



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے کبرہ
کتابوں کے متعلق پوچھا گیا تو آپ صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا اللہ کے ساتھ کسی
کو شریک ٹھہرانا اس کی تافانی کرنا،
کسی کی جان لینا اور چھوٹی گواہی دینا۔
(گنگوہاری، حدیث نمبر 2653)

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RAWALPINDI

Iran invites Saudi king to visit Tehran

Iran has officially invited Saudi Arabia's king to visit the country, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday, after the two regional rivals agreed to end years of hostility following a China-brokered agreement in March. (Details on Page 8)



PM Shehbaz lauds Muslim countries' assistance during floods

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday asserted that Pakistan will always remember the timely and valuable support of its "brotherly Muslim countries during the disastrous floods in the country". The prime minister made these remarks while addressing an Iftaar dinner hosted in the honor of diplomatic corps of Muslim countries in Islamabad. (Details on Page 8)

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'Laylat al-Qadr'

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Faisal Mosque illuminated with colorful lights on the night of blessings "Laylat al-Qadr" in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Lailatul Qadr to seek Allah's forgiveness, blessings

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani on Monday highlighted the significance of the holy night of Lailatul Qadr and urged the nation to take advantage of the golden opportunity to seek forgiveness and closeness to Allah Almighty.

In their messages on the occasion of Lailatul Qadr, which is observed in the night of 27th Ramazan ul Mubarak, they said, "Lailatul Qadr is the night during which the Holy Quran was revealed and when the angels descend to the earth.

PM reviews measures to stop smuggling of sugar, wheat, urea



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday reviewed measures for the stoppage of smuggling of sugar, wheat, flour, and urea from the country and sought a comprehensive strategy to overcome the problem for the long term.

Chairing a high-level meeting, he said the smuggling of essential items outside the country, was not acceptable in any way. He directed that

an immediate operation should be launched against the persons involved in the heinous activity of smuggling. Smuggling was a menace for any society and in the present economic situation, Pakistan could not bear smuggling in any way, he added.

He expressed displeasure at the slow pace of work regarding the end of smuggling and asked for an increase in check posts in the border districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Dialogue among political parties better for supremacy of Constitution, democracy: Gillani

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) senior leader Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani on Monday said dialogue among all the political parties would be better for the supremacy of the Constitution and democracy.

Talking to media persons here, he said on the instructions of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former president Asif Ali Zardari, the PPP delegation had today approached the Awami National Party (ANP) for dialogue.

He said the ANP had always rendered sacrifices for the restoration of democracy and rule of law in the country.

He said the basic purpose of the Constitution was that all institutions would exercise their powers within their constitutional domain.



"The PPP wants to make a conducive environment for dialogue among the political parties as all the problems being faced by the county will be addressed through the dialogue process," he added.

Gillani said the masses were looking to the political parties in the current political and economic situation prevailing in the country.

ANP Secretary General Mian Iftikhar Hussain said he was thankful to the PPP delegation led by Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani for approaching them for the dialogue.

NA flouts SC orders as it approves summary seeking non-provision of election funds

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) on Monday approved a summary, sent by the NA Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, recommending non-provision of funds for elections to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Earlier, the issue of allocation of funds for holding elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa became more complicated as the committee sent the summary, presented by federal law minister Azam Nazir Tarar before the NA, to the federal cabinet which, in turn, sent it back to the parliament.

This was announced by Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghaus-Pasha after the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance. She said neither the SBP nor the Finance Division had the



authority to allocate funds from the Federal Consolidated Fund.

She said the allocation of funds required approval from parliament. "Without the approval of parliament, no bill or budget has any legal authenticity."

"Hence, we leave the matter up to parliament now. Parliament is supreme for us because this is what is written in the constitution."

Regarding today's (Monday) meeting, she explained that the SBP could only allocate the money but could not release it.

The Finance Division can

only act on the orders of the federal cabinet. It is up to the cabinet to take the matter to parliament ... if parliament approves, the funds will be disbursed today, she added.

Meanwhile, Mr Tarar, while addressing the NA session, maintained that the SBP was not authorised to release funds adding that it was the prerogative of the NA and the ministry of finance and revenue.

Standing Committee meeting

Earlier, SBP Acting Governor Sima Kamil on Monday, while briefing the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance,

said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had allocated Rs21 billion for elections in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as directed by the Supreme Court but it had no authority to release the amount.

This Standing Committee met to review the latest situation as the deadline set by the apex court expires today.

The meeting was held with committee Chairman Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh in the chair and attended by Law Minister Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Trade Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Barjees Tahir and others.

Law Minister Tarar said every penny from the FCF was spent on the directive of the federal government. Funds for elections were not allocated in the annual budget. The finance ministry tabled a bill titled "Charged Sum for General

Election (Provincial Assemblies of Punjab & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Bill 2023. But both houses of parliament rejected the bill, he added.

About apex court's April 17 order, he said the matter of the approval of funds should be reviewed first and asserted that the "Constitution precedes all".

He said if more funds were needed, the federal government could offer supplementary grants. Instead of confrontation, a solution should be found," Mr Tarar added.

Meanwhile, PML-N's Barjees Tahir said elections in Punjab would harm the country. He recalled that even in its previous session, the standing committee had decided against releasing funds to the ECP.

He questioned how the apex court could issue an order to the SBP. "Does the national treasury belong to the state bank's governor?"

Taj Haider terms JI's allegation about census process 'unfair'

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People Party leader Senator Taj Haider on Monday said the Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) allegation that the PPP was trying to 'manipulate' Karachi's population was unfair.

The PP leader, in a statement, reminded the JI that on the directive of his leadership he had visited the offices of JI and Muttahida Qaumi Movement, and presented them his book "Sindh ka Muqadma, Census 2017" and supporting documents. Hafiz Naem Sahib had himself received the material, he added.

Senator Taj said the book in substantial detail dealt with the undercount of population in the entire province. Karachi being the capital of Sindh was focused upon and a chart of its population in 2013 as obtained from the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) was printed on its page 26.

He said it was Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who resisted pressure to validate the controversial undercount of Census 2017. It was due to his efforts that the then Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had to agree on holding a fresh census.

Establishment denies any role in backchannel dialogue among political parties

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Days after Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq led efforts for reconciliation in his separate meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chief Imran Khan, the Establishment on Monday made it clear that they were not involved in any effort for defusing political tension currently prevailing in the country.

Sources said the Establishment was of the view that politicians would have to make an effort themselves to get out of political crisis prevailing in the country for months.

It was added that the

'neutral policy' of the Establishment was given credence when the top court tried to resolve the political issues but instead was criticised by political parties for its role.

The Establishment became satisfied with the neutral policy (that political parties should end political crisis themselves) after judiciary was unable to resolve political tension through its verdict, sources mentioned.

In this regard, the Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir gave a clear message at the in camera session of the National Assembly that the government would have to find a way out of this political quagmire while mentioning the army would

continue to play its role.

It was added that the Establishment had no role in the recently started efforts—from the Pakistan People Party's three-member dialogue committee and Sirajul Haq's meetings with the PM and PTI chief to the PTI's three-member committee for consultation with Jamaat-e-Islami—to revive dialogue. It was highlighted that the PTI wanted the polls to be held on May 14 while the government would want them to be held in October.

Later, the PTI, PPP and JI confirmed the stance of Establishment when they were reached out for comments by Dunya News.

Advertisement for 'Wah Afra' featuring a mosque illustration, Urdu text, and a bottle of Wah Afra.

PM Iftaar dinner

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Islamabad based Ambassadors of brotherly Islamic Countries on Monday.



Photo: Online

PM Shehbaz lauds Muslim countries' assistance during floods

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday asserted that Pakistan will always remember the timely and valuable support of its "brotherly Muslim countries during the disastrous floods in the country".

The prime minister made these remarks while addressing an Iftaar dinner hosted in the honor of diplomatic corps of Muslim countries in Islam-

abad. PM Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan suffered unprecedented floods because of climate change while a massive earthquake wreaked havoc in Turkey and Syria.

The premier said the world had witnessed a rough period and one could see what happened in global markets. "Prices of oil and other items had gone beyond the reach of developing countries including Pakistan and other countries", he noted.

He said the Pakistani government was grateful to Islamic countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Malaysia for very valuable and timely assistance for the flood affectees.

Every Muslim country came to help Pakistan at a difficult period and "we will remember your support for all times to come", he remarked.

Referring to restorations of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, he termed

it a remarkable achievement and said the positive development was seen by Pakistan with happiness and hope.

"Because of the blessings of Ramadan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran have bridged their differences and this is a remarkable achievement," he added.

"We are all happy about this positive development and the follow-up has been extremely speedy. It is a great pleasure to witness meetings of foreign ministers, and delegations visiting Riyadh and

Tehran."

Talking about the Palestine issue, he said hundreds of people were killed in Palestine in the last many months in naked aggression.

Prime Minister of Palestine and some of his cabinet members had made statements saying the violence against the Palestinians was increasing, he continued. The prime minister said the occupation forces in Palestine had shown disdain and crossed red lines without any qualm.

Iran invites Saudi king to visit Tehran

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Iran has officially invited Saudi Arabia's king to visit the country, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday, after the two regional rivals agreed to end years of hostility following a China-brokered agreement in March.

After years of bad relations that fuelled proxy conflicts across the Middle East, where Tehran and Riyadh backed opposite sides from Yemen to Syria, the Shi'ite revolutionary Iran and the Sunni-led Kingdom reached an agreement to end a seven-year diplomatic rift.

"Iranian President (Ebrahim Raisi) has sent an invitation to the Saudi king in return for an invitation by Riyadh for him," Nasser Kanaani told a televised news conference.

Technical delegations from both countries are preparing to officially reopen their missions, and Tehran said these missions would restart their activities

by May 9, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News agency reported.

Italy pushes crackdown on migrants reaching its shores

ROME: Italy's right-wing government pressed ahead with plans to crack down on migrants as they arrived by the hundreds on Monday at a Sicilian port after a coast guard rescue. Dozens more were taken on board a charity boat from an unseaworthy vessel operated by smugglers, while others came ashore unaided.

This week, the Senate is due to take up proposed legislation put forward by the government of far-right Premier Giorgia Meloni that aims to make it harder for migrants to gain temporary permission to stay in Italy.

Coalition ally Matteo Salvini, who leads the anti-migrant League party, wants the country to eliminate a status known as "special protection" for many of the tens of thousands of migrants who have come ashore in Italy for years

now aboard smugglers' boats launched from Libya, Tunisia, Turkey and other places.

That status allows migrants who are unlikely to win refugee status to stay in Italy for two years, pending renewal. During this time, they can work legally and rent housing.

Salvini claims the possibility of "special protection" acts as a "pull factor," in encouraging migrants to leave their homelands in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Many of the migrants are fleeing poverty or a lack of decent jobs in sub-Saharan Africa, northern Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt.

While Meloni has said she'd like to see that status eliminated, lawmakers from another coalition party, Silvio Berlusconi's conservative Forza Italia, have indicated they could push for the time to be slashed from two years to six months.

"It's not so much a question of numbers, but of (sending) a signal of severity that we want to give," Maurizio Gasparri, a

prominent Forza Italia senator was quoted as saying in Corriere della Sera on Monday.

The number of migrants arriving this spring has risen relentlessly.

An Italian coast guard boat with about 200 migrants aboard pulled into the harbor of Catania, Sicily early Monday. They were among some 600 migrants rescued by the coast guard during the weekend in Malta's search-and-rescue sector of the Mediterranean.

For years, humanitarian groups have lamented that Maltese authorities often ignore distress calls from foundering migrant vessels.

But on Monday, two humanitarian organizations, Alarm Phone, which monitors migrant boats in distress in the Mediterranean, and Emergency, which operates a rescue vessel, tweeted that Malta had instructed cargo ships to come to the aid of a couple of boats and that the rescued passengers would disembark later in the archipelago nation.

PTI not to place central leaders for Punjab elections

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday decided to drop the big players in the upcoming Punjab elections.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and Hammad Azhar are likely not to get tickets for Punjab Assembly contests, sources told.

It was informed that the party adopted this significant policy regarding ticket distribution for the upcoming Punjab elections to accommodate young workers. It is said that central leaders will be granted tickets for the National Assembly.

PTI has already finalized the allocation of tickets for 80% of the seats in Punjab, while the fate of Dr Murad Raas, Shabbir Gujjar, and Zaheer Abbas Khokhar remains undecided.

PM offers condolence on demise of Mufti Abdul Shakoor



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the residence of Amir Jamiat Ulema e Islam-F Maulana Fazlur Rehman to offer condolence on the death of Minister for Religious Affairs Mufti Abdul Shakoor.

The prime minister prayed for the

high ranks of the departed soul and for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Expressing his deep grief, the prime minister said that he along with the entire nation shared their sympathies with the bereaved family.

He also paid tribute to the late Mufti for his contributions as a cabinet member.

PPP wants to save country from constitutional crisis: Naveed Qamar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar Monday said Pakistan Peoples Party wanted to save the country from constitutional crisis.

He said this in a press confer-

ence at the residence of Awami National Party leader Main Iftikhar Ahmed.

The supplementary grant was not rejected by the cabinet but rather by the parliament, these things are leading to constitutional conflict, he added.

JI Chief Sirajul Haq advises govt to hold elections

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Sirajul Haq advised the government to step back from their red line and hold elections as it is the only way to bring political stability to Pakistan, ARY News reported on Monday.

Speaking to the ARY News programme "Off the Record," Sirajul Haq said the 90 days time has already passed and according to the constitution the government must hold an election.

"As a stakeholder, Jamaat-e-Islami wants to participate in the elections," Sirajul Haq said.

Sirajul Haq said that the politicians and ruling government must follow the constitution, adding that the clashes with the institutions will never be beneficial for anyone.

He said that as a citizen and party responsible, he is making efforts, and three institutions must remain impartial; otherwise, it will be difficult to save democracy and politics.

The JI chief said that decisions related to the fate of the nation cannot be taken behind closed doors.

He added that JI wants peaceful elections as the country belongs to the whole nation but not to a single political party.

India, Russia talk free trade deal

Spokesman Report

NEW DELHI: India and Russia are discussing a free trade agreement (FTA), the Russian trade minister said on Monday, an announcement that could deepen bilateral commercial ties that have flourished since war broke out in Ukraine.

The FTA talks mark a step-up in economic relations between the two countries despite calls from Western countries for India to gradual-

ly distance itself from its dominant weapons supplier, Russia, over its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

India's imports from Russia more than quadrupled to \$46.33 billion over the last fiscal year, mainly through oil.

"We pay special attention to the issues of mutual access of production to the markets of our countries," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, who is also the trade minister, told an event in New Delhi.

Solidarity

Members of the AES Social Services Club visited the Embassy of Türkiye

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the AIIMS Education System School Social Service Club visited the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Islamabad and met the First Secretary there. The delegation included children from different campuses of AIMS School, who expressed solidarity with the children of Turkey and submitted the funds raised by the AES family for Earthquake victims in Turkey & Syria. The students also sent paintings and cards to Turkish school children as a small (but heartfelt!) gesture of solidarity.

Mr. M. Murat Yagis, first secretary, Turkish Embassy thanked all the students and said that Pakistan and Turkey are brother countries and they are equal participants in each other's pain.

Mr. M. Murat Yagis empha-



sized on the education of children and said that the children

should get good marks. There are the best universities in Turkey

where these children will be given scholarships for higher



education. He emphasized on the school children. Follow our social platform for education scholarship in Turkey to get information from there. He said that a large number of Pakistani students are currently studying in Turkey

In response to this question, he said that 40 million people

have been affected by the earthquake in Turkey, whose rehabilitation is ongoing. In response to another question, he said that despite all these circumstances, there will be no impact on the upcoming elections in Turkey. The elections will be held on their scheduled time. Finally,

he thanked all the children. The children's delegation was led by the Executive Director of AIIMS School, Moazzam Munwar, who thanked the Turkish Embassy for their cooperation and also discussed the promotion of mutual relations between Pakistan and Turkey.

Constitution imparts supremacy to Parliament says NA Speaker

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that parliament is plate form which represents collective wisdom. He said it resolution of all challenges is possible only through supremacy of constitution and Parliament. He also added, "it is constitution which imparts supremacy to constitution. He expressed these views while addressing the Final round of the National Bilingual Declaration Contest in connection with golden jubilee celebration of constitution in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Islamabad today.

While appreciating the performance of contesting students from across the country, he expressed his hope that such children would make Pakistan's future bright. He also stressed on the need to acknowledge the importance of inculcating constitution as part of syllabus at every tier of educational sector. He also



added, "1973 constitution represents the sagaciousness of collective wisdom as it was first federal, parliamentary and Islamic constitution." He also said that it was an unmatched political wisdom of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto which enabled this nation to have this sacred document. He said that this constitution

is sacred agreement between state and citizen which should be implemented in letter and spirit. He also appreciated the efforts of MNA Asiya Azeem, employees of PIPS and National Assembly Secretariat for successfully organizing these declamation contests.

MNA Ms. Asiya Azeem expressed her

gratitude to Speaker National Assembly for always encouraging and celebrating diamond jubilee celebration with unmatched zeal and zest. She also said, "these declamation contests are to inculcate basic future of constitution in our children.

It is pertinent to mention that Final Round of declamation contest was organized in connection with golden jubilee celebrations of constitution. In these contests, students from across the country participated. Late on, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf distributed prizes among winners of declamation contest.

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Al-Khidmat Foundation Women Wing distributed Eid gifts



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Al-Khidmat Foundation Women Wing Multan distributed Eid gifts and Eid cash to orphan care children with the support of Zakat Foundation America. In the event organized by Khaleda Ismail, secretary of the finance department, discussed the topic of Ramadan and Muslims and taught about patience and gratitude.

In the ceremony, General Secretary Samira Jaffer, Vice President Maimoona Wahla and Afshan Raheel distributed Eid gifts and cash to the orphans and mothers and in her address, Maimoona Wahla said that on the joyous occasion of Eid, we need to help the needy, orphans, poor children. All possible care should be taken for women and they should be given opportunities to participate in the joy of Eid by providing Eid clothes in cash Eid.

Al-Khidmat Women Wing, with the support of Zakat Foundation America, has distributed Eid clothes and Eid-ul-Fitr to hundreds of orphans and widows, bringing joy to the faces of children and mothers.

55 lakh free flour bags were distributed in Multan Division. Amir Khattak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A review meeting was held on supply of flour, sugar and wheat under the chairmanship of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak. Commissioner Aamir Khattak congratulated the Deputy Commissioners and the team on the successful completion of Ramadan Package Free Flour campaign. He said that more than 55 lakh free flour bags were distributed in the division. It was a new scheme and a difficult task.

Which was done well. Commissioner Amir Khattak while ordering to establish points for supply of sugar till Eid said that points should be established in the markets and sugar should be sold at the official rate. On the direction of the Punjab government, the food department is making an app for the supply of sugar.

Sugar mills, dealers will provide complete data on the app about the demand and supply of sugar. Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered to speed up the wheat procurement campaign and said that We will try to buy more wheat than the fixed target. Deputy commissioners, relevant officials were also present in the meeting.

ADCG participated in Iftar at Old Age Home and distributed Eid gifts

Bureau Report.

FAISALABAD: The Additional Deputy Commissioner General Ahmed Saeed Manj and Deputy Director Social Welfare Aamna Alam participated in Iftar occasion with the elderly at the Old Age Home and later distributed Eid gifts to the elderly residents there. In charge Madam Rabia, Mian Hafiz Asghar, in charge control room Muhammad Sadiq also on this occasion were present.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner General said that by serving the suffering humanity, not only the world but also the hereafter is enlightened and only by serving the destitute can one find peace here and hereafter with the grace of Allah Almighty & His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

The hearts can obtain happy moments by serving humanity. He also reviewed the living and food arrangements of the elderly. He also planted a sapling under the sapling campaign in the Subzah-Zazar of the Old Age Home. The seniors (Elderly) thanked the officers wholeheartedly for participating in Iftar and distributing of Eid gifts.

Farmers' Seminar

RAWALPINDI: Members of Kisan Rabta Committee are posing a group photo after a Farmers Seminar at local hotel in City.



Photo: Online

UAE Embassy Iftar at the Lighthouse

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, H.E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, arranged an iftar for the children and staff of The Lighthouse, a non-profit organization formed under the Beaconhouse Group for less privileged children.

The Lighthouse is a boarding and education setup for orphaned children that ensure quality education, necessary life skills, good health and other emotional and developmental support without discrimination. The aim of the organization is to provide a safe and loving home for orphans and to nurture them to become self-reliant and confident individuals.

Amina Wattoo Kasuri,



Founder and Executive Director at The Lighthouse said, "I would like to thank H.E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi for organizing this event for our

children. Such thoughtful get-togethers are a reminder for self-assessment and an opportunity for a lot of us to give back to society in whatever way possible. Over

the years, we have worked tirelessly toward the development and uplifting of deserving members of our society and we will continue to lead by example."

Waste Management Company's special cleaning plan for Eid-ul-Fitr: Umar Jahangir

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Waste Management Company's special cleaning plan for Eid-ul-Fitr On the order of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, operation clean-up started in universities and densely populated areas Before Eid-ul-Fitr, machinery was sent to the field to clear large plots and grounds

Organized by Waste Management Company, a special rally was organized for cleanliness awareness Pamphlets regarding cleanliness culture were distributed among businessmen and citizens Ideal sanitation is impossible without the cooperation of civil society and businessmen For a long time, bad missionaries are being on-road on priority basis.

Shaheed Yaqoob New containers and waste drums are also being placed at prominent locations

VC Chairman Spin arranged an Iftar party

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower South Waziristan tribal District tehsil Wana area of spin on behalf of JUI VC Chairman Niaz Uddin Wazir at his residence with local elected LG representatives, government school teachers, private school principals, youth, for various political and social figures was arranged a Grand iftar party.

After the iftar party, there was a discussion on the problems facing the area Spin, including the complete restoration on the top priority Civil Hospital Spin, systematic functioning of Government High School spin and a strong demand to start work on the approved Tanai to Gul Kuch road as soon as possible.

That the government should take serious steps to implement these long-standing demands of Spin.

On this occasion, the LG representatives, VC Chairman Niaz Uddin Wazir,



NC Chairman Saifur Rehman, VC Chairman Tanai Zangi Khan, besides the official teachers of the census team

Haq Nawaz Wazir, Maulana Bilal Wazir, Maulana Hussain Wazir, Mehtab Wazir and Principals of private educational

institutions including Shah Hussain Wazir Muhammad Wali Wazir attended and along with this, political and social figures Muhammad Ullah Wazir, Altaf Wazir, Hazrat Noor Wazir, Sher Ullah Wazir, Additional SHO Noor Islam Wazir and senior journalist Adam Khan Wazir unanimously presented the relevant demands to the government.

On this occasion, the participants agreed to form a committee to solve the collective problems of the area of Spin, which will make every possible effort to identify the problems of the area and find solutions, they unanimously resolved to keep this committee free from political manipulation and said that the relevant committee will keep trying to resolve the legitimate issues regardless.

In the end, the participants also decided that the formed committee will decide the future plan of an emergency meeting call on the first day of coming Eid.

Founder 2.0, a Co-working space startup defaulted in Vendor's Payment

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Founder 2.0, A recently launched Co-working space for startups in Karachi, hired the services of various vendors at their launch event but refused to pay for their services after the event ended. Its management started making lame excuses at the time of payment disbursement. The organization is being founded by self-claimed Entrepreneurs who are habitual of delaying and cheating vendors by making lame excuses to stop their payments.

It is learned from their hired PR agency, Mediahype that they refused to issue the agreed payment after securing massive Digital, Print, and electronic media coverage from them. Their launched press release has been successfully placed on leading digital Platforms. Founder 2.0 launch event press releases appeared in National and regional Newspapers like The News, Business Recorder, Express Tribune, The Nation, Pakistan Observer, Daily Times, and Daily Jang respectively. They have successfully promoted impressive media coverage on their social media platforms and received audience praise.

After the Completion of services, CEO Co-Founder and also serving as General Secretary of SWEF Pakistan Ms. Shehr Bano Hussain starting to make excuses to delay payments that Electronic coverage is not up to their requirement acknowledging Digital and Print media coverage. Based on poor Electronic coverage, they have withheld all the payments of media agencies rather than releas-



Founder 2.0 Ms. Shehr Bano

ing Digital and print media share of payment. Despite many requests, they are unwilling to issue a portion of payment for delivered services and hold payment till Electronic coverage is not being provided satisfactorily.

The PR agency will reach out to the media community to pressurize Founder 2.0 CEO to issue their due payment and request its community to blacklist this vendor for future media promotion and coverage of any sort. This has become a regular habit of various Clients who withheld Media payments without any valid reasons and blackmail agencies to do more and expand the scope of work to secure extra mileage.

It is warned to existing Vendors and Clients to be cautious about working with such Fraud organizations like CO-founder as they are habitual of usurping Vendors' lawful payments by making lame excuses and pretending to be running NGOs for the social uplift of Society.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4: 08 am
Zohr 12: 08 pm
Asr 4: 47 pm
Maghrib 6: 40 pm
Isha 8: 08 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

10 outlaws arrested, drugs and weapons recovered

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police apprehended 10 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Tarnol police team arrested an accused namely Kareem Ullah and recovered 1320 gram heroin from his possession. Likewise, the Sangjani Police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Aftab and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession, while the police team also arrested an accused namely Muhammad Mumtaz involved in illegally selling diesel.

National Stakeholders Consultation organized on World Hemophilia Day 2023

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: The first ever stakeholder consultation on a national level was organized in Islamabad by Speak Trust in collaboration with the Hemophilia Federation of Pakistan (HFP). The objective of the meeting was to initiate a national debate on the issues, challenges and inequities faced by the hemophilia community in Pakistan.

The event was chaired by Dr. Ambreen Nadeem, Deputy Director Health, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination and Mr. Ali Abbas Zaidi President HFP, a Hemophilia patient. Office bearers of all the local chapters of the Federation were also present as well as the eminent hematologists and other stakeholders including Prof. Lubna Zafar, Consultant Hematologist, Prof. Farwa Sijjel, Incharge PIMS Blood Bank, Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain, Sundas Foundation, Prof. Hasan Abbas Zaheer, WHO Advisor of Blood Safety.

Mr. Shahbaz Akbar Chaudhary, Founder, SPEAK Trust welcomed the participants and outlined the aims and objectives of the consultative meeting and the plans to address and mitigate the chal-

lenges faced by the hemophilia patients and families. The HFP representatives highlighted in detail the various aspects of the disease and its challenges in the local context and provided recommendations and suggestions especially in view of the 2023 theme "Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care".

Prof. Zaheer talked about the global and national hemophilia scenario and stressed on the need to have a Technical Working Group notified by the Health Ministry to



work on the 'National Policy on Genetic Blood Disorders' followed by the development of the national strategic framework to successfully manage these disorders in Pakistan on the lines of the successful experience of the other countries. In the developed countries and even in some developing countries, these genetic blood disorder patients are well managed on prophylaxis etc. and have a normal life span with minimal morbidity and mortal-

ity rates. They are considered as Chronic Disorder patients requiring multi-disciplinary care.

During the interactive session, all the participants shared their valuable insight and provided useful and workable solutions for improving the quality of life of the Hemophilia and other bleeding disorder patients in Pakistan including; improved diagnostic facilities, provision of prophylaxis and emergency factor concentrates and medications, quality rehabilitation services, registration of the latest hemophilia medicines by DRAP, establishment of dedicated hemophilia treatment and care centers in large cities etc. to enable the patients to lead normal lives and contribute as useful members of the society.

The Health Ministry representative appreciated the efforts of the meeting organizers to gather all the important stakeholders under one roof. She committed to work with them for the welfare of the hemophilia patients and also convey the deliberations of the meeting to the health ministry leadership for necessary action by the government.

Speak Trust is a charitable organization providing free of cost treatment to under-privileged hemophilic patients.

Iftar Dinner

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of State of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmed Jawad A Rabei posing a group photograph along with along with Federal Minister for SAFRON Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Senator Mushahid Hussain and others after Iftar dinner at the residence of Ambassador Ahmed Jawad A Rabei, in Federal Capital.

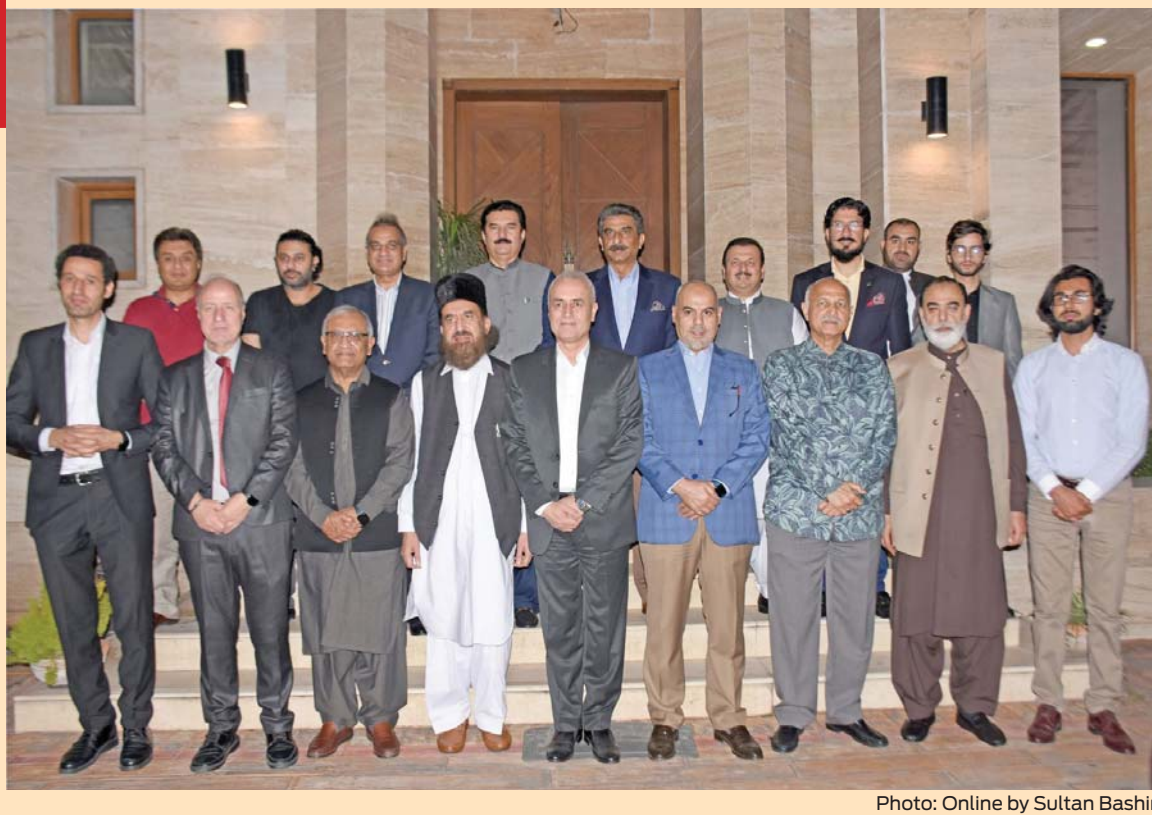


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Photo Exhibition in Multan Press Club

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Photojournalists Association Multan organized the exhibition of rare photos in the Multan Press Club and the participation of distinguished city political, social and business leaders in the Iftar dinner. The exhibition was organized by Photojournalists Association Multan with the support of GFS and Shama Banaspati.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the head of the Gilani family, the chairman of Tehreek Aman Pakistan Makhdoom Syed Ghulam

Yazdani Gilani President Press Club Multan Shakeel Anjum, Senior Vice President Muhammad Khalid Chaudhry Former MNA Sheikh Tariq Rasheed, Chamber of Small Traders Multan District President Sheikh Tahir Amjad, Abu Bakr Sherwani did Farhan Anjum Mulghani, Malik Anwar Ali, Sheikh Imran Arshad, Dr. Hamida Khanum, Tabish Durrani, Iqbal Arabi, Zahid Bilal Qureshi, Sheikh Imtiaz Ahmed, Chief Photojournalists Shehzad Anwar, President Zafarul Islam, General Secretary Sarfraz Ali Awan,

Finance Secretary Sheikh Faisal Karim.

, Abdul Aziz Khan Gormani, Chaudhry Muhammad Hussain, Rana Jameel, Chaudhry Maqbool Arain, Rana Taimur were present. Syed Ghulam Yazdani Geelani, Sheikh Tariq Rasheed, Abu Bakr Sherwani said that the photojournalists of Multan are hardworking and devoted to their field.

The issues reach the authorities and appropriate action is taken on them so that people's problems are solved. Shakeel Anjum said that photojournalists play an important

role in the newspaper industry. They help the educated people to understand the news without them the newspaper industry is incomplete, they are our arms and hands.

In the event, Eid gifts were also distributed among photojournalists, including Muhammad Khalid. Mian Asim Tanveer, Chaudhry, Shahzad Anwar, Khalid Ansari, Zainul Abedin, Sadiq Anjum, Aamir Qureshi, Atif Ansari, Hasan Raza Jafar, Shakeel Chaudhry, Aqeel Chaudhry, Faisal Karim, Sarfraz Awan, Imtiaz Awan and others were included. Dinner was also given

House burglar gang held; foreign currency and valuables recovered

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Shalimar police team arrested two wanted members of a house burglar gang including a lady involved in house burglar activities and recovered foreign currency and mobile phone worth Rs 0.8 million from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, a Shalimar police station team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of a house burglar gang including a woman involved in numerous house burglar activities. The accused were identified as Faisal and Allah Rakhi.

Police team also recovered stolen foreign currency and mobile phone worth Rs 0.8 million from their possession. Case has been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

CPO /DIG Operations Islamabad Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in heinous crimes. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard" he added.

Children in Pakistan pushed into life-threatening, acute malnutrition



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today the United Nations warned that the number of children suffering from wasting in Pakistan's flood-affected areas had greatly increased compared to the pre-flood situation, which was already reaching emergency levels.

A rapid survey conducted in 15 flood-affected districts suggests that nearly one-third of children aged 6-23 months suffer from moderate acute malnutrition and 14 per cent from severe acute malnutrition — a life-threatening form of malnutrition — with girls being more affected than boys. The number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition with medical complications who are admitted for hospital treatment has also gradually increased since the floods, as global food prices soar.

"Even before the floods, child wasting was already reaching emergency levels, but what I am seeing now in villages is very worrying," said Julien Harneis, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are grateful for the global community's support so far, but much more is needed to help the Government provide the increasing numbers of children who are at risk of death with immediate therapeutic food and care. We must help the Government avert a nutrition crisis which would have dangerous and irreversible consequences for millions of children, and for the future of Pakistan."

The Resident Coordinator announced that he would dedicate USD \$5.5 million out of the USD \$6.5 million allocation received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) — four-fifths of the grant — towards emergency nutrition and food security interventions.

This additional USD \$5.5 million will help UNICEF, WFP, WHO and NGOs provide emergency nutrition interventions as part of the Government-led flood response in the most vulnerable communities of Balochistan and Sindh, with OCHA coordinating and ensuring that the funds are used in an efficient manner.

But with only one-third of the nutrition interventions included in the Floods Response Plan funded so far, additional funding is urgently required to implement early identification, integrated prevention and treatment of malnutrition in a greater number of villages and healthcare facilities. There is also a need to increase the number of interventions that improve availability, affordability and accessibility to nutritious foods that protect children from wasting.

Led by the Government of Pakistan, with support from UN agencies and NGOs, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector has provided life-saving assistance to nearly 7 million people and the Nutrition Sector to nearly 1 million people since the climate disaster hit the country last summer, but many needs remain unmet.

Faunkaar League Tournament 2023 held



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: In the Faunkaar League Tournament 2023 consisting of artists from TV, Radio and Stage of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, the team of Musician 11 took the field by completing the target of 32 runs in three and a half overs without any loss. While the highest scoring team of Potohar 11 scored only 31 runs in the tournament, they failed due to the defect of 8 players.

Last night Rawalpindi All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation organized Faunkaar League Tournament 2023 was held at Heshmat Ali College Cricket Ground Rawalpindi. In which the TV, stage and radio artists of Rawalpindi and Islamabad participated enthusiastically. The artist league tournament consisted of 6 teams, 6 matches of 6 overs were played. The Dolphin Communication team was led by President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation and CEO of Dolphin Communication Aasma Ismail Butt and Salman Sunny. Stars 11 team was led by Captain Arshad Khan, Pindi 11 team by Naseer Khawaja, Musician 11 team by Captain Zahid, Top Stars team by Captain Umar Kamal, and Pothohar 11 team by Captain Anjum Abbasi. During the tournament, there was a lot of enthusiasm among the players. The fans raised the enthusiasm of the players by shouting slogans to encourage their respective teams. The first match was won by Pothohar 11 from Pindi 11, the second match by Musician 11 from Stars 11, the third match by Dolphin Strikers giving tough time to Top Stars. The semi final was played between Dolphin and Pothohar 11, captain Anjum Abbasi's team Pothohar 11 won the semi final by defeating the Dolphin Strikers team by 58 runs. While the final match was played between Pothohar 11 and Musician 11, Pothohar 11 completed their innings by scoring 31 runs with the loss of 8 players, Musician 11 won the final match by completing the target in three and a half overs without loss.

AIOU signs Letter of Intent with Russian University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Ural State Pedagogical University (USPU), Russia signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to develop and enhance academic relationship between the two Universities. Rector, USPU, Dr. Svetlana Aligariyeva Minuriva and Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood signed the document. According to the 'Letter of Intent', the two universities will collaborate in offering joint programs, faculty and students exchange and research.

The visiting delegation expressed the desire to establish a Russian language center at AIOU in which initial Russian teachers will teach the students and later on, the mode of teaching will be converted into online teaching.

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor, AIOU while speaking on the occasion said that AIOU has already a department of French and the University is going to launch the



operation of Chinese Language Center at the main capital as well as Regional Campus Multan.

He welcomed the proposal of Russian Language Center at AIOU and assured them their full support in this connection. Dr. Nasir said that he personally likes good relationship of Pakistan with his neighbour countries, the establish-

ment of Russian Language Center at AIOU will strengthen the relationship between the two countries, he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that this ceremony was held at Allama Iqbal Open University during the visit of a 5-member Russian delegation. The Russian delegation included Dr. Roman Porozov, Prof. Dr. Asma Naveed, Chairman of the Pakistan-Rus-

sia Business Council, Mohsin Sheikh. Director, International Collaboration and Exchange office, Dr. Zahid Majeed gave a detailed briefing on the profile of the university. The Russian delegation visited the radio, TV studios in the Institute of Educational Technology, the directorate of information and communication technology, library and printing & press unit.

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Al-Aqsa Mosque is seeking for Nooruddin Zangi (R.A) and Salahuddin Ayubi (R.A) - I

Palestine, where Bait-ul-Maqdis is located, is called the land of the prophets. Bait-ul-Maqdis is about fifteen hundred kilometers away from Makkah. Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S.) and thousands of prophets who came after him settled on this land. Until 624 Hijri, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Muslims used to worship Allah on this side, that is, the first Qibla of Muslims. This is the place where the beloved Prophet ﷺ led all the prophets and was taken to the heavens from the same Al-Aqsa Mosque. Which is mentioned in detail in Surah Israa of the Holy Quran. Many wars were fought for Bait al-Maqdis, including the Crusades, but it is ironic that mountains of oppression are always being heaped on Muslims. In 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations divided Palestine into Arabs and Jews. The establishment of Israel was announced on May 14, 1948. The day David Ben Gurion announced the establishment of Israel and became Israel's first Prime Minister. After the announcement of the establishment of Israel, a series of wars began.

several resolutions have been made in favor of the Palestinians, which continues the conflict and various efforts to find a solution and reflect the violation of human rights. But until today they could not be implemented. Because Israel has the support of World powers. And Israel is oppressing and torturing the Palestinians. In which atrocities such as occupying territories, reducing populations, locking women and children inside houses and killing families are being committed. A long time has passed in the last 75 years, but the freedom and autonomy of the Muslims of Palestine not being recognized. Deliberate settlement of Jews in the vicinity of Beit al-Maqdis is an indication of this. That the Jews not only want to heap mountains of oppression on the Muslims by approaching, but also want to expel the Muslims from there and occupy Bait al-Maqdis.

Even before and after the coming of the Jews. Palestine has been the homeland of Prophets like Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), Hazrat Yaqub (AS), Hazrat Musa (AS), Hazrat Jesus (AS), Hazrat Zakaria (AS), Hazrat Yahya (AS) and other Prophets. And all of them were sent by Allah and we Muslims do not make any difference between them.

ger of Allah, ﷺ, for sixteen or seven-ten months, turning towards Bayt al-Maqdis. Then our face was turned towards the Qiblah of Bait Allah (Bukhari and Muslim).

Hazrat Awf bin Malik (RA) says: On the occasion of the Battle of Tabuk, I attended the service of the Prophet ﷺ at that time, when he ﷺ was in a tent made of leather. That these six things will definitely happen before the Day of Judgment: (1) My death (2) Then the victory of Bait al-Maqdis (3) Then two such common deaths that will spread over you like an epidemic of goats (4) Then in wealth so much addition that if someone is given even one hundred dinars, he will show displeasure at that too (feeling the lack) (5) Then there will come such a fitna that no Arab house will remain without entering. (6) Then a time of peace will come between you and Banu Asfar (Romans). But they will rebel against you and will gather under these flags to fight you. There will be twelve thousand soldiers under each flag (Bukhari: 3176).

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: "The sign (of Dajjal) is that he will stay on earth for forty days. His rule will extend to every water jetty, but he will not be able to reach the four mosques: the Kaaba, the Prophet's Mosque, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Toor.

To be continued

After Israel's basic civil war in 1948, Jerusalem was divided into eastern and western territories. But East Quds is still not recognized as the capital of Palestine, while West Quds is occupied by Israel. Despite this, since the time of the partition in the United Nations,

During the time of Sayyiduna Hazrat Musa (peace be upon him) and Hazrat Dawood (peace be upon him), Hazrat Solomon (peace be upon him) was instructed by Allah to build a regular center of worship. Masjid al-Aqsa has always existed as an Islamic mosque and has been owned by Muslims.

Allah Ta'ala says: And from the nation of Ibrahim (a.s.), the one who rejects is the fool, and indeed We had chosen them in this world. And they will be among the righteous people in the hereafter. When their Allah said to them that you become a messenger, they said: I become a messenger of the Allah of the worlds. And this is what Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) bequeathed to his sons and Ya'qub (AS) too, saying: O my sons! Indeed, Allah has chosen a religion for you, so die while you are a Muslim. (Surah Al-Baqarah: 132)

It was narrated from Hazrat Abu Dharr (RA) that I asked the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ: Which mosque was the first to be built on earth. So he ﷺ said: Masjid al-Haram. I asked: Which one after that. So he ﷺ said: Masjid al-Aqsa. Hazrat Bara bin Azib (RA), says: We prayed together with the Messen-

Analysis



Javed Ullah Raja

With death toll mounting in strife-torn Sudan

I strongly condemn the outbreak of fighting that is taking place in Sudan and appeal to the leaders of the Rapid Support Forces (RAF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to immediately cease hostilities, restore calm, and begin a dialogue to resolve the crisis," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday.

Following the deaths of three employees of the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in the restive Darfur region amid widespread fighting, he called for those responsible to be brought to justice without delay.

"The situation has already led to horrendous loss of life, including many civilians," the UN chief said, ahead of delivering opening remarks at a UN Forum on Financing for Development.

Urging all those with influence over the deteriorating situation to press for peace, and support efforts to end the violence, restore order, and return to the path of transition, he warned that "any further escalation could be devastating for the country and region".

The crisis began with armed clashes on Saturday, between forces from the SAF, loyal to the head of the military government, and those of his deputy, who leads the paramilitary RAF.

Skirmishes led to widespread fighting between RSF and SAF forces across the capital Khartoum and surrounding areas.

Since then, more than 83 people have been killed and more than 1,126 people injured across Khartoum, South Kordofan, North Darfur, Northern State and other regions, with the heaviest concentration of fighting taking place in Khartoum, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement released on Sunday.

'Catastrophic' humanitarian situation'

UN chief Guterres said the already precarious humanitarian situation in Sudan was "now catastrophic".

The UN food agency estimates that one third of Sudan's population, or some 15 million people, face acute food insecurity.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan, Volker Perthes, said in a statement early on Monday that he remained engaged with the Sudanese, regional and international partners to work towards ending the fighting.

He expressed disappointment that a UN-brokered humanitarian ceasefire was only "partially" honoured on Sunday. He urged all parties to respect their international obligations, including to ensure the protection of all civilians.

Shortages of life-saving medical supplies

WHO warned that supplies it distributed to health facilities prior to the recent escalation of conflict "are now exhausted".

Many of the nine hospitals in Khartoum receiving injured civilians are reporting shortages of blood, transfusion equipment, intravenous fluids, medical supplies and other life-saving commodities, WHO said.

Reports indicate shortages of specialized medical personnel, and water and electricity cuts are affecting operations at health facilities, while hospital generators are running short of fuel, WHO said.

As the situation evolves, WHO will continue to work with partners and health authorities to fill gaps in the provision of healthcare, especially for trauma care, while also ensuring the safety of staff and their families, the agency said.

Bureaucracy can change the fate and future of Pakistan

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif

Commendable efforts for the improvement of functions and performance of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), a formidable institution of the Government, by its present chairman, Captain (Retd) Noor-Ul-Amin Mengal are underway. On the other hand similar struggle continues by the Director General Military Land and Cantonments, Major General Tariq Zameer. Both the authorities have generated an impact and a glimpse of hope of development oriented activities by important departments of the government. This is a manifestation of the fact that if bureaucracy is provided proper guidance, vision, and opportunity, the hard working and talented officers in the bureaucracy are capable enough to make tangible contribution to our devindling economy. Of course the said organizations have ample resources to achieve their targets. The only issue in civil services is lack of due enforcement of merit system in all spheres of civil service and social structure.

The advanced countries of the world accord top priority to merit system as is evident from the examples of Muhammad Sadiq Khan Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Rishi Sunak is the British Prime Minister. A lady from foreign origin is the Vice President of a Super Power of United States of America. The merit system prevails irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

The CDA Chairman decided to establish 100 recharge wells and 20 monitoring stations to counter the reduction in ground water level and to curtail urban flooding by NullahLeh flowing in twin cities, and causing havoc every year. Out of 100 proposed recharge wells 50 have been accomplished with conservation capacity of 10 million gallons of water which at first replenished

the ground water level and secondly reduced urban flooding by NullahLeh in 2022. This is great achievement and a matter of satisfaction for the citizens of twin cities.

The Directorate of Military Land and Cantonments has also exhibited their deep interest in building water reservoirs. A tank of water has been completed with capacity of 50,000 gallons of water as a first step in this direction. The DG has forcefully directed his subordinate establishments to undertake projects of water conservation in their catchment areas to cater for the requirement of water for vegetation and vegetables, besides, other by products, being a multiple purpose enterprise.

As such positive initiatives of these important institutions with sufficient expertise, could usher in better future. Both the departments are vested with prestige and status and are, therefore, vulnerable to transfer of the incumbents. The continuity of administrative policies fosters confidence and paves way for accomplishment of public oriented projects. CDA is often engrossed in allotment of plot issues. As in Bharia Town, phase 7, Defense Villas, 150 houses, said to be owned by Employees Old Age Benefits Institution, Karachi, have been ruined due to a court stay order for the last more than seven years, worth billions of rupees, like Nusla Tower case. It is colossal national loss. These houses have become a hazard for residents of Defense Villas.

It may be mentioned here that the writer made relentless efforts by his several articles on the subject published in prominent English dailies to persuade the government and its functionaries to realize the importance of rain water for our survival. The response is encouraging.

The bureaucrats with integrity, and talent are recorded in the annals of bureaucracy. In the history of Pakistan some bureaucrats rose to the climax positions of the country with a legacy of enviable reputation for their generations.

The towering bureaucrats in Pakistan and AJK can be narrated as a tribute to their meritorious services rendered to the nation. Chaudhry Muhammad Ali rose to the portfolio of Prime Minister of Pakistan. The second bureaucrat, held in high esteem is, Ghulam Ishaq Khan who became the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He has left an institution of international fame and an asset for KPK government, known as Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Science and Technology. Qudrat-Ullah Shahab, a chief secretary of AJK, and author of "SHAHAB NAMA" which has made him immortal. This book explains the personality of the officer. Abdul Bari chief secretary of AJK was offered historic and emotional sendoff on his transfer from AJK upto Kohala for his admirable services for the settlement of refugees. Syed Saifdar Hussain Kazmi, chief secretary of AJK who was inspiration and guide for the writer in the formulation and enforcement of AJK Rules of Business 1985, and departmental rules for all the departments.

The AJK local bureaucracy also produced officers of high calibre and integrity who made commendable sacrifices and rendered valuable services for AJK. Abdul Aziz Salaria, an educationist, migrated from Jammu, retired as founder Vice Chancellor of AJK university and was also a journalist contributing articles to Daily Dawn. Another famous bureaucrat Muhammad Yousuf Awan, an engineer, retired as Additional Chief Secretary and was known for integrity and righteousness. Khalil Ahmed Qureshi initiated the process of compilation AJK state laws while he held the position of Law Secretary. He compiled the code of revenue laws and rules as senior member board of revenue. He also got prepared the calendar for AJK university while he held the post of Vice Chancellor.

The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary AJK and Advocate Supreme Court AJK.

G20 members' willingness to Srinagar meeting lending legitimacy to India's brutal actions in Kashmir - I

Shaikh Yaqoob

Homo sapiens have surely come a long way from primitive stages of life to organised tribal communities to modern civilizations and all this was possible due to ever growing knowledge and consciousness. Although, human history is replete with innumerable conflicts, hostilities, wars and bloodshed, however, this species denied to be gobbled up and managed to live on and blossom into a stunning civilisational miracle of today, the United Nations which marks the pinnacle and greatest milestone of this millennia long tortuous odyssey.

Today we have these many civilizations and nations living side by side in an environment of peace and harmony, and together endeavouring relentlessly to nullify every threat to their existence and to climb the ladder of mutual welfare and prosperity. However, when civilisational spirit and consciousness has reached an apogee, some twisted and rabidly evil minds, unfortunately, keep tearing it up as is the case with Modi's communal Indian regime that driven by perverse Hindutva ideology has been engaged in genocide of enslaved Kashmiri Muslims and lynching every dissenter across the length and breadth of the land.

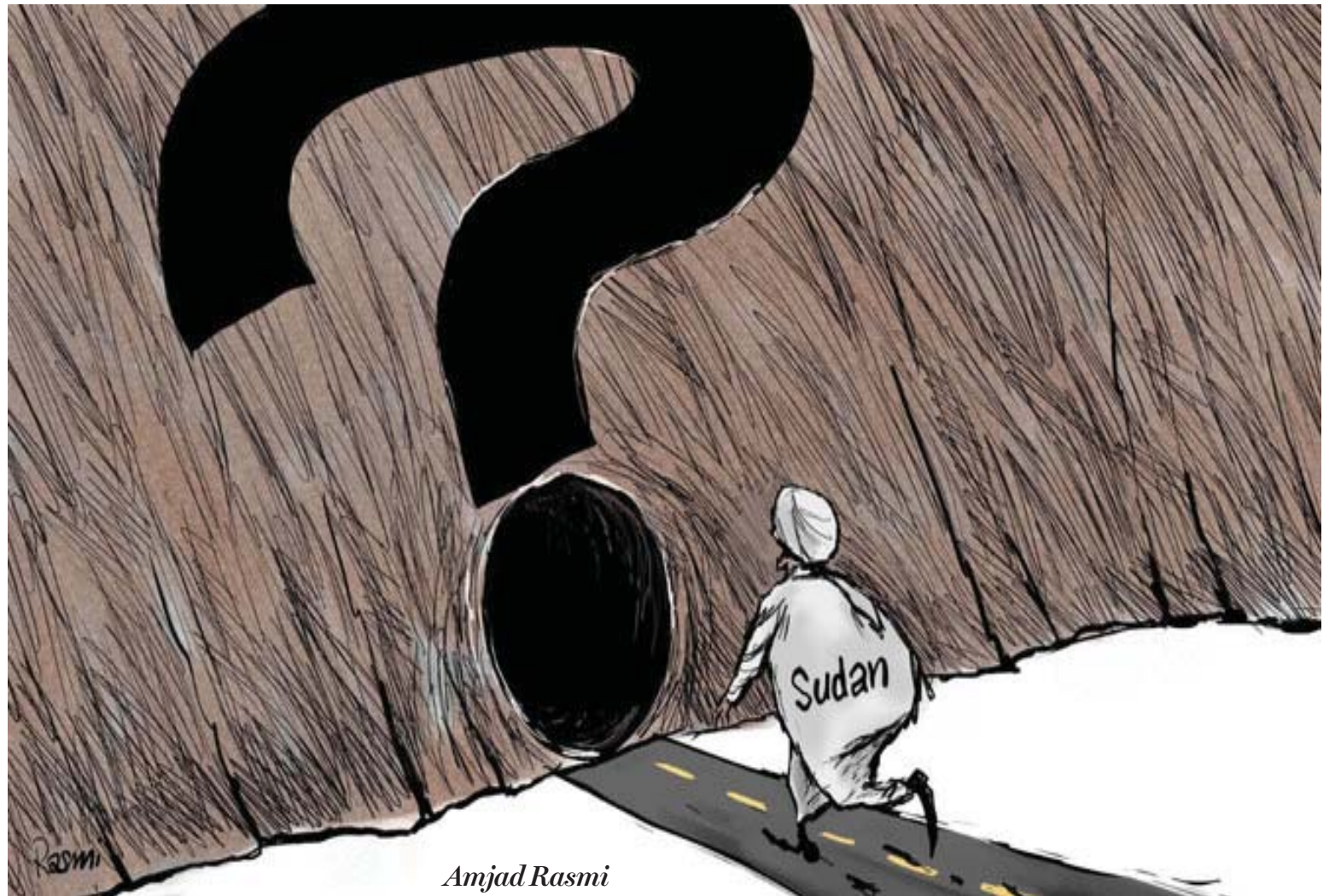
It is so baffling to note that this communal regime that feeds and thrives internally on bloodshed and massacres of Kashmiri and Indian Muslims is shamelessly and with such convenience projecting its "Shining India" to the civilised world with latter readily lapping it all without demur! Pertinent to note that India herself had been a victim of worst colonisation and had to pay a colossal price in blood and honour to win its freedom. And what could be more ironic than the fact that it was India that championed peoples' freedom and Independence and lead the NAM, but in utter

disregard and violation of the UNSC resolutions on the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir continued to perpetuate its illegal hold and occupation of the state and kept its fettered inhabitants deprived of their birth right, the right to self-determination as enshrined in those resolutions. More shameful is the fact that it was India herself that had taken this issue to the United Nations and proposed in writing that plebiscite in Kashmir should determine its future status and must be the basis of its final settlement and yet, when the UNSC accepted the proposal and incorporated it in its resolutions of 1948 and 49 with India one among the signatories to these, it did everything conceivable to undermine and stall their implementation. And what world was to witness afterwards was a relentless persecution, systematic genocide and suppression of the freedom loving Kashmiris and consolidation of its illegitimate hold of the territory through a nonstop series of colonial legislations and draconian laws.

During these seven and a half decades occupation, several hundred thousand Kashmiri Muslims have been murdered, many more tortured and incarcerated and trillions of worth properties destroyed and all this tyranny perpetrated to force the populace into perennial submission to its rule. Mass murders, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, mass arrests, collective punishments, humiliation, torture, loot, arson and most repellent of all the molestation of Kashmiri women have remained the rule of the day. Can anyone contest this harsh truth that India turned the 'paradise on earth' into a virtual hell for its poor natives? Kashmir today is the most heavily militarised zone with almost a million brute trigger happy military personnel unleashing terror on the enslaved population 24/7.

To be continued

Shaikh Yaqoob is senior leader APHC can be reached at.....Abufaiq2012@gmail.com



Amjad Rasmi

IRRI promoting regional cooperation to increase rice production

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: International Rice Research Institute Philippines is promoting regional cooperation to increase rice production and germplasm exchange in South Asia to meet the nutritional needs of the rapidly growing population. These views were expressed by IRRI Director for Asia, Dr. Jongsoo Shin, during an online meeting with UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan and other stakeholders. He said that various countries should work together to bring food stability at the level. He said that IRRI's efforts to increase the production of rice at the global level have resulted in rice meeting the nutritional needs of 56% of the world's population. While twenty-five percent of the world's population is cultivating rice and arranging their employment from it.



He said that 13 percent of the world's crops are produced in the form of rice, which is worth 206 billion dollars. He further said that rice is being cultivated on 10 cultivable areas of the world, on which 35% of the total water resources are being used. New varieties of rice have been introduced. Similarly, in Pakistan, tall varieties of rice with the help of crisper case and genome editing can be adapted to the climatic changes by making them shorter in duration. He said that the world's best fragrant rice is being produced in Pakistan and

genetic diversity can be used to increase its production. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that with the help of IRRI, Pakistan can make advancements in the rice production. He said Pakistan was producing valuable rice with excellent taste and aroma.

He said experts have to work together for value chain system equipped with new innovations. Director of Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku, Syed Sultan Ali Shah said that their institute has produced rice and several varieties have been introduced, one of which is a variety of 9mm rice, if it is improved, the country's rice production can be greatly increased.

Syed Faisal Ali, a progressive rice farmer, said that efforts to reopen the IRRI office in Pakistan with the support of Asian Development Bank are the most important need of the hour. He said that the production of rice can be increased by manipulation of different crops on the cultivated area.

Deputy Head Rice Breeding Innovation Dr. Varendor Kumar said that

bio fortification should also be taken into account in the production of hybrid varieties of rice because two billion people around the world suffer from micronutrient deficiency. We have to keep an eye on these things that are in short supply.

Deputy Platform Leader Dr. Uma Shankar Singh said that more research is needed on sustainable cropping systems with a combination of rice and maize to achieve global food security goals. He said that rice, which meets the nutritional needs of half of the world's population, can be a solution to problems such as malnutrition with the combination of various minerals and vitamins. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Dr. Nadeem Akbar, Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Dr. Asif Kamran, Dr. Muhammad Sagheer, Dr. Muhammad Waseem and Dr. Amir Maqsood Gill participated while Four Brothers Chief Executive Jawed Saleem Qureshi, Mr. Shahid Hussain Tarrar and Dr. Imtiaz Hussain also participated in the online meeting.

Palestinian Prisoners Day



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the Palestinian Prisoner's Day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates salutes the thousands of Palestinian detainees who have been and are still held arbitrarily and illegally in the Israeli detention dungeons;

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates the centrality of the Palestinian detainees' cause and reaffirms that their freedom is a fundamental part of the freedom of the Palestinian people;

Over the past five decades, Israel, the occupying power, has detained over 800,000 Palestinians, including children and women. Currently, Israel illegally detains 4,800, including 29 females and 170 children;

Moreover, 967 Palestinians are currently detained under the Israeli illegal policy of administrative detention. The highest number of administrative detainees in the past 11 years;

Successive Israeli occupation governments have implemented discriminatory policies against Palestinian detainees. The current racist Israeli occupation government intensified these abhorrent policies;

Approving a draft law authorizing the execution of Palestinian detainees, approving a discriminatory legislation deporting Palestinian detainees from their land, and introducing a draft law depriving detainees of medical treatment are only samples of such discriminatory policies;

The Israeli occupation detention system is a main part of its collection of colonial tools to intimidate and persecute the Palestinian people to serve different objectives including enabling forcible transfer, mass displacement, land confiscation and annexation;

The Israeli judicial system is part of the colonial regime that legitimizes discrimination, torture and persecution of the Palestinian people;

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the international community, including HCPS to the GCIV, to uphold their legal responsibilities towards Palestinian detainees by ending arbitrary detention without fair trial or any legal basis for the deprivation of liberty.

Pakistan welcomes efforts for peace in Yemen

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the recent dialogue and diplomatic engagement towards attainment of peace in Yemen with particular reference to the Saudi role and endeavors in reinforcing the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman and the UN Special Envoy for Yemen. The Saudi efforts towards an amicable resolution of the Yemeni crisis, we believe, are timely and would promote peace, stability and development in the region.



Pakistan reiterates its principled support for a political solution to the Yemeni crisis through dialogue and consultation.

UE is going to organize a Special Exhibition on the 10th Anniversary of China Belt and Road Initiative

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the China Belt and Road Initiative, the University of Education, Lahore, in collaboration with Lahore Museum, is going to organize a "Star Moon Road; China Pakistan Contemporary Arts Exchange Exhibition" from May 3rd to May 5th, 2023 at UE Main Campus and from 4th to 7th May at Lahore Museum. The exhibition aims to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CPEC and promote cultural exchange and cooperation between China and Pakistan. The exhibition will showcase contemporary artworks from renowned Chinese and Pakistani artists, including paintings, sculptures, installations, and digital art. The artists will present their unique perspectives on culture, society, and contemporary issues through their artwork.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition will be held on May 3 in the main campus township of the University of Education, Lahore, in which prominent political and social figures of the country, vice chancellors of various universities, intellectuals and famous artists of the country including Chinese will participate. In this regard, an important meeting was held on April 17, 2023 in the main campus of the University of Education, Lahore, which was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I., H.I.). Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor directed the heads of all committees to complete the arrangements soon. The Vice-Chancellor issued strict instructions for fool-proof security arrangements due to the arrival of foreign guests. He said that CPEC is undoubtedly China's special gift for the development of this region. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of CPEC, UE organized the China-Pakistan Exchange Art Exhibition, which is undoubtedly a practical proof of our love for our friendly country. The heads of all the committees formed for the exhibition were present in the meeting along with Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Arshad.

Pak-Iran Relations

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini visited Naval headquarters, Islamabad & called on chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. During the call-on, the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral Collaborations & maritime security in the region.



Photo: Online

EC asked to look into 'breach' of EU laws by Maltese Govt

MONITORING REPORT

BRUSSELS: One of the world's leading private healthcare providers Steward Health Care International (SHCI) has filed an unusual but critical complaint to the European Commission (EC) against the Maltese government and the country's judiciary for the blatant infringement of European Union (EU) laws on several grounds.

In its formal complaint lodged through lawyers, SHCI has lashed out at the Malta court's judge Justice Francesco Depasquale who had concluded without evidence that SHCI's deal with the Maltese government to provide health services in three hospitals was fraudulent.

The company has told the European Commission that it was clear the verdict was driven by political motives and facts were disregarded.

SHCI launched the complaint in relation to SHCI's Maltese subsidiary, Steward Health Care Malta (SHCM), after the low-level court annulled the agreement through which Vitals Global Healthcare (VGH) and later



Steward took over the management of Karin Grech, St Luke's and Gozo hospitals and came under criticism from the local right-wing nationalist press.

SHCI immediately appealed the decision arguing that the court verdict was based on bias and vendetta and

that the company has been cheated and misled by the Maltese government, which has said it has decided to run the three hospitals.

Steward has emphatically rejected the narrative of the judge's findings, described the judgment as one that fails to support its ruling with evidence and that the judgment's narrative is speculative and highly conjectural.

Following the appeal, Steward said: "The judgment's narrative, which is speculative and highly conjectural, could have been disproven had SHCM been asked to supply evidence on these counts to court. Such a request was never made, neglecting therefore the right to a defence.

"The judgement on the hospitals' concession breaches EU law on various fronts. It is incompatible with the key principle of free movement of capital, and is not compliant with the gener-

al principles of legal certainty and legitimate expectations, as well as the principle of proportionality. SHCI also considers that the judge significantly and deliberately overreached his remit in his verdict."

Steward has described the verdict as a political decision. It said: "This is a serious breach of the judicial practice and a clear indication that the verdict was arrived at as a result of political, rather than factual, motives. These failings - along with most others present in the judgement - represent major concerns for the rule of law in Malta, a country that has been afflicted by significant corruption scandals relating to the executive, legislative, and judicial arms of authority for many years (some of which have even required investigation and demands that changes be implemented by the European Banking Authority)."

Chaudhry Haroon organized Iftar party

Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER: Chaudhry Haroon Afzal Khatana, the Chairman of Pakistani Community Center Manchester, a prominent social, political and business personality, organized an Iftar party in honor of the leading personalities of the interfaith community and people from different walks of life, in which members of the British Parliament Muhammad Afzal Khan, Imran Hussain, Lucy Paul, Nondo Mishra, Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, Consul General of Pakistan Consulate Manchester Tariq Wazir Khan, Consul General of Turkey Sefi Owner Sayan, High Sheriff Lorraine Kirsten, Member of the British House of Lords Wajid Khan, Mayor of Rochdale Councilor Syed Ali Ahmed, Mayor

Bari Councilor Shahina Haroon and other leading personalities and community participated in large numbers.

Chaudhry Haroon Afzal Khatana, the Chairman of Pakistani Community Center Manchester, a prominent social, political and business personality, organized an Iftar party in honor of the leading personalities of the interfaith community and people from different walks of life, in which members of the British Parliament Muhammad Afzal Khan Imran Hussain, Lucy Paul, Nondo Mishra, Jeff Smith, Angela Rayner, Andrew Gwynne, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, Consul General, Pakistani Consulate in Manchester, Tariq Wazir Khan, Consul General of Turkey, Seyfi Onur Sayin, Consul General of Spain, Laura Garcia Alfaya Consul Gener-

al Ireland Sarah Mangan Aider Mardenov Embassy Kazakhstan Consul General Libya Adel Albabaa Consul General Iraq Abdullah, Consul General Italy MATTEO CORRADINE High Sheriff Lorraine Kirsten, Member of the British House of Lords Wajid Khan - Leader of Manchester City Council Bev Craig High Sheriff Greater Manchester Lorraine Christine Worsley Carter MBE Deputy Chief Constable Terry Woods Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Bur Burnham Rochdale Councilor Syed Ali Ahmed, Mayor of Bury Councilor Shahina Haroon Lord Mayor of Manchester Donna Ludforde Mayor Bolton Akhtar Zaman Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International Chairman Raja Najabat Hussain Commercial Trade Secretary Chaudhary Muhammad

Akhtar - Councilor Naila Sharif and other leading personalities and community participated in large numbers. Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham and businessman Anil Musarat hailed the Iftar party as a useful way to bring the interfaith community together - and credited Chaudhry Haroon Afzal Khatana, MPs Afzal Khan - Barrister Imran Hussain - Andrew Gon said that members of the interfaith community are present in the Iftar party, which will create mutual unity and harmony within the community, which reflects the intercultural society, and by organizing the Iftar party, we send a message of love and unity - Consul General Tariq The Minister said that it is the recognition of the Pakistani Muslim community that we bring together the interfaith community in the month



of Ramadan and give a message of peace and love. Mayor Shahina Haroon and Rochdale Mayor Ali Ahmed, Bolton Mayor Akhtar Zaman Raja Najabat Hussain also welcomed the participation of the interfaith and cultural community participating in the Iftar party. Haroon Afzal Khatana gave a beautiful message to the community by bringing together interfaith and people from different walks of life and

culture. Diya, who gathered so many great personalities in one place, Manager and Trustee of Pakistan Community Center Aisha Mumtaz also thanked the participants in today's program. They try to bring together the interfaith community, which brings together people of different schools of thought and elected representatives of the people. I try to make it better every year. Those who accepted the invita-

tion and participated in the Iftar party were treated to high quality traditional Asian cuisine. The effort made by Chaudhry Haroon Afzal Khatana to bring together the leading personalities of the interfaith and cultural community on one platform in Pakistani Community Center Manchester to spread awareness about the virtues and importance of the month of Ramadan is commendable and enviable.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
40,246.66	40,205.54	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
40,372.80	40,182.37	
Index Value	Change	
2,644,007,167	+79.49	
Percentage	Time	
+0.2%	17 Apr, 2023 1:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,879.51	+7.60	
Percentage	Time	
+0.097%	17 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,860.69	-25.78	
Percentage	Time	
-0.076%	17 Apr, 1:28 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
28,514.78	+21.31	
Percentage	Time	
+0.075%	17 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	189	191
Bahrain Dinar	755.96	763.96
Canadian Dollar	210.5	212.5
China Yuan	41.9	42.3
Danish Krone	42.7	43.1
Euro	310	313.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.66	37.01
Indian Rupee	3.49	3.6
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.44	935.44
Malaysian Ringgit	64.96	65.56
New Zealand \$	176.41	178.41
Norwegians Krone	27.93	28.23
Omani Riyal	739.05	747.05
Qatari Riyal	78.6	79.3
Saudi Riyal	75.7	76.4
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.32	27.62
Swiss Franc	318.14	320.64
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	77.5	78.3
UK Pound Sterling	354.5	358
US Dollar	287.5	290

Endless holidays on Eid should be reconsidered: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the policy of increasing interest rate to reduce inflation has failed, so the interest rate should not be increased further.

Rather, other methods should be used to contain inflation and provide some relief to the masses.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that an increase in the interest rates was followed by the failure of banks in the US and EU which damaged their economy, therefore instead of repeating the experiences of these countries, lessons should be learned from them.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that frequent increase



in interest rate in Pakistan is not serving any purpose but to disturb the business community and the public, and it is leading to bank defaults. The causes of inflation in Pakistan are the

continuous increase in the value of the dollar more than the demand for commodities, continuous decrease in the value of the rupee, and holding containers loaded with goods worth more than five billion dollars at the ports, which leads to the lack of essential commodities and raw materials in the country.

Lack of control over prices and hoarding mafia exploits are also reasons behind the unprecedented inflation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in developed countries, the business community and the people take the most loans from banks, so the increase in the interest rate reduces the demand and inflation.

But he observed that the main customer of banks in Pakistan is the government itself, and no government cares what the interest rate is.

He questioned how inflation will be controlled by increasing the interest rate when the government has to borrow indiscriminate-

ly anyway.

The business leader further said that approximately 50 million people in Pakistan receive about 12 trillion rupees annually through remittances and hundi, which increases the demand for goods and services, which is not affected by the interest rate.

The government continuously strives to increase exports and remittances and introduce cheap credit schemes to increase productivity, increasing demand.

He noted that in Pakistan, 60% of the economy is undocumented, due to which people have an extra four trillion rupees available every year, and even these people are not affected by the increase in interest rates because they do business in cash.

He demanded that the endless holidays on Eid should be revised and the holiday on the 25th should be abolished and also 29th should be declared as a working day.

ICCI for revival of Pakistan Railways to revive the economy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan Railways can play a key role in the development of the economy and stressed that the government should focus on revival of railways to revive the economy. He said that the Pakistan Railways, once a much cheaper and effective source of transportation of goods, has lost its competitiveness to road transport, and now handles only about six per cent of the freight traffic. He urged that Pakistan Railways should improve the quality of its cargo service and work with the private sector to increase its share of freight traffic in the short term to at least 20 percent that would help its better growth. He said this while talking to Saqib Iqbal Butt, Senior Superintendent Goods, Pakistan Railways, Islamabad Dry Port during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that railways should establish bonded and non-bonded warehouses, stocking, storage & loading/unloading facilities in Islamabad in consultation with ICCI to facilitate the business community in import and export of goods. He said that Pakistan can reduce USD 5 billion in oil



import bill by developing Pakistan Railways. He further said that Pakistan can also pay all debt of the country by selling lands of Pakistan Railways.

Speaking on the occasion, Saqib Iqbal Butt, Senior Superintendent Goods, Pakistan Railways, Islamabad Dry port said that Pakistan Railways is ready to provide cargo service to the business community as per their needs. He said that new cargo coaches will reach Pakistan soon from China that would provide better freight service to the private sector. He said that Pakistan Railways need the support of

the private sector to improve its share of cargo service and said that the business community should work with Pakistan Railways for transportation of goods that would help its revival.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the business community is ready to construct stocking sheds on BOT basis in Islamabad to stock imported goods and railways should facilitate them in this regard.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG said that Pakistan Railways should extend its rail network to Iran, Afghan-

Standard Chartered and British Int'l Investment sign USD40 million Risk-Participation Agreement



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan Limited recently signed an unfunded Risk-Participation Agreement with British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, to provide support to the microfinance sector in Pakistan. Subject to authorisation from the State Bank of Pakistan, the two institutions will enter into a USD40 million programme, under which BII will cover 50 per cent of Standard Chartered's risk on local currency loans to the target sector.

The programme will focus on 'Wholesale Micro-finance Lending' offering loans to microfinance providers so they can maintain and extend more credit to customers. This will also enable them to better manage cashflow, maintain, and grow their businesses. Through such partnerships, Standard Chartered will be able to drive financial inclusion across traditionally underbanked sectors and ensure access to financing while creating opportunities for sustainable growth.

The agreement was marked by a signing ceremony in Karachi to mark BII's 75th anniversary. The DFI also celebrated 35 years and over \$350 million worth of investment in Pakistan as well as a renewed commitment to financial inclusion.

Present at the signing, Sarmad Lone, Regional Head, Client Coverage Corporate, Commercial & Institutional Banking Africa & Middle East, Stan-

dard Chartered Bank said: "We strive to expand the reach and scale of financial services; expanding accessible banking and connecting clients to opportunities that promote access to finance and economic inclusion. This collaboration allows us to develop capacity to support ventures that are focusing on SME and agri-adjacent sectors. It will also help us build our capacity to support innovation in financial services."

Sarah Mooney, British Deputy High Commissioner to Karachi and Director of Trade Pakistan, said: "I am delighted that BII continues to provide strategic investment to Pakistan's economy. Innovative financial products such as this are key to empowering small businesses, creating jobs, and increasing sustainable economic growth and cooperation. This agreement evidences UK's commitment to achieve sustainable development goals and working together with all Commonwealth members for prosperity and trade."

Habib Yousuf, Regional Director, South Asia at British International Investment, added: "This facility represents an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Standard Chartered Bank and establish a credible banking partnership in the country to support the long-term development of the microfinance sector. At BII a key part of our mandate is to support inclusive economic growth and this investment will increase access to finance for SMEs across Pakistan, with a focus on those in the most challenging contexts."

Sewing

KARACHI: Tailors are busy in sewing the clothes of customers at their road side setup in Neighbourhood of Cantt Station in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

SAP software has enhanced the efficiency of public and private organizations: Saquib Ahmad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director SAP, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan, has said that the provision of better and timely services is being ensured, owing to SAP's seamless modern technology and software in public and private institutions in Pakistan.

He said this with regards to the recent collaboration between SAP and Imtiaz Supermarket, Pakistan's biggest retail company, to continue uninterrupted business and operations.

Saquib Ahmad said that there has been a visible improvement in the quality of public services and the provision of services,

within Pakistani government institutions, which are being facilitated by SAP software.

Regarding the partnership between Imtiaz Supermarket and SAP, Saquib Ahmad said, "This is a key accomplishment for SAP in the retail and FMCG industry. Partnering with Pakistan's fastest-growing superstore chain has been a milestone for us." He added that SAP aims to make life easier for its customers.

Ashar Zahid, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Imtiaz Supermarket, said that SAP's one-stop solution has helped in providing convenience to customers through savings schemes and improv-

ing the quality of services with error-free services. This has been made possible through the connection of 26 stores to an automated alert system for integrated inventory, payroll, shelving, and quality check.

According to an agreement between, German technology giant SAP and Imtiaz Supermarkets, SAP is providing one-stop solution that will cover core modules such as finance, costing, material management, and sales, but also specialized modules for retail management.

"Imtiaz Supermarket has become the fastest-growing retail chain in Pakistan due to strategic technology implementation. It also plans to expand



globally, where SAP will play an integral role in its regional and global expansion", said a statement. SAP Pakistan has

strengthened its relationship with its customers by providing end-to-end solutions that work seamlessly. Digital transforma-

tion is fundamental to SAP and customers value the fundamental changes that SAP makes to grow businesses.

Bank Alfalah Partners with SendSpend for UK remittance transfers to Pakistan

News Desk

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, one of the largest commercial banks in Pakistan, has collaborated with SendSpend, headquartered in London, United Kingdom (UK), to launch a state-of-the-art, international remittance service. The cloud-based service allows immediate and effortless money transfers from the UK to Pakistan through mobile phones, allowing individuals and businesses to send and receive money internationally more conveniently than ever.

SendSpend is an international remittance service that uses ground-breaking cloud-based technology to make money transfers seamless and convenient with just a few taps. Through its partnership with SendSpend, Bank Alfalah is equipping the users of 17 different mobile wallets in Pakistan to not just receive funds internationally but also the possibility to use Bank's over 900 ATMs nationwide to cash out. Users will also be able to have the funds transferred directly into the bank account of their choice in any bank.

Atif Bajwa, President and CEO of Bank Alfalah, commented on the partnership, "We are pleased to partner with SendSpend to offer customised solutions for non-resident Pakistanis in the UK to send hassle-free remittances to their loved ones in Pakistan. This innovative service empowers customers by placing financial control directly in their hands."

Tracy Andersson, joint CEO from SendSpend commented on the partnership with Bank Alfalah, "We are extremely pleased to be joining hands with Bank Alfalah on this mission towards greater financial inclusion and empowerment across the country."

"We make sending and spending money stress-free for both sender and receiver," says Graham Davies, SendSpend's Joint CEO. "By providing a money remittance service from the palm of their hand, our customers are in control all the way. What's more, SendSpend customers in the UK can top up their mobile wallet at over 28,000 cash pay-in points, so whether they're remitting from their bank account or using cash, the process is always quick and simple."

Pakistan and New Zealand Cricket teams play in Rawalpindi two T20 and Two ODI matches schedule

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan and New Zealand Cricket Teams Will Arrive in Islamabad on Tuesday for the last two T20Is and the first two One-Day Internationals of the five-match series at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. These four matches will be played on 20, 24, 27 and 29 April.

Shakeel Khan will lead the media operations, 19 April – The two sides will practice from 1945 till 2245. Beforehand, squad members from both sides will hold pre-match media conferences. 20 April – The two teams play the fourth T20I from 2100. After the match, the PCB will provide interviews of the star performers from both sides. 21-23 April – Eid holidays.

24 April – The two teams will play the fifth and final T20I, which begins at 2100. Squad members from both sides will hold post-match media conferences. 25 April – Rest day. 26 April – The two teams will practice from 1600 till 1900. The two captains will unveil the One-Day International trophy and a squad member from each side will hold pre-series media conference. 27 April – Pakistan and New Zealand

play the first ODI, which begins at 1530. After the match, star performers from both sides will hold media conferences. 28 April – Rest day. 29 April – Pakistan and New Zealand play the second ODI, which begins at 1530. After the match, star performers from both sides will hold media conferences. 30 April – The two teams depart for Karachi for the last three ODIs.

Sheroze's parents elated to see him conquering Mt. Annapurna 1

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mountaineer Shehroze Kashif's parents feel elated at their son's latest accomplishment in Nepal wherein on Monday he along with compatriot Naila Kiani and other members of Seven Summit Trekking team successfully ascended the 8,091-metre Mt. Annapurna 1, the 10th highest peak in the world.

The 20-year-old Shehroze is now the youngest person in the world to have summited 11 peaks above 8000-metre.

"It is a remarkable achievement that barely after six months of his spinal surgery he is standing tall on the 10th highest mountain of the world," Shehroze's father, Kashif Salman told media here.

Shehroze, who is also known as 'Broad Boy', underwent surgery for a torn disc that was affecting his spinal movements in September, last year. At that time, he had also shared the development with his fans on Facebook, stating that he had been "diagnosed with a torn L5-S1 disc. This disc acts as a shock-absorber to protect the vertebrae during spinal movements."

Last month, while leaving Lahore for Nepal for the Annapurna 1 expedition, he had announced an ambitious goal of becoming the world's youngest climber to summit all 14 peaks above 8,000 meters. Prior to Annapurna, the curly-haired mountaineer has scaled 11 peaks and now only three mountains (Dhaulagiri, Shishipangma and Choyu) are left to earn him the title of the youngest climber to summit all 14 x 8000m.



"I always say Shehroze is a gifted human and Allah has blessed him with powers so he can do extraordinary things," Kashif Salman, who is his son's staunch supporter of mountain expeditions said. Expressing his feelings on Shehroze's Annapurna summit he said: "At one point it seemed that his carrier was over but the way he overcame the obstacles and challenges, he faced after being with a dislocated backbone is quite amazing. It is a clear message that it's not over until it's over," he added. Shehroze's mother, who had seen off her son at the airport for the Annapurna expedition, recalled

that when during his K2 and other expeditions she would ask him to come back home, he exhibited a great love for the mountains. "Whenever I would ask him, don't you miss the home? He would show me the mountains and say, 'this is my home mom'." She expressed the hope that her son would live up to the billing and soon achieve the feat of climbing all the above 14,000m peaks. The 14 peaks, also known as the eight-thousanders, are a collection of mountains rising above 8,000 metres (26,247 feet). These mountains are regarded as the most difficult and dangerous in the world, with only a few climbers having successfully summited all of them.

Shehroze's perseverance, passion, and skill have made him an inspiration to young mountaineers all over

the world. He believes that anyone, no matter how big or small, can achieve their dreams with hard work and dedication. "I'm determined to achieve this goal and bring honour to my country. I want to inspire young people to pursue their dreams and passions, no matter how difficult they may appear," Shehroze stated about his challenge.

Shehroze's world-record ascent will not only bring international attention to Pakistan but will also highlight the country's natural beauty and diverse landscapes. His accomplishment will inspire a new generation of mountaineers and adventurers to climb the world's tallest peaks. The young mountaineer has also launched a fundraising campaign on 'GoFundMe' for his expeditions.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail also congratulated Shehroze Kashif and Naila Kayani on their great feat. "Shehroze is a high-spirited and courageous mountaineer. He said that hard work and dedication played a key role in achieving bigger goals. "Shehroze Kashif and Naila Kayani's success is a big honour for the nation".

PAK vs NZ: Mohammad Rizwan 'deemed fit' for third T20I

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) medical board on Monday, deemed wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan fit for the third PAK vs NZ T20I of the five-match series.

Watch PAK vs NZ T20I Live Match at ARY ZAP Rizwan, who played an anchoring 50-run knock in Pakistan's dominating triumph over New Zealand in the second T20I, walked off the field in the second innings due to a back injury.

He did not keep wickets in the second innings of the aforementioned fixture and Mohammad Harris replaced him for the rest of the match.

Meanwhile, the PCB medical board has cleared the air on Rizwan's fitness and confirmed that the wicketkeeper batter is available for selection for tonight's fixture.

Change the Name

Aimen Ali Daughter of Shamshad Ali have officially changed my name to Aimen Ali, from today going forward I will be known and called as Aimen Ali. Contact # 0331 5414279

Wahab Riaz congratulates young mountaineers Shehroz and Naila

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz has congratulated young mountaineers Shehroz Kashif and Naila Kayani for scaling the world's 10th highest peak Annapurna in Nepal.

In his greeting message Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that young mountaineers have achieved a great feat by climbing the 8091 meter high peak.

He said Shahroz Kashif, the world's youngest mountaineer,



has climbed 11 peaks higher than 8,000 meters.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that Nayla Kayani has won the honour of being the first Pakistani woman mountaineer to summit Annapurna peak. "Young mountaineers have given great distinction Pakistan by scaling the Annapurna peak quite successfully".

He said youngsters like Shehroz Kashif and Naila Kayani are an asset of the country. Director General Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail also congratulated Shehroz Kashif and Naila Kayani on their great feat. "Shehroze is a high-spirited and courageous mountaineer. He said that hard work and dedication played a key role in achieving bigger goals. "Shehroze Kashif and Naila Kayani's success is a big honour for the nation".

Director General Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail further said that Shahroz Kashif and Naila Kayani have set great example for the talented youth by scaling Annapurna peak.

Barcelona president denies corruption allegations

Amid allegations of corruption to "influence referees", FC Barcelona president Joan Laporta on Monday categorically denied any wrongdoing, claiming that the side "have never done anything with intentions of taking a sporting advantage in a competition".

Speaking at a press conference at the club's Camp Nou stadium, Laporta maintained that his club was one with "values" and while they liked to win, it was through fair play and on their own merit.

"We are an institution of values," the Barca president said. "We like to win by playing well. That is how we win. We don't like to win because we had help from the referees."

The remarks came amidst corruption charges against the Catalan club by Spanish prosecutors last month. Earlier this year, Spanish authorities uncovered payments of more than €7.3 million (\$7.8 million) to a company owned by a former refereeing chief Jose Maria Enriquez Negrera.

Referring to the rumours as a "smear campaign", Laporta said: "Never has a campaign against Bacra paid off. Barcelona continues to be a point of reference in the world of sports and Barcelona continues to be loved and admired by millions of Catalans and millions of people around the world."

"Basically, it is an orchestrated campaign to destroy the reputation of FC Barcelona." Taking to Twitter, the club wrote: "It is one of the most ferocious attacks in our history. I ask Barcelona fans to remain more united than ever in the defence of our shield, our essence and our ownership model, which is that of a club for all members."

Laporta further added that the "third-party" agency looking into the matter had found no evidence of wrongdoing and said that Spain's tax office sent a letter to prosecutors stating that "it has not been able to demonstrate that the payments made to Negrera's companies could have influenced the referees or the result of any match."

"They could not show it because it was not possible," he said.

PAK vs NZ T20I: New Zealand sink Pakistan to stay alive in T20I series



By A Sports -

LAHORE: Disciplined New Zealand came out roaring to breeze past nervy Pakistan in the third PAK vs NZ T20I and stayed alive in the ongoing five-match series.

The third T20I of the five-match series between Pakistan and New Zealand was played here at the Gaddafi Stadium.

New Zealand captain Tom Latham opted to bat first after the coin flipped in his favour and his men justified his decision by posting a decent total on the scoreboard with Latham himself leading the charge with a brilliant half-century while Daryl Mitchell scored a vital 33.

The target set by the Blackcaps eventually proved to be too much for the home side as they failed to complete the series triumph in the third T20I.

The two sides will lock horns in the fourth T20I on Thursday (April 20th) with Babar-led Pakistan eyeing the series triumph.

Barcelona held at Getafe for second straight goalless draw in LaLiga



By A Sports -

GETAFE: In an enthralling contest, Getafe earned a point as leaders Barcelona were held to a nil-nil draw twice a week in LaLiga on Sunday.

The Catalan Giants, who drew 0-0 with Girona on Monday, would not be happy with this week's results yet they maintain a healthy lead over second-placed Real Madrid at the top of the standings. With the current draw, their advantage is cut down to 11 points over arch-rivals, who beat Cadiz 2-0 on Saturday. However, there are still nine games left in the season.

Visitors Barca had two chances to break the deadlock in the 25th minute when Raphinha came close to the target but his shot struck the post before Alejandro Balde's effort from the rebound also hit the woodwork.

Despite dominating the possession for most of the match, Barcelona looked unimpressive in their attack in the absence of injured players such as Pedri and Ousmane Dembele - two of their mainstays in creating chances this season.

Barcelona next play Atletico Madrid at Camp Nou on next Sunday while 15th-placed Getafe, who sit four points above the relegation zone, visit Mallorca on the same day.

Earlier, Girona thrashed bottom-placed Elche 2-0 at home to go ninth in the standings, thanks to goals in each half by Valentin Castellanos and Oriol Romeu.

In another LaLiga fixture yesterday Atletico Madrid edged past Almeria 2-1 after Antoine Griezmann scored twice in the first half.

Makes a brand well': Shaheen Shah Afridi takes a cheeky dig at Shoaib Akhtar

The controversy surrounding former speedster Shoaib Akhtar's "brand" statement involving fan-favourite cricketer Babar Azam is an affair everyone is well acquainted with.

Akhtar had criticised the Pakistan skipper on his speaking skills. With the matter made headlines, Babar Azam's fans and supporters were not happy about it. The prolific batter had received support not only from fans but also from various co-players and former cricketers alike.

This time around, Pakistan's pace sensation Shaheen Shah Afridi has showed support to his captain in an indirect way during interview with a local channel, took a cheeky dig at former pacer for his demeaning comments.

When the interviewer asked which quality of Shoaib Akhtar does he like, Afridi smilingly said: "[Akhtar] makes a brand very well".

PAK vs NZ Live: Iftikhar blitz in vain as New Zealand edge Pakistan

By A Sports -

LAHORE: Iftikhar Ahmed's quickfire 60 failed to trump Tom Latham's half-century as New Zealand edged Pakistan by four runs in the third PAK vs NZ T20I and stayed alive in the five-match series, led by Pakistan 2-1.

Set to chase 164, Pakistan failed just five short of victory as the home side could raise 159 before bundling out on the final delivery despite Iftikhar's quickfire 60.

Earlier, the green shirts got off to a dismal start as the side lost their in-form captain Babar Azam early, who perished after scoring just one.

The home side then rocked with another major blow as wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan (6) perished in

the fourth over; courtesy of a direct hit by Chad Bowes.

Pakistan's middle order once again failed to chip in and the disciplined New Zealand bowling attack restricted them to 88/7 in the 15th over.

Following the slump, Iftikhar stitched a gritty eighth-wicket partnership with Faheem Ashraf and kept their side in the hunt.

The pair raised 61 runs in just 26 deliveries before Matt Henry got rid of Faheem in the 19th over. He scored a 14-ball 27, smashing two boundaries and as many sixes.

With Pakistan needing 15 off the final over, Latham brought Neesham to bowl with ruthless Iftikhar on strike.

The right-arm pacer held his nerves intact to bar Paki-

stan from running away with the series win as he picked up the remaining two wickets including the prized scalp of Iftikhar and leaked away just 10 runs.

Iftikhar top-scored for Pakistan with a brisk 60 in just 24, laced up with three boundaries and six sixes but his belligerent knock eventually, turned out insufficient to steer Pakistan home.

Neesham led the bowling attack for New Zealand with 3/38 while Adam Milne and Rachin Ravindra bagged two each.

Opting to bat first, New Zealand managed to accumulate 163/5 in their quota of 20 overs, thanks to a magnificent half-century by their skipper Latham.

Earlier, the touring side failed to script a solid start to

their innings as Shaheen Shah Afridi, dented New Zealand's flying start as he castled Chad Bowes (7) in the third over.

Following an early setback, New Zealand skipper Latham and Will Young started the recovery by putting on an anchoring 36-run partnership for the second wicket before Shadab Khan broke the budding partnership by dismissing the latter.

Young could score 17 off 15 deliveries, laced up with two boundaries and a six.

Daryl Mitchell then joined his skipper Latham in the middle and turned things around for their side as they bolstered the scoring rate by stitching a vital 65-run partnership in just 43 deliveries before Shaheen drew curtains on Mitchell's brisk knock.

He scored 33 off 26 deliv-



eries, hitting two boundaries and a six.

New Zealand then endured a major setback in the 17th over when Haris Rauf

outclassed the Blackcaps skipper with a ferocious bouncer, which marked the end of his brilliant 64-run knock.

He faced 49 deliveries and

smashed seven boundaries and two sixes amid his brilliant knock, which saw him top-scoring for the touring side.