much-needed support to millions of families across the country.

Zardari insists on 'elections in one go'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari said on Friday that the elections should be held simultaneously.

He was giving his remarks while speaking to a private channel, during which he made it clear that none of the political parties were escaping the elections, adding that even there was no issue of somebody's popularity. "The only concern over elections is their timing," he said.

In terms of negotiations, the PPP had constituted the committee, he said, adding that the committee would first hold talks with the allied parties. "Doors [for negotiations] are never closed in politics," he maintained.

Speaking about the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr Zardari said the United Arab Emirates vowed to provide \$1 billion.

Drawing a line of demarcation between himself and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, Mr Zardari said, "There is a difference between mine and Imran Khan's domicile. My domi-



cile is weaker. The battle in Punjot-atoab is harming the entire country."

He took a dig at Mr Khan saying, "Imran Khan is not popular, but increasing poverty provides him with an advantage".

On Thursday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The Prime Minister welcomed both the PPP stalwarts at the PM House. During the meeting, the leaders discussed in detail the prevailing political situation in the country.

According to sources, the Prime Minister also held consultation with the PPP top leadership on the recent decision of the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on the elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Fahd Haroon for creating indigenous digital platforms to harness youth potential

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Public Communication and Digital Platforms Fahd Haroon on Friday stressed the need for local application development and entrepreneurship opportunities in order to harness Pakistan's digital potential.

Speaking at an Iftar gathering arranged by a telecom company, Haroon said that most countries relied on their own digital ecosystems, and Pakistan should follow it as this would encourage local application developments and entrepreneurship opportunities.

He said that digital platforms were the building block of economic diplomacy and create job and entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth of Pakistan. Indigenous platforms can develop future markets for Pakistani talent, products, and services, he added.

Pakistan's population of 232 million



consists mostly of youth, Haroon said, while urging public and private sectors to jointly harness this potential.

He said: "As per the Online Labour Observatory, Pakistan is the third-largest human resource contributor in the freelancing world." Pakistan has a share of 12% of human resources that contribute to the various strata of the freelancing world."

He also highlighted the importance of developing and harnessing the creative economies of Pakistan, which are major drivers of economic growth in many countries.

Opposition alliance nominates Chaudhry Yasin as candidate for AJK PMship

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Muzaffarabad witnessed a political buzz on Friday as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) announced its candidate for the Prime Ministership of Azad Kashmir.

Chaudhry Yasin was nominated by PPP, and it was expected that he would be the unanimous candidate for all opposition alliances, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN). The sources confirmed that the election of the prime minister of Azad Kashmir would be held tomorrow, and the schedule for the election would be released today.

The nomination of Chaudhry Yasin as the PPP's candidate for the premiership of Azad Kashmir indicates the party's strong desire to gain

control of the region.

Chaudhry Yasin is the president of PPP Azad Kashmir and is considered a seasoned politician. On the other hand, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) nominated Chaudhry Rashid as its candidate for the prime ministership of Azad Kashmir.

However, due to factionalism within the party, the name of the candidate for leader of the house could not be agreed upon.

The names of Khawaja Farooq, Dewan Chughtai, Azhar Sadiq, and Chaudhry Rashid were under consideration by PTI.

The election of the prime minister of Azad Kashmir would determine the political landscape of the region, and it remains to be seen who would emerge as the victor.

PMD forecasts rainy spell from April 15

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted a series of rains from April 15 till next Thursday across the country and has advised the farmers to look after their crops accordingly with the change of weather.

PMD cautioned that the rains, which are expected along with dust-thunderstorms, may damage the standing crops especially wheat crops in the span of April 15 to April 20, 2023.

Moreover, Pakistan's chief meteorologist has attempted to allay fears of widespread flooding for the second consecutive year, saying "normal rain-fall" was expected between July and August 2023.

Dusty thunderstorms along with heavy rains are expected to appear in the upper parts of the country

from April 15 including Neelum valley, Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur, Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche and Shigar from the eve of April 15 till April 20 in occasional gaps. Chitral, Dir, Swat, Manshera, Buner, Kohistan, Shangla, Haripur, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan, Bajaur, Murree, Galiyat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal and Jhelum are also likely to see rains over the same period.

The rains with isolated hailstorm is likely to enter between April 17 to April 18 in Kurram, Waziristan, Kohat, Karak, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Qila Saifulah, Qillah Abdullah, Chaman, Pishin, Ziarat, Sibbi, Naseerabad, Khuzdar, Kalat and Makran.

Hafiz Naeem meets Tessori, expresses reservations over digital census

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman along with a delegation called on Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori over the issue of the underreported population of Karachi in the ongoing census. The meeting took place at the Sindh Governor House, here on Friday. Following the meeting, the two sides held a joint press conference and expressed their views on the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, Engr Naeemur Rehman reiterated his basic demand that each and everyone living in Karachi should be counted as Karachiites.

The JI leader said that the delegation shared all the concerns over the ongoing census. He said that each and every citizen has the right to confirm if he or she has been counted in the enumeration or not. In this regard, he said, citizens should be given access to the data which is not rocket science in this age.



On the occasion, he suggested constituting a stakeholders committee, comprising stakeholders of the city to oversee the census. He said the population of Karachi is being underreported under a designed and well-deliberated conspiracy to usurp its rights and to provide a lifeline to feudalism prevailing in the province and particularly the top brass of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), according to a press release.

He said that the due rights of Karachi

and Karachiites in resources and quotas for jobs and education as well as representation in the lower and upper houses of the legislature will be compromised very badly if the population is not counted properly in the census.

Engr Naeemur Rehman said that the JI had raised the same objections over the 2017 census but the Muttahida Qaumi Movement and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had notified the flawed results while chanting the mantra of the

next census and once again the population of Karachi is being counted in half in the name of digital census.

Gover Sindh Kamran Tessori while talking to the media said that the JI has shared its concerns over the ongoing census procedure. He said that other political parties too share the concerns about flaws in the census and all the reservations by political parties should be addressed.

Tessori said that the concerns of the JI and other political parties will be resolved. He said that he, in the capacity of a governor, has already written a letter to the federal planning minister, Ahsan, asking him to resolve the prevailing issues and to extend the date for enumeration till all the issues are not resolved.

The JI delegation also presented some gifts to the governor and expressed their hope that the governor will also play his due role in resolving other issues concerning the federal government.

CBD Punjab Boulevard and Underpass Project underway to provide relief to daily commuters



News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has been prioritizing the development of the CBD Punjab Boulevard and Underpass project. With the directives of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, the project is being fast-tracked to provide maximum relief to the general public in their daily commute.

Mr. Imran Amin, CEO of CBD Punjab, visited the CBD Punjab Boulevard and Underpass site to review the progress of the project. During his visit, he lauded the efforts of the CBD Punjab team and contractor National Logistic Cell (NLC), for making the main underpass and adjoining roads functional for traffic.

The construction of Ali Zaib Road barrel raft concrete pouring is currently in progress and will be completed soon. The Ali Zaib Road barrel will be a gift for the general public. To combat environmental hazards, CBD Punjab is also planting 10,000 plants in the vicinity of the project which will have a clean and green impact on the project.

Several high-ranking officials of CBD Punjab, including Executive Director Commercial Mr. Mohammad Omer, Executive Director Technical Mr. Riaz Hussain, Director Project Management Mr. Asif Iqbal, and senior officials of CBD Punjab and NLC were also present during the visit.

The CBD Punjab Boulevard and Underpass project will be a significant development in the province of Punjab. It will provide much-needed relief to daily commuters by easing traffic congestion and improving travel times. The project will also benefit the environment by planting thousands of trees in the vicinity, making it a sustainable initiative.

Karachi Arts Council organized 'Mahfil-e-Milad-ul-Nabi'



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and Halqa-e-Fikro Nazam organized "Mahfil Milad-ul-Nabi" as a series of tributes to Khurshheed Iqbal Haider at Hasina Moin Hall in which Abdul Haseeb Khan, Hammad Ali, Sultan Ahmed, Nadeem Hashmi took special part. On this occasion, Professor Dr. Sajida Parveen gave a special speech on the virtues of Ramadan, Almas Nayab, Noreen Afzal, Sana Ali, Naila Sami, Hafsa Baloch, Anmul Khan, Azizuddin Khaki, Tahir Sultani, Hafiz Zakauddin, Huma Kanwal, Kashf Anwar and Sahibzada Syed Moin Farid presented Naat Rasool Maqbool (peace be upon him) while engineer Muhammad Faizan Khan performed the duties of Moderator. In the end, Shahida Khurshheed Kanwal, the chairperson of the Halqa-e-Fikro Nazam thanked all the attendees, including the President of the Arts Council, Muhammad Ahmad Shah, for their full cooperation.

Sikas hail special lodging, security in Gurdwara as they perform Baisakhi

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Thousands of Sikh pilgrims on Friday came across the world has expressed their profound satisfaction over the extraordinary boarding lodging arrangements besides lauding the other modern facilities extended by the Government of Pakistan at their Baisakhi festival in Gurdwara Panja Sahab Hassanabdal. On this occasion, the Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khuram Ali accompanied with District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, SP Investigation Attock Mst. Jawaria Muhammad Jameel, ASP Sundus Ishaq, DSP Syed Kazim Shah visited Gurdwara Panja Sahab Hasan Abdal to review the security arrangements and instructed their staff on duty.

The officials deployed there were also directed that they perform their duties diligently and the respect of the Sikh pilgrims is very important, he directed. The Sikh devotees from India performing their religious rituals had a busy day here Friday when they were being travelled to Gurdwara Panja Sahab Hassanabdal amid police escort. The law enforcement agencies and the officials of the Endowment Department have gone along and taken them out of Gurdwara Panja Sahab and counted them in a line and sent them to Vali Kandahari. Sundus Ishaq, DSP Hassanabdal Syed Kazim Shah Mungal supervised the process.

Security forces officials met local dignitaries & Ullamas in Tehsil Kulachi

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: security forces met with local dignitaries, elders, elected representatives of local government, youths and Ullams of Tehsil Kulachi area of DI Khan district.

The meeting was attended by a large number of dignitaries of Tehsil Kulachi, who appreciated the efforts of the security forces for peace and prosperity in the area during the discussion.

However, the role of local residents, the cooperation of local people with security forces, the role of local people, ullams and youth in peace efforts, the withdrawal of terrorists from the land, and the restrictions on their land are included.

Entry into villages, denial of logistical support to terrorists, role of elders for creating a healthy society and peace in the area, as well as elected members for the development and prosperity of the area were discussed.

The participants of the meeting expressed full confidence in the security forces and promised all possi-



ble cooperation for the peace of the region. While participants stood, are stand-

ing and will continue to stand side by side with Pakistan Army, FC South and other security agencies.

Further participants also said that we will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice for the country and region.

Etihad Town Phase II celebrates the groundbreaking ceremony of a new mosque

News Desk

LAHORE: The Etihad Group recently celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony of a mosque in its latest project Etihad Town Phase II. The ceremony was attended by the Etihad Group's sponsors including Mr. Raheel Munir, Mr. Faisal Khokhar, Mr. Nabeel Khokhar & Mr. Sohail Munir, along with the company's senior management, and their strategic sales partners and clients.

The mosque will be a landmark feature of Etihad Town Phase II and will provide a spiritual center for the community.

Following the ceremony, guests were invited to enjoy a traditional iftar at Faletti's Hotel, a luxurious hotel located in Lahore.

While addressing the attendees, Mr. Faisal Khokhar congratulated Etihad Town Phase II management and said building a mosque in the heart of Etihad Town Phase II will create a sense of unity and will foster



community living among the residents.

On the occasion, Etihad Group COO Mr. ShujaUllah Khan stated

that as the project continues to develop, the state-of-the-art mosque will become a central part of the community. He added that Etihad Town

Phase II is committed to creating a thriving, vibrant community that is built on the principles of unity, inclusivity, and respect.

Governor Punjab inaugurate PM Electric Wheelchair Scheme for special students

Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman participated in the ceremony of Prime Minister Pakistan Electric Wheelchair Scheme for special University Students Phase 3 organized by Higher Education Commission at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur today. He also inaugurated 10 new buses for the Islamia University of Bahawalpur transport fleet during his visit to the University.

Addressing the ceremony the Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman has said that the provision of educational facilities to special students is to ensure the promo-

tion of education on priority basis as per the vision of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that special students are undoubtedly useful and active citizens of the society. Provision of electric wheelchairs by the government to these students will definitely help them in their academic and other activities. He said that this is a much significant step on behalf of the Higher Education Commission. He said that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is playing an exemplary role in providing facilities for special students. The Governor also praised the expansion and development of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob for the welfare of students,

especially the provision of facilities for special students.

As the Federal Minister of Education, he ensured provision of 850 million rupees for the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, 550 million rupees for Bahawalnagar Campus, and 750 million rupees for Rahim Yar Khan Campus and these projects were completed during this period. Establishment of Women's University in Bahawalpur, establishment of Cholistan Veterinary and Animal University, campus of Allama Iqbal Open University and also new colleges and polytechnic colleges were very useful steps for the development of this area. Vice-Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that Governor Punjab and Chancellor Engineer

Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman's deep interest in teaching, research and development projects in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur are very important.

Among them, 20 electric wheelchairs are being given to the students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and other institutions in today's ceremony. Governor Punjab and Chancellor Engineer Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman along with Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob inaugurated 10 new buses for the University Transport Fleet. On this occasion Chief Transport Officer Khalil ur Rehman said that the transport fleet of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in all campuses. Apart from the cities, it is providing transport facility to the students of the



suburbs. The University has purchased 10 new buses from its own resources. Governor Punjab while appreciating this initiative said that it is a very good initiative to provide comfortable and safe travel for students. Vice Chancellor Sadiq Women University Dr. Saigal Intiaz, Director HEC Lahore Ghafoor Ahmed Chaudhry, Principal Sadiq Public School David Dawoodals, former MPA Fauzia Ayub, Dr. Rana Muhammad Tariq, Mian Shahid Iqbal, Dean Faculty, teachers and students participated in the ceremony.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4: 12 am
Zohr 12: 08 pm
Asr 4: 46 pm
Maghrib 6: 38 pm
Isha 8: 05 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

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666
CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6

CM chairs meeting about GCMS

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office to deliberate on the matters about the Government Central Model School (GCMS) in Lahore.

During the meeting, it was decided to grant the school the status of a centre of excellence. As part of this initiative, the school will admit only the best students and a three-member committee has been formed to develop the admission criteria. The committee will comprise the chairman of the BISE Lahore, the commissioner of Lahore, and the secretary of the school education department. They will work together to devise an admission test procedure that will ensure that only the most qualified students are admitted to the GCMS. Successful students will be given admission and a special package. The CM stated that experts would be approached to revamp the historic school building and devise a procedure for conducting O-Level and A-Level classes.

The meeting was attended by several high-ranking officials, including provincial ministers Mansoor Qadir, Amir Mir, and Dr Jawad Akram, Adviser Wahab Riaz, the commissioner of Lahore, the secretaries of finance, school, and C&W depts, the MD of Punjab Daanish Schools & Centers of Excellence Authority, the chairman of the BISE Lahore, and others.

Dialogue only way to all crises faced by country: Gillani

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party senior leader Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Friday said dialogue was the only solution to all the problems and crises being faced by the country.

They had taken an initiative to bring all the political parties as per the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and former president Asif Ali Zardari, to the table, he added.

He was addressing a press conference after a meeting with senior leader of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Muhammad Hashim Notezai. Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira were also present on the occasion.

Gillani said the PPP strongly believed that the political forces could address all the challenges being faced by the country through democracy and reconciliation.

After taking all the allies of the government, the PPP would approach the opposition parties for a meaningful dialogue,



he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would also be taken into confidence on the matter, the PPP leader said.

Muhammad Hashim Notezai said the BNP strongly believed in democracy and the supremacy of the Constitution.

He welcomed the PPP delegation on

behalf of the BNP and said dialogue should be started among the political parties as it was the only way to diffuse tension in the country.

Hashim Notezai expressed hope that the dialogue process initiated by the PPP leaders would come to a logical end and pave the way for long-lasting stability.

Besakhi Mela

HASSANABADAL: A Police personal holding gun stand guard to maintain security during 'Besakhi Mela' at Gurdwara Panja Shaib in City.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Islamic Calligraphy Exhibition Opens at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized an exhibition of Islamic calligraphy on the occasion of Holy Month Ramazan in collaboration with Vesocpk. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Naheed Manzoor and Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. The exhibition consists of artworks of Quranic verses, Names of Allah and Names of the Prophet, which will continue on April 16. Chief guest Naheed Manzoor said that calligraphy is a completely Islamic art that begins with divine revelation of Holy Quran.



Since Ramazan is the month of revelation of the Holy Quran, the importance of writing the Quran increases even more for

Muslims. All the artists have expressed their great love for Islam through their works of art. I pray that Allah Ta'ala will

increase his passion more, she added. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that the calligrapher has written the Quranic verses so beautifully that the viewer wakes up in awe. The name of writing the words in the colors of aesthetic taste and passion with a pen on the canvas is calligraphy, and when the calligrapher borrows the same words from the Qur'an, Hadith and spirituality, this art is woven into the ancient traditions of calligraphy. In addition to Nastaliq, Kufi, Diwani, and Thulth, world-class works of art in the exhibition enthralled the participants.

Hamdard Foundation successfully completes Ramazan campaign to provide ration to needy families

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) successfully concluded its annual campaign to provide ration to needy and desperate white-collar families during the holy month of Ramazan a few days ago. Over 8,000 underprivileged families were provided with Hamdard ration bags throughout the campaign.

As per the details, the process of distributing ration to needy families across the country began on the 1st day of Ramazan, as is customary each year. This initiative was undertaken under the guidance of Ms. Sadia Rashid, the President of HFP, and supervised by Director Syed Muhammad Arsalan. Teams comprised of Hamdard workers distributed ration bags to those in need in major cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and Quetta as well as the surroundings of these



cities and rural areas of the country. Each ration bag contained enough essential food items such as flour, rice, pulses, spices, dry milk, tea packets, Rooh Afza bottles, and other necessities

to last a family of five to six people for the entire month of Ramazan.

HFP provides ration bags to people every year. However, due to the severity and devastation caused by the 2022

flood, as well as the alarming increase in inflation in the country, HFP increased the quantity of ration bags, as per the instructions of Ms. Sadia Rashid, to assist more than 8,000 families in this difficult time. Philanthropy is a fundamental value of Hamdard Pakistan. This is why HFP initiates numerous philanthropic activities each year. In accordance with the World Health Organization's theme for 2023, HFP has organized month-long activities under the title "Health for All," as HFP is a partner organization of the WHO.

Throughout the campaign, the Hamdard workers ensured strict adherence to hygiene and Covid 19 regulations and rules. The desperate and needy families expressed their gratitude and prayed for the long life of Ms. Sadia Rashid, for the elevation of the ranks of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, and for the safety and progress of the country.

CM chairs meeting about jail reforms

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office to discuss prison reforms, with a focus on the proposal for conducting trials of prisoners through video links.

The chief minister instructed for a report to be prepared, based on the recommendations while the attendees also agreed to allow prisoners to offer congregational Fajr and Maghrib prayers. The meeting highlighted that 71 prisoners will be released before Eid-ul-Fitr, thanks to the contributions of philanthropists and the Punjab government to pay for their diyat and fines. It was agreed in principle to provide a video call facility for prisoners, with a pilot project set to begin in Lahore jail within seven days.

The meeting was told about the establishment of model waiting and meeting areas in five model penitentiaries, as well as the offering of TEVTA courses in 10 other prisons. The installation of CCTV cameras in 28 prisons has been completed, with plans to install them in 15 more slammers. A control room has also been set up in the IG office to monitor the facilities 24/7. It was noted that the implementation of video link trials would eliminate the need to transport prisoners to courts. Additionally, open-air gyms have been established in nine prisons, and medical equipment worth Rs 400 million will be purchased for prison hospitals. ACS (Home), secretary finance, IG prisons, chairman PITB and others attended the meeting.

Sherry Rehman calls for unity, generosity during Ramazan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party leader Senator Sherry Rehman took to Twitter on Friday to encourage reflection on personal priorities, behavior, and goals during the holy month of Ramazan.

In a tweet, she urged her followers to be grateful for life's blessings and opportunities and to take time to bring intention to humility.

The senator stressed the importance of extending a hand to others and dropping the divisions that blight the future.

She emphasized the need for personal charity, not always in the form of money, but also through small acts of sacrifice and sharing.

The senator's message is a reminder to the people of Pakistan to remain mindful of their actions and to prioritize compassion and generosity during these challenging times.

Senator Sherry Rehman's tweet serves as a reminder of the importance of reflecting on one's priorities, behavior, and goals, especially during times of adversity.

It also highlights the power of small acts of kindness and personal charity in creating positive change in society.

NUST, BUU (Türkiye) ink



multipronged agreement

City Desk

BURSA/ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST-Pakistan) has signed a multipronged agreement with Bursa Uludağ Üniversitesi (BUU), the largest and one of the leading academic institutions of Türkiye. Dr Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector Research, Innovation & Commercialisation, led the NUST delegation to Bursa to solemnise the partnership on April 10, 2023.

Located in the historic city of Bursa, BUU is home to approximately 70,000 students and enjoys proximity to Türkiye's thriving high-tech industry. The university actively supports the country's largest automotive industry based in Bursa.

Under the newly forged partnership, NUST students could benefit from BUU's expertise and state-of-the-art facilities in several academic and research domains, including automotive, health sciences, food and agriculture. The understanding will also foster collaboration between the two institutions and allow for joint research projects and academic exchanges.

Prof Dr Ahmed Saim Kilavuz, Rector BUU, expressed excitement over working closely with NUST to develop people-to-people interaction and share experiences in developing automotive and health sciences simulation facilities. The agreement is an important step towards strengthening academic and research ties between NUST and BUU, and underscores NUST's commitment to enhancing international collaborations and partnerships.

PepsiCo and Akhuwat Join Hands to Support Communities

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo Pakistan has launched a nationwide Ramazan initiative "Filling Hearts, Outside the Box" with the company's longstanding community outreach partner Akhuwat. Under this initiative, food ration boxes are being provided to communities in need near the company's operations across Pakistan. Akhuwat previously supported PepsiCo Pakistan with the 'Millions of Meals' program that disbursed more than 7.4+ million meals to flood-affected families in 33 districts across Pakistan. The "Filling Hearts" initiative is a heartwarming community support and uplift endeavor that is being implemented with support from the PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo.

PepsiCo and Akhuwat are sharing blessings by disbursing food ration boxes in communities across Muzaffarabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala, Peshawar, Okara, Depalpur, Dadu, Faisalabad, Multan, and Kasur and those residing near the company's manufacturing plants. The ration boxes contain food essentials that can provide three meals for an average family of seven persons for a month, including Ramazan-special items.

Mohammad Khosa, Senior Commercial Director, PepsiCo Pakistan, said, "Filling Hearts is a united effort of the PepsiCo family to give back to our communities and lift others up by sharing our blessings. Food is the greatest unifier that brings families and loved ones together, and our aim through this initiative is to counter hunger in this holy month for communities we work with and in."

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Founder and Chairman of Akhuwat, added, "Akhuwat and PepsiCo Pakistan have had a longstanding relationship based on shared ideals of community service, community uplift, and providing hope and support to those who need it the most in the toughest times."

During Ramazan, the "Filling Hearts, Outside the Box" initiative is a heartfelt collaborative effort to spread smiles among communities through food essentials. Our aim is to multiply the blessings of this month and we are glad to be doing this in partnership with PepsiCo to spread joy."

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Cat Joins Sheikh during Ramazan Prayer

The purpose of writing a few lines is because of a viral video on social media, which become famous all over the world. Muslims and non-Muslims have also appreciated it and are expressing their views about the religion of Islam. In Algeria during Taraweeh prayer, a cat sat on the shoulder of the Imam of the mosque. According to Al Arabia News, this strange incident happened in a mosque in Algeria. The video of which went viral on social media. This heart-wrenching Algerian incident happened to Sheikh Waleed Mehsas, the Imam of the Abu Bakr Siddiq Mosque in Burj Bourij in the north. In the video, the cat can be seen trying to climb onto the shoulder. The Imam Sheikh Waleed Mehsas of the mosque himself supports it with his hand. Sitting on the Imam's shoulder, the cat put its mouth on the Imam's mouth and shortly before the Imam went into Ruku, the cat got down from under his shoulder. Today, the people of the world are surprised why the cat loved the Sheikh Waleed Mehsas so much during the recitation of the Holy Quran. As Muslims, we know that all the creatures in the world worship Allah, we humans don't know. But when the cat did this with Sheikh Waleed Mehsas, people all over the world were surprised. Those who made it viral wrote that the cat joined the Sheikh Waleed Mehsas in the Taraweeh prayer during Ramazan.

The comments of the non-Muslims on this were very beautiful and mind-blowing. As one user wrote in a comment, the cat found peace. One commented that I don't know what to write, what a beautiful feelings. A young person writes that I am not a Muslim but that moment is so deep and admirable. One commented that I am a Christian but I like Islam. One comments that my fatigue is gone. A Christian woman writes that I like Islam. A young non-Muslim writes to confuse the minds of us Muslims that why we are not told about this Islam. One person is liked that there is something in the voice of Imam Sheikh Waleed Mehsas. This voice is very different in this voice there is attraction and magic.

calls to Allah and does righteous deeds and says: I am of the obedient.

(Para 24. Ruku' 19)

Today, let us compare these sayings of Allah with the incident of Imam Sheikh Waleed Mehsas and the cat in Algerian mosque. Then the whole truth comes out. One comment shows that people around the world are thirsty today to teach of Islam. I was compelled by the words of a young man to open up what he said in his comment. "Why were we not told about this Islam?" Today, it is a peaceful walk for Tableeghi Jamaat in the whole world. Elders say that if non-Muslims are present in front of Allah on the Day of Judgment, Allah will ask them the reason for their disbelief. So those people will say that no one has told us anything about this religion of Islam, what is our fault? Then what answer will we Muslims have? Because Allah has not only given the religion of Islam, but Allah made us responsible for deliver the religion to others. Today, our tablighi groups travel to all the countries of the world for this purpose. But this period is so short that it is not possible to convey the word to each Ummah of the Holy Prophet individually in this world. That is why the Jamat make demands that every human being should try according to his strength and invest his life, wealth and time to come out in the way of Allah. That is why the party members say that today people all over the world are eager to join the religion of Islam.

Today, people all over the world are eager to join the religion of Islam. We need to reach them. These few comments show the importance of reaching them. The viral video became the reason why the comments came out. In addition, there are activities of Tablighi Jamaats that travel to foreign countries. It is important to mention one activity that a Tablighi Jamaat went to Holland. And they met a Muslim family. From the details it was found that the family only knew the name of Allah. Other than that they knew nothing. They used to say that we are Muslims. Our forefathers left us Muslims. We don't know anything else about Islam. Their women's were half-dressed; they became surprised when we covered them with sheet of cloth. Further, they used to say who are you? You are our Prophets. So the companions of the congregation used to say that we are also Muslims. And we have come for the education of Islam. The Jamaat says that when we started to return, those peoples were crying and saying that what religion you will teach us in two or three days. You stay here; we give you business and everything. Just teach us religion of Islam. It is also important to mention an incident of the beauty of Islam. A group went to Korea. The non-Muslims there said to the members of the group, "Why your eyes so beautiful are compared to other people's eyes?" So in response, the people of Jamaat would say that we are also human beings like you. This beautification of eyes is due to Kalma Tayyaba in Islam. We read Kalma Tayyaba and this is the magic of Kalma Tayyaba so you are feeling good and beautiful.



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

In addition to the surprise of this incident, there are surprising expressions that have gone viral in the world on social media. It is also being discussed in the Western media. Muslim and non-Muslim people are making their comments viral. The comments of non-Muslims are very attention-grabbing. For example, it is being written regarding social media that the channels of the World posted this video from its Instagram account.

In the Holy Quran Allah says, Translation: And there should be a group among you spread good things among people and prevent them from bad things and believe in Allah (Al Imran-a-12)

And who can speak better than him who made us responsible for deliver the religion to others. Today, our tablighi groups travel to all the countries of the world for this purpose. But this period is so short that it is not possible to convey the word to each Ummah of the Holy Prophet individually in this world. That is why the Jamat make demands that every human being should try according to his strength and invest his life, wealth and time to come out in the way of Allah. That is why the party members say that today people all over the world are eager to join the religion of Islam.

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Amjad Rasmi

G20 countries urged to boycott upcoming event in IIOJK

Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Shabbir Ahmed Shah, and other leaders and organizations have urged the members of G-20 to boycott the upcoming event being hosted by India in the UN-recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shabbir Ahmad Shah in a message sent from New Delhi's Tihar Jail said that the Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government's motive behind organizing the G-20 meeting in Srinagar was to mislead the international community about the ground situation of the occupied territory and peddle its so-called normalcy narrative.

He said that the Indian government has a notorious history of using falsehood as a state policy to achieve its strategic goals, said a press release.

"New Delhi in brazen violation of the UN Security Council resolutions had unilaterally and unlawfully repealed the special status of occupied Kashmir in 2019. Since then it has been shamelessly peddling lies to befool the world community on the situation in occupied Kashmir," he said.

He deplored that Modi government's aim behind holding the G-20 meeting in IIOJK is to deflect world's attention away from the simmering situation in the territory and whitewash the crimes its forces are committing against the Kashmiris.

The APHC leader urged the G-20 countries to take a holistic review of the prevailing situation in IIOJK.

He maintained that it is high time that the member countries of the highest forum should realize the Indian government's nefarious designs and such meetings' 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 added.

Another APHC leader, Devinder Singh Behl, in a statement issued in Jammu said that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and the holding of the G-20 meeting there is a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law.

He said, the only purpose of holding the G-20 meeting in occupied Kashmir is to give an impression to the world that the situation in the territory is normal, but the Modi government cannot mislead the international community through the politics of lies and deceit.

He said that the G-20 countries must realize the nefarious intentions of the Modi regime behind the move and boycott it.

Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, a constituent of APHC, in a statement in Srinagar, said that India was trying to exploit the G-20 to achieve its geopolitical and domestic political objectives.

It said that the G-20 countries need to honour the UN recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and boycott the event to be held in IIOJK.

Tehreek-e-Hurriyat condemned India's move to hold the G-20 meeting in an internationally-acknowledged disputed territory.

Other APHC leaders and organizations including Javid Ahmed Mir, Dr Umer Iqbal Shaikh, Muhammad Aaqib, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Warseen-e-Shuhada Jammu and Kashmir and Pir Panchaal Freedom Movement in their separate statements issued in Srinagar and Jammu said the communal Modi regime is holding the G-20 event in occupied Kashmir to mislead the international community and the Indian Hindus.

The youth of Balochistan: Their problems and the way forward

By: Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin

Balochistan is opined to be the most backward province of Pakistan. It is mainly due to some inherent potential challenges prevalent in this domain, in which inadequate provision of quality education, sheer lack ofadroitness and poor outlook of economic activities to the youth are some of them. Apart from those, this province enjoys some key abstracts or features, such as covering 43pc of the total land with a 6pc of total populace, generating 1.6pc of total revenue cum 5pc of the country's GDP which materialize the fact that this region is not deficient in resources at all, rather it requires a thorough manipulating analysis which could highlight the issues and provide a good note for futuristic fronts.

It is for fact that Balochistan is the most mineral-rich province of Pakistan which requires tech-savvy laborers and political prowess to unearth the resources for the sake of the development of the province. Despite having 771km-long coastline, two great canals, paradise-like valleys, towering mountains, deep ports and geographical boundaries with three countries, the youth of the province are suffering from energy crisis, food shortage and unemployment.

They have no tourist destinations, recreational resorts, play grounds, digital libraries and counselling centers as well. They neither have a central political leadership for proper guidance nor a big city equipped with all basic facilities of life for economic and educational activities, except Quetta.

The youth of the far-flung districts go to Quetta for higher studies, business activities, health

purposes and official needs, which cost quite expensive for them. The youth populace of Balochistan consists of students, farmers, laborers, fishermen and unemployed. The biggest problem of the educated youth is that they lack technical and vocational education. Business-concerned youth is facing energy crisis, inflation and insecurity.

The working class of the province is suffering from low wages and the lack of work-conducive environment at factories. Laymen bear the brunt of poverty and unemployment. Peasantry of the province faces the lack of modern agricultural technology, water scarcity and energy crisis.

Fishing and mining are the most neglected sectors of the province, which needs the urgent attention of the government. The recurrence of enforced disappearances in Balochistan and the closure of educational institutions in protests are major human crises. Similarly, the closure of Iran and Afghan borders due to various regional security reasons is also a huge economic loss for the youth of the province. However, every citizen of the province has fed up with unbridled corruption, unholy nepotism and the growing sense of insecurity.

On the other hand, half of the population of Balochistan consists of women. Due to deep-rooted tribal mores, strict religious beliefs, and social misogynistic behaviors, they have no easy access to health care and education. They need political inclusion, economic equality, social coexistence and state patronage, so that they could use their creative ideas, literary views and technical skills for the sake of provincial development.

In fact, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty and gender apartheid breed crimes and problems. In the era of fifth hybrid warfare, only an unemployed and uneducated youth falls prey to wrong hands, which may prove a threat to the peace of the whole province. However, solution to the problems lies in

adopting democratic attitudes, inclusive economic approach and giving priority to the youth.

Students of the province should be equipped with more and more scholarships, education-friendly environment and financial aids. The government of Balochistan should establish university campuses and digital libraries in all districts of the province. In order to solve problems of the youth, the government of Balochistan should upgrade other cities of the province in line with Quetta, and provide them with all basic facilities of modern life.

Similarly, C-PEC can play an important role in the development of Balochistan, provided the youth is educated and skilled. To end the deteriorating condition of Balochistan, the youth is needed to be educated and skilled for boosting its blue economy and agriculture in best manner.

Indeed, we also have the responsibility to make use of the existing facilities. The youth of the province should consider their ethnic and linguistic diversities as the blessing of God, and play their due role in the construction of the province. Students unions must work for the development of Balochistan, rather than becoming cat's paw for others. They ought to avail themselves of online learning facility.

Prosperous and successful future of the youth of Balochistan lies in availing green energy, micro finance, freelancing, entrepreneurship and E-business. The youth of the province should educate their sisters also because they make whole province educated.

In the end, there is no problem-free place on the earth to live in. Escaping from problems is not wisdom. Wiser are those who have the ability to change problems into opportunities. Those who face problems will succeed in life.

(Writer is Lecturer at Degree College Pishin)

Patents and Pakistan?

Shoaib Aijaz/ Amna Khan

An invention is a product or a technique that, in general, offers a new way of doing something or presents a new technical solution to a problem. A patent is an exclusive right awarded for an invention. Technical details concerning the innovation must be made public in a patent application in order to obtain one.

The resident patent applications are received in a regional context such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, Pakistan, and India. The patent applications of Indian residents are at the top of the list, with the above 23 thousand followed by Iranian residents, one of the regional countries over filed 11,000 patent applications in 2020. Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka are likely to have around 300 to 400 patent applications in 2020.

If make last 4 years' data are available application patents are granted Comparison of Pakistan. In 2020 received 900 applications and granted 304 patents. In 2021 received 993 patent applications and granted 330. In 2022 received and granted patents 195. In recent years 2023 received applications 130 and till now granted 26 patents.

The patent system in Pakistan is governed by the Patents Ordinance, of 2000, and provides a legal framework for the protection of inventions. The purpose of the patent system is to encourage innovation and investment in research and development by allowing inventors to protect their ideas and benefit financially from them.

However, despite efforts to improve the patent system in recent years, Pakistan still faces some challenges in terms of the low number of patent applications and the limited enforcement of patent rights. This can make it difficult for inventors and entrepreneurs to protect their ideas and benefit from their innovations.

The popularity of patents varies by country and region, with some countries having a long history of strong patent systems and others having more

recent systems. In general, developed countries with strong economies and a tradition of innovation tend to have well-established patent systems and a high number of patent applications. For example, countries like the United States, Japan, and Germany are among the top countries in terms of both the number of patents granted and the amount of investment in research and development.

Overall, the popularity of patents continues to grow as the importance of innovation and the role of intellectual property in the global economy becomes more recognized. Pakistan is a developing country with a relatively new patent system compared to other Asian countries. The number of patents registered in Pakistan is lower compared to more developed Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, and China, which have well-established patent systems and a higher number of patent applications.

There are several research studies of the Pakistan Institute of development economics that if Pakistan wants to register more patents. Pakistan must need to improve its research and development there is a need for value addition in R&D for registering Patents.

Pakistan needs to improve their patents process for registration patents in this need to improve Keep up with changing technology—make sure that the patent system is adapting to new and emerging technologies, and that it remains relevant in the digital age.

Encourage public participation—make it easier for the public to search for and review patents, and provide opportunities for individuals to submit prior art or objections to pending patents. And Improve communication with applicants—provide clear and timely updates on the status of their application, and give clear guidance on how to address any issues that arise. Through this need to improve the process of patent registration.

(Author: Shoaib Aijaz: Research Assistant and Mphil scholar (PIDE) & Co: Author Amna Khan: Mphil scholar Economics and Finance (PIDE)

Ukraine says it is finding more Chinese components in Russian weapons

News Desk

Ukrainian forces are finding a growing number of components from China in Russian weapons used in Ukraine, a senior adviser in President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office told Reuters, as Western supplies are squeezed by sanctions.

In "the weapons recovered from the battlefield we continue to find different electronics," said Vladyslav Vlasiuk, who advises the president's chief of staff on sanctions policy.

"The trend is now that there is less Western-made components but more - not hard (to) guess which country - made components. Of course, China," he said via a video call.

China has repeatedly denied sending military equipment to Russia since Moscow's all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The assault triggered Western sanctions, including on sending military and dual-use technology such as microchips that could be used in either ordinary appliances or weapons.

Intelligence gathered by Ukrainian experts from the battlefield and shared with Reuters stated that Chinese-made components were found in a navigation system in Orlan aerial drones that had previously used a Swiss system.

The experts also reported finding



Chinese parts in the fire control system in Russian tanks that had earlier used French-made parts.

Reuters could not independently verify the intelligence, including whether the components mentioned may have been intended for non-military use or whether they were moved to Russia by a third party.

"We're picking (up) a lot of different stuff, China made," Vlasiuk said.

Asked whether Chinese companies had provided parts for Russian military hardware, China's foreign

ministry spokesperson's office told Reuters: "Throughout history, China has launched normal trade cooperation with all countries, including Russia, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit."

"As for military item exports, China has throughout adopted a prudent and responsible attitude. China's position and actions have always been this way."

Naming Names

Vlasiuk said that Ukraine was able to identify some manufacturers or suppliers and share that information with

Western allies.

He named China North Industries Group (Norinco), a Chinese weapons maker, as one supplier and military supplier Xinxing Guangzhou Import & Export Co as another, without saying what they had supplied.

A member of staff at Norinco, who declined to give their name, said the company was "not providing military equipment components to Russia".

Xinxing Guangzhou Import & Export Co did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Russia's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The top U.S. diplomat Antony Blinken last month said China had not "crossed that line" yet of supplying Russia with lethal aid.

However, U.S. officials are watching developments closely and are concerned, in particular, by so-called dual-use products, such as electronics that can be used in, say, a microwave or a missile.

"We and our partner governments are relentlessly focused on restricting Russia's access to key technologies that fuel its brutality in Ukraine," said a senior State Department official. "We will continue to take action to degrade Putin's war machine."

Indonesian Envoy call on Advisor to the PM on Political and Public Affairs



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Adam Tugio paid a courtesy call on H.E. Engineer Amir Muqam, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs/National Heritage and Cultural Division.

During the meeting, the discussion was held on several areas of cooperation, with a particular emphasis on enhancing cultural exchange and people-to-people contact between Indonesia and Pakistan, especially in the fields of education, culture, and tourism to cultivate deeper and better understanding between the people of both countries.

H.E. Engineer Amir Muqam welcomed the future prospects for collaboration between the Embassy of Indonesia and the National Heritage and Cultural Division, underscoring its potential to further strengthening the bilateral and cultural ties between Indonesia and Pakistan.

FPCCI Predicts a Negative Growth Rate in FY23

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has highlighted the glaring anomalies in the fiscal discipline; management of external account and economic growth rate; which are being observed by FPCCI despite the harshest contractionary measures being implemented in Pakistan for the past many months on the dictates of IMF.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stressed that people dealing with the ground realities of Pakistan's economy, i.e. the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan, can see that the economic growth rate of the country will turn into negative by the time FY23 concludes. Based on the data & economic performance of the last 8 - 9 months; i.e. July 2022 - March 2023, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have substantively revised Pakistan's growth rate projections downwards. World Bank has revised it to 0.4 percent; IMF to 0.5 percent and Asian Development Bank to 0.6 percent, he added.

FPCCI Chief, however, maintained that independent economists are projecting the year-end growth rate to be in negative; with millions more added to the unemployment pool, and these estimates are ranging from -1.0 percent to -2.5 percent. This would be the most unfortunate economic scenario for the country in its history and this recessionary cycle would be very hard to break, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has also proposed a broadened tax base and simplified taxation system in the upcoming federal budget 2023 - 24; and, FPCCI, the apex trade & industry body of Pakistan, is ready to resume the practically dysfunctional consultative process with the government nearly on all levels at the moment.

Morocco cancels VAT on Agri products to curb inflation

News Desk

RABAT: The Moroccan government said on Thursday it adopted a decree cancelling the value-added tax on agricultural inputs to help lower prices of fresh produce and other agrifoods.

Food inflation jumped to 20.1% in February, bringing general inflation to 10.1%, a level unmatched since the 1980s.

The measure is in line with efforts to "stem the sources of inflation and higher prices both for farm produce and for agrifood products," Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch said in a statement after the cabinet's weekly meeting.

Morocco has been importing beef cattle from Brazil after it lifted import duty to reduce meat prices.

The country has also restricted tomato exports to Africa and Europe to ensure supply of the domestic market.

Pak Swedish Relations

ISLAMABAD: Swedish Ambassador Henrik Person called on Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Asad Majeed Khan Besides discussing ways to deepen bilateral relations, FS stressed on the early resumption of normal consular services and full facilitation of Pakistani students by the Embassy.



Russia spy links: UK Security Minister alerted over short-selling Viceroy Research

Monitoring Report

LONDON: Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt MP has assured that she will raise the issue of short-seller Viceroy Research and its head Fraser John Perring's Russian state links with Britain's Security Minister Tom Tugendhat MBE.

Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt MP made this assurance after high-profile Labour parliamentarian Liam Byrne told the British Parliament the head of short-selling Viceroy Research and its leader Fraser John Perring has links with the Russian state.

Labour MP Liam Byrne raised the alarm during a debate in the House of Commons and asked the British government to look into the activities of Viceroy Research and its leader Fraser John Perring as a matter of urgency.

Penny Mordaunt MP, who has previously served as Minister of State for the Armed Forces, thanked the Labour MP for raising questions on Viceroy Research's "very important matter".

The Leader of the House of Commons said: "I will ensure that the Security Minister (Tom Tugendhat MBE) has heard his concerns. He is overseeing the strengthening of the architecture in government to identify what is going on behind particular deals."

She said the govt has in recent years "strengthened capacity in government to spot what is going on and to ensure that everyone is wide-eyed about it. I will raise this case with the Security Minister".

Sources have said that the ruling Conservative party's MP and leader of the House of Commons has already raised the issue with the Minister of Security who is looking into the serious concern. The Minister, said the source, has expressed alarm at the revelations in the House of Commons.

Labour MP Liam Byrne spoke in a debate in the parliament during the Business Question time. The Labour MP said the issue of Russian links of Viceroy Research and its leader Fraser Perring was serious in nature and that there should be a proper debate in the parliament.

Addressing his questions to Tom Tugendhat MBE, the Minister for Security, the Labour MP said a debate in the parliament was necessary "on the activities of short-selling attack group Viceroy Research and its leader Fraser Perring".

Liam Byrne said he has been told that Viceroy Research "works hand in glove with Boatman Capital, which launched the short-selling attack on Babcock International while it was overhauling our nuclear submarines". Liam Byrne raised questions

about visits of Fraser Perring to Russia on a frequent basis. He said: "Mr John Fraser Perring is a not infrequent visitor to Moscow, and is now targeting Home REIT, which provides homelessness services, including to homeless veterans. We must ensure that short-selling groups are not another weapon in Putin's arsenal. Where there are links between short-selling attack groups and the Kremlin, we need to know."

Viceroy's methods and ethics have long been called into question over several years. They have been the subject of allegations of plagiarism in the past and successfully sued for fake and defamatory statements. Commissioned by Business Leadership South Africa, Intelidex had reported that Viceroy's Steinhoff report was substantially plagiarised from a report produced by hedge fund Portsea Asset Management. The Intelidex report had said that Viceroy's reporting varies wildly in quality and credibility and appears to interweave false statements into purported facts.

In two major litigation cases in the US and in South Africa, Fraser Perring was accused of conspiring to manipulate stock price, making false, defamatory, deceptive and misleading statements, impersonating personnel and creating fake whistleblowing accounts.



In 2021, the South African Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) fined Viceroy Research LLC and its partners Aiden Lau, Fraser John Perring and Gabriel Bernarde R50 million (\$3.5 million fine) for damaging and false remarks that the short-selling firm made about South Africa's Capitec Bank (SA's then fourth-most valuable bank). The remarks triggered a 25% slump in Capitec's share price in January 2018, wiping out almost R10 billion in value. According to the judgment, Viceroy had an agreement with a hedge fund, Oasis, which made an estimated

profit of R82 million amid the panic selling. The share of Viceroy in the profit from short positions taken by Oasis on Capitec was estimated by the authority to be close to \$744 482 (R10 million at the time), shared equally among the partners. After Viceroy published a report into MPW, JP Morgan reported they had poor quality of research and a lack of understanding of the financial and other details of the businesses they attacked.

German financial watchdog Bafin said Viceroy had breached German securities law and ProSiebenSat.1, the German mass

media company, stated allegations made in a report by Viceroy were "unfounded and distorting reality". Under German law, any entity that is not a securities firm, a fund manager, an EU administrative firm or an investment company that intends to publish recommendations on investments in assets must notify Bafin ahead of time, it said, adding that Viceroy's website did not contain information on where the company was based.

Fraser John Perring himself - who has no financial training or background to speak of - has been described as dishonest by

several reports and was struck off being a social worker due to falsifying records. Perring had been struck off the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC) Register for failing to contact a child's extended family to arrange alternate care and then falsifying case records to cover his failure whilst working for Lincolnshire County Council.

Earlier in March 2023, it was reported that Viceroy Research and Fraser Perring are being reported for market manipulation and wire fraud on Medical Properties Trust (MPW) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the US, Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) in Australia and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in Britain. Since 2019 Viceroy has been based in the US after being convicted and fined for the same crime in South Africa.

Viceroy Research's modus operandi to use dubious investigators, paid journalists and lawyers to use blackmailing tactics in order to pressure people and organisations are now under scrutiny. Lately in one case Viceroy Research used services of a shady private investigation firm "Tacet Global" run by Greg Gillespie who dissolved the company from UK Companies House register soon after a deal was accomplished with Viceroy Research.

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
7,871.91	+28.53
Percentage	Time
+0.36%	14 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,848.08	-181.61
Percentage	Time
-0.53%	14 Apr, 1:17 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
28,493.47	+336.50
Percentage	Time
+1.20%	14 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190	192
Bahrain Dinar	765.43	773.43
Canadian Dollar	213.5	215.5
China Yuan	41.9	42.3
Danish Krone	42.7	43.1
Euro	315	318
Hong Kong Dollar	36.66	37.01
Indian Rupee	3.49	3.6
Japanese Yen	2.2	2.25
Kuwaiti Dinar	940.78	949.78
Malaysian Ringgit	64.96	65.56
New Zealand \$	177.63	179.63
Norwegians Krone	27.93	28.23
Omani Riyal	747.46	755.46
Qatari Riyal	78.6	79.3
Saudi Riyal	76.2	76.9
Singapore Dollar	212.5	213.2
Swedish Korona	27.32	27.62
Swiss Franc	324.33	326.83
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	78.3	79.1
UK Pound Sterling	360	363.5
US Dollar	288	291

Economy should be preferred over politics: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said many people are disappointed with the future of the country due to economic conditions.

Many are trying their best to flee the country in a bid to survive and keep their near and dear ones alive, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that import restrictions are causing a lot of damage to the economy. All commodities are becoming more expensive, businesses are closing, and the eight million people can lose jobs by the end of their year.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the hope of the majority of the people and the business commu-



nity has died, the international ranking of the country is continuously falling, and the people are not able to cope with the inflation. The business leader said that in this scenario,

the statement of MD of IMF is like a fresh breeze as it is being taken as a staff-level agreement. UAE has also assured of loan and in this situation, economy should be preferred over politics.

If need economic and agricultural reforms are ensured that situation could be controlled and masses could be provided relief.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the growth rate for current year was estimated by the government to remain percent, but now according to the IMF it will be only half percent.

IMF says that the unemployment rate will increase from 6.2% to 7%, but according to local experts, the number of unemployed may increase by 800,000 people.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the local and foreign companies are not getting the raw materials while the profits are also not being allowed to be sent abroad due to which they have stopped the new investment

of millions of dollars.

Apart from non-availability of raw materials, issues like devaluation of currency, inflation, lack of dollars, reduced demand are also having devastating effects on businesses.

He noted that the people are getting restless and the country is sinking but we are at the daggers drawn while army is offering sacrifices in war against terror.

Due to infighting, the authorities have failed to provide the country with sustainable socio-economic development, human security, justice, health, education and other facilities and it will not be able to serve if the tensions remained.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the only good news in these circumstances is that the government has somehow saved the country from bankruptcy, but if the opposition's politicking continues, it will be difficult to save the country further.

Non-Muslims enjoy better rights and protection in Pakistan, says Dr. Mahesh Kumar



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted an Interfaith Iftar Dinner in honor of Minister of State for National Health Services Mahesh Kumar Malani which was attended by the representatives of Hindu and Christian communities as well as the members of business community. Chaman Lal, Pritam Das, Ashok Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Om Prakash, Jadesh Kumar, Lal Chand, Lalat Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Raja Javaraj, Besham Kumar, Lajpat, Ramesh Kumar and others were present in dinner.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for National Health Services Mahesh Kumar Malani said that the government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the business community due to import restric-

tions and LC issues. He said that matters with the IMF are progressing positively and assured that soon the LCs issue of the business community would be resolved which would help revive business activities.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, speaking on the occasion, briefed the Minister of State for National Health Services Mahesh Kumar Malani about the major problems of the business community and requested his cooperation to solve them. He said that due to non-opening of LCs, many industries are in danger of closing down and business activities are suffering. He demanded that the government should focus on resolving these issues as soon as possible. He said that the pharmaceutical sector is also facing some problems with the drug regulatory authority, so

the Minister should cooperate in resolving them.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, in his address, paid tribute to the efforts of Minister of State for National Health Services Mahesh Kumar Malani for promoting interfaith harmony and assured that the Chamber would strengthen his hands in these efforts.

Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI thanked Mahesh Kumar Malani, Minister of State for National Health Services for visiting ICCI and hoped that he would help in resolving issues of the business community.

UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari and others also spoke on the occasion and emphasized the importance of promoting interfaith harmony for the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

SAP extends its partnership with Imtiaz Supermarket for seamless operations



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: SAP has joined hands with the biggest retail chain, Imtiaz Supermarket for seamless operations of the latter.

M/s Imtiaz is the biggest retail chain with massive sales and a huge customer base, with almost 14,000 employees, 850K+ customers across Pakistan, and 26 branches across Pakistan.

While the store started off as a small corner shop, it has grown into a retail giant, earning the title of the fastest-growing retail chain in Pakistan.

Asher Zahid, CIO, Imtiaz Supermarket, said on the occasion, "SAP's one-stop solution has enabled us to take advantage of cost efficiencies, and standardization of service with error-free services, allowing the 26 stores to have an integrated inventory, payroll, and automatic alerts for shelving and quality checks." SAP Retail, Core and SAP CAR went Live on Dec

2021 while the SAP SuccessFactors implementation is underway.

Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, elaborated on this venture, "This is an important win for SAP in the retail and FMCG industry in Pakistan. To be able to bring the fastest growing superstore chain of Pakistan under our umbrella is a milestone achieved for us."

SAP solutions have also provided ease in business operations, and increased transparency, with technology embedded across the board. This digital transformation has allowed SAP to provide customized solutions according to the requirements of an enormous retail giant of Pakistan.

Due to its strategic technology implementation, Imtiaz Store proudly stands as the fastest-growing, largest retail chain in Pakistan. The supermarket chain also plans to expand globally, where SAP will play an integral role in its regional and global expansion.

Haleeb Foods and JDC partner to spread Iftaar Joy for the underprivileged

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Haleeb Foods, a leading dairy and beverages company in Pakistan, has partnered with JDC Welfare Organization to organize an Iftaar dastarkhwan for the needy. The activity was a demonstration of Haleeb Foods' commitment to supporting the underprivileged and their dedication to making a positive impact in society.

Haleeb Foods has always taken a keen interest in social welfare initiatives to ensure that marginalized communities have access to basic necessities such as nutritious food, clean drinking water, healthcare and education.

HFL's partnership included in-kind donation for Iftaar dastarkhwan and financial donation for JDC's healthcare projects. This is yet another example of their unwavering commitment to giving back to society.

Speaking about the event, the CEO of Haleeb Foods, Mr. Syed Mazher Iqbal said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to support the community by partner-



ing with JDC and lending a hand in their welfare work. It was heartening to see so

many people come together to share a meal and celebrate the spirit of Ramadan."

PRGMEA for reviewing long Eid holidays' decision to avoid exports loss

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) Central Chairman Mubashar Naseer Butt has opposed the government's decision of too many holidays on Eid, as the move would hurt the business, causing a loss of billions of rupees in exports.

The PRGMEA Central Chief said that due to closure of transport there will be problem to transfer the finished goods from one to other places, as the long five-day holidays would cut-off

Pakistan commercially from the world, causing a loss of billions of rupees in external trade.

He observed that the national economy is already in distress and can ill afford such a luxury.

The government has made it a precedent to declare long holidays to please the government employees, who already do not have tendency to work seriously, he remarked.

He urged upon the policymakers to refrain from allowing such a long spell of holidays, which the nation cannot afford both economically and socially.

LCCI and ACCA collaborate to boost SMEs in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a shared goal of advancing financial literacy among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The MoU was signed by President LCCI, Kashif Anwar and ACCA's Head of Pakistan, Assad Hameed Khan. ACCA President, Joseph Owolabi, and senior management of both the organizations were also present at the signing ceremony.

At the signing ceremony, LCCI President, Kashif Anwar, said:

"I would like to congratulate not only LCCI and ACCA, but also all stakeholders, the business community, and member organisations on the signing of this agreement.

ACCA president, Joseph Owolabi, commented: "We're delighted to formalise our partnership with LCCI and support capacity building in Pakistan's SME sector.

Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, added: "This partnership has the potential to serve as a platform for SMEs to upskill and bolster their vital contribution to Pakistan's economy.

We believe this collaboration will extend more opportunities for SMEs, benefiting businesses, individuals and the entire economy."



PAK vs NZ: Haris, Saim lead Pakistan to thrash New Zealand in first T20I

LAHORE: Left-handed batter Saim Ayub scored a quickfire 47 before Haris Rauf's four-for propelled Pakistan to a resounding 88-run victory over New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series here at Gaddafi Stadium.

Set to chase 183, the New Zealand batting lineup failed completely and bundled out for a meagre 94 runs in the 15th over and hence handed a dominating victory to Pakistan.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan managed to accumulate 182 at the back of an anchoring and quickfire knock by Fakhar and Saim respectively.

Earlier, the home side got off to a dismal start as their dependable opening pair of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan perished cheaply.

New Zealand's right-arm speedster Adam Milne trapped Rizwan (8) with a couple of out-swingers before hitting his pads plumb to draw the first success for New Zealand in the second over.



The right-arm pacer kept using his pace to pose threats to the host's batters and eventually claimed the prized scalp of skipper Babar Azam; casting the latter on seven.

With Pakistan reeling at 30/2 in the fifth over, Fakhar and Saim turned the tables on the touring side and stitched a valiant 79-run partnership to anchor the innings.

Saim was the core aggressor of the stand while Fakhar was holding his ground firm before a direct hit by Chad Bowes saw the end of the former's brisk knock. Saim fell just three short of his half-century; scoring 47 off just 28 deliveries, laced with four boundaries and two sixes.

His dismissal sparked a middle-order collapse which resulted in Pakistan slipping to 131/6 with Fakhar being the latest to walk back. He remained the joint top-scorer for the home side as he too, scored 47 runs in 34 deliveries, hitting six boundaries and two sixes.

All-rounders Imad Wasim (16) and Faheem Ashraf (22) made vital contributions with the bat while Haris Rauf's astonishing cameo of 11 runs at the backend bolstered Pakistan to a decent total.

Matt Henry led the bowling attack for New Zealand with a hat-trick while Adam Milne and Ben Lister picked up two wickets each.



Karachi: Group photo of Organizing Secretary Karachi Games Nadim Khan, Cricket event Organizers Raza Abbas Rizvi Senior Director KMC, Kamran Warsi, Saif Khan and Secretary Karachi Kho Kho Association Shahroz Alvi on the occasion of Iftar Dinner at Karachi Games Secretariat.

PAK vs NZ: Fakhar, Saim star as Pakistan set New Zealand to chase 183 in first T20I

By A Sports -

LAHORE: Left-handed batters Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub scored 47 each to power Pakistan to a competitive total of 182 against New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series here at Gaddafi Stadium.

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Yandy Diaz, Brandon Lowe lead Rays to record-equalling victory vs Redsox

The Tampa Bay Rays have made history in the world of modern baseball by becoming only the third team ever to begin a season with 13 straight wins.

They routed the Boston Red Sox 9-3, with Yandy Diaz and Brandon Lowe both smashing solo homers on Thursday. The Rays' batting line-up was in top form, piling on seven runs in a fifth inning rally and securing their place in the record books at Tropicana Field.

The Rays' phenomenal start to the campaign ties the best winning streak to start a season, a feat previously achieved by the Atlanta Braves in 1982 and Milwaukee Brewers in 1987. The only other team to have achieved a longer opening streak in baseball was the St. Louis Maroons, who went 20-0 in 1884 while playing in the defunct Union Association league. It's worth noting that baseball's all-time record winning streak, at any stage of the season, stands at 26 games, a feat achieved by the New York Giants in 1916.

Despite their record-equalling performance, there was a shadow cast over the Rays' victory due to an injury sustained by pitcher Jeffrey Springs, who left the game in the middle of the fourth inning. The team later announced that Springs was suffering from ulnar neuritis. Springs is the third member of Tampa Bay's rotation to have been sidelined with an injury, following Tyler Glasnow in spring training and Zach Eflin earlier this week.

Nonetheless, Rays manager Kevin Cash was full of praise for his team following their historic victory. "Pretty amazing, congrats to all of our guys," he said. "I'm glad that we did it at home because we had tremendous support from our fans. They really got loud when they needed to and our guys were energized by that. There's not one part of our game right now that we don't feel good about."

Although the Red Sox took an early lead with a home run from Rob Refsnyder in the first inning, the Rays were quick to level the score with a homer of their own from Diaz.

Wahab Riaz presided meeting about the preparations of Punjab's Talent Hunt Programme

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz presided over an important meeting about the preparations of Punjab's biggest Talent Hunt Programme at National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser also attended the meeting.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail gave a detailed briefing about Punjab's biggest Talent Hunt Programme.

Addressing the meeting, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that Punjab Talent Hunt programme will be conducted in the coming



days on the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. "Punjab's biggest talent programme will play an important role in the development of sports across the province".

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz informed that the Punjab Talent Hunt programme will be conducted under the hash tag of Olympic Dream. "The purpose of this programme is to enhance Pakistan's medal winning chances in

the Olympic Games".

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that the prize money and schedule of Punjab Talent Hunt programme will be announced after the approval of Chief Minister Punjab. "Talent hunt from tehsil level will play a significant role in improving sports in the province".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman on this occasion said that schools sports will high-

light the abilities of the players. "The talent emerging from the grass root level will be prepared for national and international titles", Secretary Sports Punjab said.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that Punjab Talent Hunt Programme will create more passion for sports among the young players of the province. "Best arrangements and preparations will be made for the Punjab Talent Hunt Programme," he added

PAK vs NZ: Babar Azam to complete century of T20I matches today

By A Sports -

LAHORE: Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam is all set to play his 100th T20I match today as Pakistan will take on New Zealand in the first T20I here at Gaddafi Stadium.

Babar, who is poised to lead Pakistan against New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series here tonight, will complete his T20I matches century.

Having made his T20I debut against England in 2016, Babar soon became a crucial part of the national team in the shortest format. His consistent performances in T20Is propelled him to dethrone India's star batter Virat Kohli as the top-ranked batter in 2018 and continued to rule the format for the longest period (1155 days).

Following the ouster of former all-format captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, Babar was initially given the reins of Pakistan's T20I side.

Under his captaincy, Pakistan played the semi-final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 and the finals of the Asia Cup 2022 and T20 World Cup 2022.

In 99 T20Is, Babar has thus far scored 3355 runs - the most for Pakistan - at an average of 41.41. He has scored 30 fifties and two hundred amid his decorated career so far.

The first T20I against New Zealand today will mark Babar's return to the national side for the shortest format as the star batter was given rest for the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan.

Pakistan Sports Board conduct workshop on Anti-Doping Awareness

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board conduct workshop on Anti-Doping Awareness & celebrates "Play True Day 2023" in support of WADA & join them in building the World's biggest team playing for clean sport. PSB invited the Camp trainees & their coaches, National Federations and sports departments of Islamabad universities to join.

On the direction of Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Mr. Ehsaan ur Rehman Mazari and Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination



Mr. Ahmad Hanif Orakzai, the Deputy Director General Pakistan Sports Board Mr. Muhammad Ibrar directed the In-Charge Rehabilitation

& Treatment Wing PSB to conduct workshop and raise awareness about anti-doping in sport & celebrate Play True Day. The primary aim of conduct-

ing such sessions is to guide and educate the trainees about "Doping & its Physical & Psychological effects on Athletics Performance".

Mr. Muhammad Ibrar (DDG PSB) announced the awareness session. Ms. Qurat-ul-ain, In-charge R&T Wing PSB, conducted the workshop and shared WADA's message about CLEAN SPORT to the participants. Every participant was given a sheet to write their message about Clean Sport & it was displayed on "Play True Wall". The staff of R&T Wing distributed "Play True" shirts & caps to the participants & they

record the message for WADA's play true day.

On this occasion Mr. Najeeb Khattak Sports sciences scholar and National fitness coach also there he says doping free Pakistan is very compulsory for national and international Level participation our mostly athletes don't know about doping and bad substances there awareness program is important.

Participants at seminar showed their keen interest during seminar. They appreciated the efforts and personal interest of DDG PSB in arranging seminar and activities.

Chelsea's frantic schedule derails Lampard overhaul

Sports Desk

LONDON: Frank Lampard claims Chelsea's frantic fixture schedule is damaging his bid to solve his struggling team's problems.

Lampard is in charge at Chelsea until the end of the season after the Blues legend returned to replace the sacked Graham Potter last week.

But the 44-year-old has had limited time to work with his players on the training pitch in a period that will see the team play four times in 11 days.

Lampard worked with the squad for the first time 24 hours before last Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Wolves, then on Tuesday flew to Spain for the 2-0 loss at Real Madrid in the

Champions League quarter-final first leg.

Chelsea returned in the early hours of Thursday, and on Saturday face Brighton at Stamford Bridge in the Premier League as they look to end a run of four games without a goal.

The west Londoners' longest scoreless run since 1993 has underlined the problems facing Lampard, but he insists goalscoring woes can only be resolved through application in training.

"I understood the problem before I came. Trying to address it is our job of course. There's been a lot of talk about belief, I've said that word a lot myself," Lampard told reporters on Friday.

"The reality is it's work, and

to replicate on the training pitch. To have enough urgency in our attacking game that we have numbers in and around the box, and an idea of how we want to attack.

"In a tight turnaround, the work on the training pitch is not there. You can't work the players physically when you play three games in six days.

"We'll communicate what it means to play for Chelsea to the new players and work towards it. It won't be an overnight process, because of the lack of training time.

"As much as you can have good meetings and an idea, there's nothing better than repeating movements that you want on the pitch."

Pierre Emerick-Aubamey-

ang could be a solution to Chelsea's goal issues after the Gabon forward came against Wolves after being largely frozen out by Potter.

"Auba is a bit like everybody in the squad now, whether you have been starting before or not starting so much, everyone now needs to compete in training to show that you are worthy of a place," Lampard said.

"Of course history says he has a fantastic goalscoring record so we'll see."

Adding to the difficulties facing Lampard in his second spell as Chelsea boss, the former England star confirmed the injury sustained by Senegal centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly at Real will keep him out for "weeks, not days".

