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Parliament to complete its 3rd consecutive term due to 18th Amendment: Shazia Marri

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri on Wednesday said the Parliament was completing its third consecutive term after the promulgation of 18th Constitutional Amendment by the last Pakistan Peoples Party government on April 19, 2010. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Solarization projects on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

President returns SC Practice, Procedure Bill, 2023 unsigned

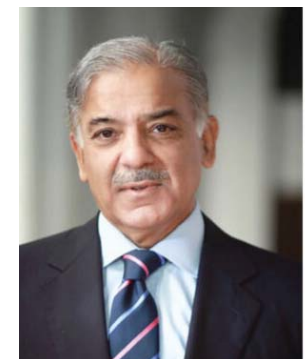
News Desk

ISLAMABAD : President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday returned the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 unsigned after observing that the matter was sub judice

before the apex court.

The president said that it was not appropriate to proceed further on the bill as the Supreme Court was seized of the instant matter, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's desire to fortify fraternal ties with Kuwait



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday recalled the historical brotherly ties between Pakistan and Kuwait and reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to fortify the fraternal ties by transforming them into mutually rewarding economic relationship. The prime minister telephoned Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah, to extend his best wishes and warm greetings on the auspicious occasion

of Eid-ul-Fitr, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The Kuwaiti prime minister warmly reciprocated PM Shehbaz's Eid greetings and conveyed best wishes for the people of Pakistan.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two nations. Both leaders agreed to celebrate it in a befitting manner, with the aim of further solidifying the bilateral ties in all areas of mutual interest.

Govt-PTI Dialogues: Bilawal Bhutto meets Fazlur Rehman

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with a delegation on Wednesday arrived here at Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) Chief Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman's native home in Abdul Khel to offer condolence on the sad demise of Mufti Abdul Shakoor.

The foreign minister condoled with the JUI-P leadership on the demise of Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Mufti Abdul Shakoor who passed away in a tragic road accident in the federal capital on April 15, 2023. On this occasion, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira and State Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi also accompanied the PPP Chairman.

On their arrival, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his delega-



tion were welcomed by Maulana Zia-ur-Rehman at the helipad in Abdul Khel.

The foreign minister shared grief with JUI-P leadership over the tragic demise of Mufti Abdul Shakoor. He prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also conveyed a special message of former President Asif Ali Zardari to Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman.

They also discussed the matters pertaining to holding talks between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the ruling coalition of Pakistan Democrat-

ion Movement (PDM).

The meeting also stressed for the sustainable democracy and the positive constitutional role of the institutions.

The geopolitical situation of the country, especially the challenges being faced by the country at internal and external fronts,

was also discussed. Besides, the performance of the PDM government in this regard during the last one year was also reviewed. The meeting also discussed the steps regarding improvement in the matters related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the commercial and economic importance of Gawadar and steps to be taken to remedy the damages caused to these projects during the PTI regime.

On this occasion, PPP local leadership including Former Deputy Parliamentary Leader in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmed Karim Kundi, Tehsil Nazim Paharpur Makhdoom Syed Altaf, Former MPA Mazhar Jameel Alizai, PPP District President Malik Farhan Afzal Dhap, Divisional General Secretary Norang Khan Gandapur, Tank President Hidayat Khan Gandapur, General Secretary Fateh Sher Mehsud were also present.

PM underlines significance of Pak-Oman economic linkages

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday referring to the historic fraternal ties between Pakistan and Oman, emphasized the need for enhancing institutional and economic linkages between the two maritime neighbours.

The prime minister phoned Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur Al Said, to extend his best wishes and warm greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister highlighted the immense potential with regard to further strengthening of the brotherly relations, especially in strategic, economic and trade spheres.

Imran cannot conceal his incompetence: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan could not conceal his incompetence, inefficiency and corruption by "covering his face in public with a canister".

"It may be a bucket or a canister or a 'dustbin', but rest assured nothing can help Imran Khan cover up his four years misrule which was marred by corruption, loot and plunder," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

Flanked by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani, she said Imran Khan would have been visiting the public without any fear, had he not wreaked havoc with the economy.

"Imran Khan could cover his face with a bucket, a canister or a dustbin before going to the public, but nothing can help him cover his evil deeds and corruption," the minister remarked.

Marriyum said a group of people was imposed on the country in an unconstitutional way in 2018, but the

coalition parties had not only ousted them from power in a democratic way, but also cleared the economic mess created by them.

"We have not only fixed the economy but also continued to make efforts to bring further improvement," she added.

Marriyum said Imran Khan had deprived the people of sugar and wheat, harmed Pakistan's diplomatic relations with other countries, traded off Kashmir for foreign funds, and above all destroyed the economy which resulted in extreme inflation, poverty and unemployment.

She also played two video clips to substantiate her claim about the bad performance of Imran Khan's government by comparing it with the one year of the present coalition government. She said the videos gave a comparative analysis of the two governments' performances and highlighted the initiatives taken by the coalition government to undo the mistakes of the PTI's regime.

"When the coalition parties came to power, everybody said that the country would soon default, but Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has a vision

and roadmap for development, with the national economy on top priority," she noted.

She said that during first eight months of the present coalition regime, the fiscal deficit in terms of GDP fell from 3.4 to 2.8 percent whereas the current account deficit reduced by 74 percent and trade deficit by 36 percent.

The minister said the coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had transformed the "journey of economic disaster in the journey on path to prosperity".

She said the government had been making all-out efforts to pass on relief to the masses in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The historic Ramazan Package was rolled out on the PM's directives to provide subsidies to the masses on major staple food items including wheat flour, sugar and lentils.

The BISP allocation, she said, had also been raised to Rs 400 billion to save the people from the effects of inflation. The distribution of BISP funds and petrol subsidy was planned in a transparent way, she added.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa says SC holds suo motu powers, not CJF

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The senior judge of the Supreme Court (SC) Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that the Supreme Court holds the suo motu powers, not the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

Speaking at a ceremony on the constitution of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that history needs to be read to understand the recent events. He said that Pakistan was going through a tough time when the country was broken into two parts and Justice Munir sown the seeds in the federal court which led to the fall of Dhaka.

Justice Faez Isa informed the audience that the 1988 elections were held on a political and party base and Benazir Bhutto became the prime minister but Article 58 2(b) was introduced as a seed of hatred was sown.

SC disposes of defence ministry's plea, orders govt to release election funds by April 27

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD : Supreme Court (SC) On Wednesday declared the Ministry of Defence's plea, seeking simultaneous elections in the country, inadmissible and again ordered the federal government to release Rs21 billion in supplementary grant to the ECP for polls by April 27.

A three member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Muneeb Akhtar and Justice Ijazul Ahsan, issued a seven-page verdict wherein it was stated that "The Court requires that appropriate remedial measures be taken in full measure not later than 27.04.2023 and, in particular, by that date the sum of Rs21 billion be provided, in immediately available and realizable funds, to the Commission for the holding of the general elections to the Punjab and KP Assemblies".

Regarding the inadmissibility of the Defence Ministry's plea, the bench observed that, "...the Federal Government .. seeks to place on record a report, prepared by the Ministry of Defence, on the security situation in the country at the present time and for the next few months ... the relief sought is for the order dated 04.04.2023, whereby [the plea filed] was finally disposed of, be recalled. It was pointed out to the learned Attorney General that such an application could not be entertained nor relief granted, as [the plea] has been decided by final judgment. [It] is therefore disposed of as not maintainable."

On the release of election expenditures from the Federal Consolidated Fund, the court ruled, "...Article 84 allows and enables the Federal Government to make expenditures from the Fund for, inter alia, "expenditure upon some new service not included in the Annual Budget Statement" during any financial year. For such expenditure the Federal Government obtains ex post facto authorization from the National Assembly in the form of a Supplementary Budget Statement. ...the Federal Cabinet all along itself had the authority and power to authorise the expenditure of Rs21 billion from the Fund in order to enable the Federation to perform its constitutional obligations in relation to the general elections."

CJP Bandial remarked that the government had sent matter pertaining to funds for conducting polls to parliament despite assurance that funds would be issued via a supplementary grant.

The AGP told the court that the NA Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue had referred the matter to the cabinet and parliament.

At this, Justice Muneeb Akhtar asked how the government could be barred from approving a grant.

"The prime minister should have a majority in the NA as well as in financial matters," he remarked.

The AGP then told court that in the current case, there was sufficient time to seek the NAs approval before issuing the supplementary grant.

MOU

ISLAMABAD: In the presence of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, Russian Federation, Ministry of Education signed an MoU with Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for strengthening of long-term and constructive relationships in Education between both countries today on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM for ensuring minimum power load-shedding in summer

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed to ensure minimum load-shedding of electricity during the summer season.

Chairing a meeting to review the situation of electricity load-shedding during summer, and the consumption and production of urea fertilizer, he said the pace of restoration of the Neelum Jhelum project should be increased.

The meeting was informed about the production of electricity and the expected demand during this summer. Furthermore, with regard to the revival of Neelum Jhelum power project, it was told that the project would be fully restored and



start generating the cheap and clean electricity in July this year.

The meeting was also informed in detail about the provision of gas to the urea industry, besides data of its production and consumption in the country.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to ensure timely production of the urea fertilizer and its supply to the farmers.

He said the government was taking all possible steps to minimize per acre cost of the

farmers.

He said during the last year, the government had given top priority to the agriculture development and prosperity of the farmers.

"I will not let anybody to grasp the rights of the farm-

ers through smuggling of urea fertilizer," he added.

The prime minister also directed to keep an eye on the demand and supply of the fertilizer. Keeping in view the consumption and production of the fertilizer, he directed to present a comprehensive plan for buffer stock and the provision of gas to the industries.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, federal ministers Tariq Bashir Cheema, Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood and Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State Dr Musaddiq Malik, PM's Advisor Ahad Khan Cheema, special assistants to the PM Jehanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa, and other authorities concerned attended the meeting.

At UN, Pakistan to unveil its climate investment portfolio seeking funding for projects

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan is set to present its climate investment portfolio Wednesday evening at a session of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investment Fair 2023, which brings together governments, the private sector, and financial intermediaries to boost financing for development.

"Basically we are seeking foreign investments into projects that can help the Government of Pakistan tackle the climate crisis," an official told APP. The projects, according to the official, include adapting to climate change, low-cost housing construction and microfinance, the financial services provid-



ed to low-income individuals excluded from traditional banking.

Pakistan's 2022 monsoon season produced significant rainfall, devastating floods and landslides, displacing millions of people and killing over 1,700 people.

The Fair provides a dynamic platform for the public and private sectors to discuss specific investment opportunities and critical policies and regulations that support closing the SDG investment gap.

"Our objective is to apprise global investors that projects

are available that are supported by the Government of Pakistan and can help achieve sustainable development and climate goals," the official added.

Tariq Bajwa, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Finance, will deliver the keynote address via video link from Islamabad.

The hybrid session will be facilitated by Marco Neto, Director of UNDP's Finance Sector Hub.

Welcoming remarks will be delivered by Navid Hanif, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram, will be launching the Pakistan SDG Investor Map, which will identify concrete, investable solu-

tions to pressing needs at the country level.

The Fair also promotes high-impact sustainable development projects in emerging and frontier markets and facilitates deal-making in investment projects that advance SDGs.

Kanni Wignaraja, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator and Director for Regional Bureau of Asia-Pacific of the UNDP; Hamid Yaqoob, Pakistan's Secretary of the Finance Division; Haroon Sharif, former Pakistan State Minister Investments / Senior Advisor Financing for Development of UNDP Pakistan; and Syed Mohsin Ahmed, CEO of Pakistan Microfinance Network are among key participants.

Ali Amin Gandapur Secures Bail from Bakhar Court

News Desk

BAKHAR: Senior civil judge Bakhar on Wednesday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Ali Amin Gandapur.

As per details, the PTI leader was brought to the court of a senior civil judge in strict security. The judge after hearing the arguments of Gandapur's lawyer granted bail to the PTI leader and also quashed non-bailable sections from the case.

The PTI leader has been asked to submit a surety bond of Rs50,000 for his bail.

On Tuesday, a Sargodha anti-terrorism court on Tuesday quashed terrorism charges against Ali Amin Gandapur.

On April 8, a case was registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Amin Gandapur at Islamabad's Golra police station under section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA). Gandapur, a former federal minister, was arrested from outside the Peshawar High Court's D.I. Khan bench last week.

The ATC judge announced the verdict after police produced the Gandapur in the court and sought a 14-day extension in his physical remand in the checkpoint attack case.

Elahi vows to continue supporting Imran

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi said on Wednesday that he will continue to extend support to former prime minister Imran Khan.

Former Punjab Assembly speaker Chaudhry Afzal Sahi called on the former Punjab chief minister, during which Mr Elahi said, "Right now Imran Khan is the nation's only hope. The current situation will be decisive in terms of the country's future."

Firing a fresh salvo at the political opponents, Mr Elahi said, "The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) cannot put obstacles on Imran's way. The government resorts to negative propaganda by which in the international community, the country's image is suffering badly."

He claimed that the government



was sending a message to the world that the country had been taken hostage by terrorists.

"The incumbent government was of the view that the country was not in a position to hold elections in one province. When the government itself resorts to such a negative propaganda, who in the country will invest," Mr Elahi berated the coalition government.

Accusing the government of "betraying the masses", Mr Elahi claimed, "The government is escap-

ing the elections and dodging 220 million people of the country."

"India is reaping the benefits of the Shehbaz Sharif-led government's anti-state narrative. This is India's narrative that Pakistan has become the most dangerous country of the world," he maintained.

Speaking about the United States, Mr Elahi claimed, "The United States too realises its mistake."

On Tuesday, Mr Elahi called on Mr Khan, during which both leaders held discussions on the matter of tickets for the Punjab Assembly elections and the country's political situation. Mr Khan also inquired after Moonis Elahi's health.

Subsequently, after meeting with Mr Khan, Mr Elahi went on to say that on the matter of candidates in Punjab, he had a detailed consultation with Mr Khan. Tickets will be issued by Mr Khan himself, he added.

Clarification

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Reference news reports regarding audit of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, published widely in the print media on Wednesday, 19th April, 2023, wherein it has been alleged that the said audit has not been conducted for the last ten (10) years and that the Public Accounts Committee has summoned the Registrar Supreme Court accordingly.

To set the record straight, the audit of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been conducted and completed upto 30.06.2021. Audit for the financial year 2021-2022 is under process and can be confirmed from the office of the Auditor General of Pakistan.

It is, hereby, clarified in concrete terms that such reports are contrary to the facts, incorrect, misleading and are based on erroneous information placed before the Public Accounts Committee.

Parliament to complete its 3rd consecutive term due to 18th Amendment: Shazia Marri



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri on Wednesday said the Parliament was completing its third consecutive term after the promulgation of 18th Constitutional Amendment by the last Pakistan Peoples Party government on April 19, 2010.

It was a historical day when the former president Asif Ali Zardari had surrendered his powers to the Parliament to strengthen the democracy in

the country, she said in a statement.

The minister said the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan also got their recognition during the PPP's regime. The former president had strengthened the provinces by giving them autonomy, she said, adding the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010 was a pact between the Federation and its units.

Empowering the Parliament would end outside interference in its domain, she added.

PTI decides to challenge Punjab, KP interim govts in SC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to challenge Punjab and KP interim governments in the Supreme Court.

The Punjab and KP caretaker governments are set to complete their three months on April 22 and 26, respectively.

As per the details, the constitutional plea will be filed in the Supreme Court by Fawad Chaudhry, Mahmood Khan and Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi tomorrow.

The plea states that an interim government can only function for 90 days as per the constitution of Pakistan and there is no room for an un-elected government.

The plea will urge the SC to appoint administrators in Punjab and KP after completing of the interim government tenure.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday decided to write to President Dr Arif Alvi, regarding the 90-day constitutional term of the Punjab interim government.

PTI's senior vice-president, Fawad Chaudhry will write a letter to President Dr Arif Alvi over the tenure of the Punjab caretaker setup, headed by Chief Minister (CM) Mohsin Naqvi.

The letter stated that the 90-day constitutional term of the Punjab interim government will end on April 22, but the caretaker setup has failed to complete its objective during the term.

Javed Latif opposes dialogue with PTI chief



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Javed Latif on Wednesday said that talks can be held amongst the genuine political parties but not with the person who is responsible for anarchy and stoking moral decline in the society.

Taking at the flour of the Nation-

al Assembly, he regretted that PTI chairman Imran Khan was granted bail while sitting at home, while the PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who made the country a nuclear power and gave the CPEC and eliminated terrorism, was forced to live in exile.

He said that Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had been banned from politics for ten years which was totally unjust. In past, he had been exiled forcefully from Pakistan by Gen. Musharraf, he told.

The minister also strongly opposed the dialogue with the PTI leader Imran Khan, stating that it cannot be done with "terrorist", corrupt and morally sick minded leader.

Defence Ministry moves SC for 'simultaneous elections'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Defence has moved the Supreme Court (SC) to seek 'simultaneous elections' in the country.

According to details, the defence ministry - responsible for allocating armed forces for the elections - has filed an application in Supreme Court, seeking 'simultaneous elections' in the country.

The ministry has asked the apex

court to recall its April 4 order of holding Punjab elections on May 8 and issue a directive that the general elections for the National and provincial assemblies should take place at the same time, after the completion of their terms.

The ministry's view was in line with the federal government's stance, which has opposed holding separate general elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Deputy Commissioner says arrangements have been started for Eid-ul-Fitr

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that arrangements have been started by the district administration in connection with Eid-ul-Fitr. In this regard, the district departments including WASA,



Waste Management Company have been given the task of special measures.

He said that the parks I have also ordered inspection of swings and getting fitness certificate

He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the

district departments in connection with Eid-ul-Fitr.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that Section 144 will be enforced against temporary dangerous swings in open places.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Nig has also directed to initiate measures to

prevent possible floods and said that inspection of boats, relief equipment and tents will be carried out. Warehouses should be checked.

The Deputy Commissioner said that sanitation and sewage complaints will be resolved immediately on Eid al-Fitr

Eid Gifts

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Amir Khattak Distributors Eid Gifts To the Cancer Patients in Nishtar Hospital Multan.



District Administration Multan Make the Best Arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr: Amir Khatak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak assigned the task to the district administration to make the best arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr. While presiding over the meeting on Eid Al-Fitr arrangements, Commissioner Amir Khattak banned dangerous swings without fitness certificate on Eid. He said that swings in all parks

should be inspected. Swings that pose a threat to human life should be fully inspected. They will not allow it to run without. Local government, PHA should inspect the swings. Commissioner Amir Khattak instructed the Deputy Commissioners to write to the Punjab government about imposing Section 144 on bathing in canals. Special focus should be given to the cleaning of parks and green belts.

Waste management containers should never be kept outside a park. On Eid-ul-Fitr, Wasa, Waste Management Company, Rescue, Health, PHA should issue duty roster. Staff were present in the field for the best cleaning arrangements on Eid-ul-Fitr. Special focus should be given on cleaning, beautifying and decorating all the entrances and exits of the city. Commissioner Amir Khattak, while ordering strict

action against those who throw construction debris on the road, said that by throwing the debris on the road, not only the beauty of the city is destroyed, but also an obstacle is created in the way, due to which the citizens have to suffer. Commissioner Amir Khattak also directed to make fool-proof security arrangements on Chand Raat. Deputy Commissioners, officers of related departments were present in the meeting

Shaukat Mir says all the ills in Pakistan are due to intolerance

Bureau Report

CHANARI / HATTIAN : Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information Candidate Assembly Constituency No. Seven Shaukat Javed Mir said that all the national, public, political, economic, internal and external problems in Pakistan, terrorism, lawlessness, bloodshed caused by extremism are due to intolerance. All the responsibility for developing the democratic culture is Martial and the unelected governments established under its shield, who, by implementing the policies and oppressive decisions created to protect the interests of global imperialism, have brought poverty, unemployment, and resources to the country.



be the best means to highlight the national thought and thought, the leadership which sacrificed four generations for the country and the nation, this leadership is still recognized by the nation as the crown of their foreheads and the ruler of their hearts and minds in 2 years. The change of two Prime Ministers and the preparation of the third one are the worst decisions of the most failed leadership.

The federal government's undue interference in the general elections of Azad Kashmir can achieve desired results by changing the public mandate through pressure and an outdated system, but the results are the same as those of Tehreek-e-Insaf and Imran Khan. Meanwhile, the Tehreek-e-Insaf government in Azad Kashmir in two years has created such narratives of bribery, commission, seizure of government lands, smugling of forests, violation of merit, bad governance, communalism, regional bias that their own ideological and compassionate seriousness.

By showing their consent, Wawela and the speech of

the United Nations were apparently used as a shield. The same agenda was also carried forward in Azad Kashmir, but the Kashmiris have sacrificed their three generations in the quest for freedom, they will not accept any formula with India. Not ready for this, that is why the freedom fighters in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir raise the slogan of Pakistan Zindabad even after taking a bullet in their chest in the spirit of freedom, and let the green crescent flag with their shroud be the story of determination and conviction. Shaukat Javedmir said that impartial accountability is indispensable in Azad Kashmir, those who have usurped the national wealth as a lion mother should not only be returned the looted wealth but should also be disqualified for public office for life. An example should be set for future generations, he said that after Tehreek-e-Insaf left power in Pakistan, they continued to insult the country, the nation, the brave forces of Pakistan, the national security institutions, but also the top officers who were martyred in terrorism.

DPO SW inaugurated the newly constructed PS

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: According to the details, District Police Officer South Waziristan Shabbir Hussain Marwat and Commandant SWS Muhammad Owais Shamim inaugurated the newly constructed Police Station at Azamwarsak, tribal elders at the opening ceremony, Ullamas and local dignitaries participated in large numbers.

Meanwhile, DPO and Commandant said that Waziristan Police is being equipped with modern facilities keeping in mind the requirements of modern times. In order to combat criminals, anti-peace and anti-social elements, eleven police stations and police lines equipped with modern facilities are being constructed in South Waziristan, in which Sarvekai and Azamwarsak stations have been completed while the police line is in the final stages of construction.

The Commander and DPO further said that the Waziristan Police performed their duties well in very difficult situations, gave testimonies and played an important role in establishing peace, the police have been equipped with the latest weapons, armored vehicles, advanced night vision cameras, and are in the final stages of constructing buildings equipped with modern facilities.

CTD Punjab operation in Rajanpur two ttp terrorists killed

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab foiled the terror plan and killed 2 suspected terrorists during an intelligence based operation in Rajanpur. According to the spokesman, on the information that 5 alleged terrorists of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan are present with explosives and weapons in Rajanpur area near Rojhan police station, and they are planning to attack security institutions, the CTD teams reached the spot. He said that seeing the CTD teams, the terrorists started indiscriminate firing on the police teams.

Security forces officials conducted a Qirat/recitation competition



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Security Forces officials conducted a Qirat Competition at Langar Khel Madrassah in Kotkai area of District Upper South Waziristan, around 175 students attended the competition.

The parents of students along with elders, tribal elders and dignitaries of adjacent villages were present in the competition to encourage the efforts of Madrassah students. Best students in Qirat recitation were awarded prizes.

The wing Commander interacted with Muallim, Huffaz and students of Madrassah and appreciated their efforts in giving a learning environment. The wing commander emphasized that locals must cooperate with Security Forces in their area to curb terrorism and promote education amongst the masses.

On this occasion, the tribal elders said that Pakistan Army and FC South have valuable services for the nation and the country.

We can't never forget him, his services will always be remembered. The tribal elders further said that the security forces authorities have not only laid a trap for the development projects in the area, Rather, we have made a lot of sacrifices for the establishment of peace, which we are proud of them.

Huawei kicks off Annual Global Analyst Summit in Shenzhen, China

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei kicked off its 20th annual Global Analyst Summit (HAS) on Wednesday in Shenzhen, China.

The summit was attended by more than 1,000 industry analysts, financial analysts, key opinion leaders, and media representatives from around the world, who gathered to discuss the status of the ICT industry, including development strategies, roadmaps for digital transformation, and future industry trends.

Sabrina Meng, Huawei's Deputy Chairwoman, Rotating Chairwoman, and CFO, opened with a keynote. "Digitalization is a blue ocean for the whole industry," she said. "Huawei will keep investing in domains like connectivity, computing, storage, and cloud."

"We aim to provide our customers with digital infrastructure that has the simplest possible architecture with the highest possible quality - that delivers the best possible experience at the lowest possible costs. Our goal is to help organizations go digital in four stages: digitizing operations, building digital platforms, enabling platform-based intelligence, and putting intelligence to use. The time is ripe to thrive together in this new and exciting digital future."

Meng shared three major takeaways from Huawei's nearly 10 years of digital transformation experience.

Dr. Zhou Hong, President of Huawei's Institute of Strategic Research, also spoke at the event. He shared Huawei's hypotheses and visions for a future intelligent world, detailing how we can transform experience into structured knowledge, and lay the foundation for intelligence.

"Rethinking approaches to networks and computing is critical as we move towards an intelligent world," said Zhou. "In networking, we have what it takes to move beyond the limits of Shannon's theorems - as well as applications of his theory to drive a 100-fold increase in network capabilities over the next decade."

In computing, we will move towards new models, architectures, and components, and improve our ability to both understand and control intelligence. We will also continue to explore the use of AI for industry applications, science, and more."

Dr. Khurram expressed satisfaction over the increase for Pakistan-Iran trade

Menahill Rashid

FAISALABAD: The President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Dr. Khurram Tariq, has expressed satisfaction over the increase in the volume of Pakistan-Iran trade from 2 billion dollars, saying that there is scope to take it up to 5 billion dollars and along with the governments of both the countries, the business community also has its own role in this process & we will have to play a vital role in this regard. He said that at present, barter trade is being done between Pakistan and Iran through 3 places for border trade, while due to American sanctions, Pakistan cannot buy gas from Iran, although Iran has delivered the pipeline to the Pakistani border as per the agreement.

He said that in view of Pakistan's recent financial difficulties, the government of Pakistan should also start discussions for the purchase of oil and gas from Iran so that Pakistan can continuously buy cheap gas instead of expensive gas. Dr. Khurram Tariq said that the potential of the trade volume from Iran is more than 10 billion dollars, but we have to take practical steps by setting a target of reaching it to 5 billion dollars in order to increase the trade by road as well as by rail. couldHowever,



Dr. Khurram Tariq has expressed concern over the 12.4% decline in the exports of the textile group in July-March and said that the government should solve the practical problems of this sector, which earns the most foreign exchange for the country, and especially the equivalent of regional countries. He elaborated, we also shall take immediate and necessary steps to provide electricity at affordable rates.

He clarified that until the textile sector works with 100% production efficiency, the import and export deficit will not be met and the employment problems of the people will be solved.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:05 am
Zohr 12:07 pm
Asr 4:48 pm
Maghrib 6:41 pm
Isha 8:10 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 921334-43
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

Esports Marketing Pakistan Presents 2v2 Double Trouble Season 2 Powered by Tapmad

ABC

KARACHI : Like other countries in the world, e-sports are becoming the part of regular sports across Pakistan. Tapmad, the country's leading OTT platform, has partnered with E-Sports Marketing Pakistan, Pakistan's first e-sports advertising/marketing platform, which has recently entered into a partnership agreement with Tapmad.

This partnership will bring more and more E-Sports E-gaming events, currently presenting an online Event for the game CSGO in which gamers and teams will compete from all over Pakistan, including the country's top players. It will be live telecasted on Esports Marketing and Tapmad platforms, it will be casted by country's renowned esports caster Arhum Rasul-The Low FPS dude. Esports Marketing Pakistan also seeks to collaborate with other local organizations, investors, and brands, and ad agencies to join hands with us for the growth of the Esports industry in the country.

For more details please visit our Face book Page- Esports Marketing Pakistan https://www.facebook.com/esportsmarketingpk/

Ahsan Iqbal rejects 'negative perception' against China's BRI

City Desk

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor AhsanIqbal on Wednesday strongly rejected the negative perception about China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) dubbed as a 'debt trap', saying stories were concocted to spread propaganda in global geopolitics of competition. "I don't think it's a 'debt trap' as I believe it's a fact trap to distort the spirit of BRI," the minister said in response to negative perceptions against the BRI while talking to international media representatives here.

"Wherever the BRI has gone, the local people can testify that it has had a very positive impact," he added.

The BRI initiative was taken for the first time in 2013, when the then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif met Chinese premier Li Keqiang in Beijing. The focus was on connecting China with the Chinese-invested Pakistani port of Gwadar through highway, rail and pipeline infrastructure.

AhsanIqbal appreciated China for extending the BRI to Pakistan in the shape of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which gave Pakistan a great opportunity in areas of energy, infrastructure, telecommunication, industrial cooperation and in unlocking hidden treasures like massive coal deposits in Thar desert.

He described the significance of the project, saying "Gwadar Port City is set to become a major trade and commerce hub in the region with its Free Zone and investment from Chinese companies."

The planning minister highlighted the strategic location and potential for trade in Gwadar, stating that goods could be shipped to China through Gwadar in almost one-tenth distance from the South China Sea.

He said the progress and implementation of CPEC projects were being personally supervised by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and despite negative percep-



tions, the government had reiterated its commitment to completing the projects on time. "The government's top priority is to attract more private sector investment in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector which holds tremendous potential for value addition and development," said the planning minister while commenting on future CPEC development projects.

Regarding potential partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese companies, AhsanIqbal said the government was promoting exports to third countries through joint ventures and seeking Chinese companies' cooperation to set up industries in Pakistan for joint production and export.

"As the year 2023 marks the decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China, both Pakistan and China will be celebrating 10 Years of the BRI and CPEC on July 5, 2023," he said recalling a decade-long saga of undeterred cooperation between the two countries.

In line with the 10th anniversary of CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, he said high-level Chinese delegations were scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness the achievements made since the inception of CPEC.

Farewell meeting

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Wednesday. It was a farewell meeting on the completion of the ambassador's term in Pakistan.



PepsiCo employees open fast with the SOS Children's Village in the spirit of giving back to communities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Akhuwat Foundation organized a community iftar for more than 200 children of the SOS Children's Village in Lahore today with the support of the PepsiCo Foundation. PepsiCo Foundation strives to create meaningful impact for the people and communities that PepsiCo serves by extending access to the essential resources they need to grow, prosper, and thrive. Celebrating the spirit of giving back to communities in Ramadan, Mohammad Khosa,

Senior Director Commercial and Corporate Affairs attended the event with PepsiCo employees to share meals with the SOS community and spend time with them. Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder and Executive Director of Akhuwat and Saba Faisal, National Director at SOS Children's Villages Pakistan was also a present at the occasion.

The event was organized under PepsiCo's Ramadan "Filling Hearts, Outside the Box" community uplift initiative with support from the PepsiCo Foundation. Through

this initiative, the company has disbursed food ration boxes across Pakistan with on-ground support from Akhuwat. "Filling Hearts, Outside the Box" is being implemented concurrently in PepsiCo Africa, Middle East, and South Asia (AMESA) sector with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Lebanon joining in apart from Pakistan. Respective PepsiCo teams in each country are supporting their communities through their own community-centric activities and food distributions.

Speaking at the event,

Mohammad Khosa, said, "Children are the leaders of tomorrow. It is my belief that we must support them, nurture their curiosity, and add to their joy any chance we get. So, in the spirit of giving back to our communities during Ramadan, I am humbled to be sharing a meal and spending time with the stars of SOS Children's Village. Our 'Filling Hearts, Outside the Box' initiative is all about uniting for hope and happiness and it is wonderful to see everyone come together with the SOS Children's Village and Akhuwat family."

Elections in piecemeal will lead riots: Musadik

News Desk

ISLAMABAD :Minister of State for Petroleum DrMusadik Malik Wednesday said that without new census, the delimitation and elections in parts would drag the country into worst political crises.

Talking to a private news channel, Musadik said that the election in two provinces was tantamount to violate the right to vote of the rest of country.

Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had serious reservations on the election, if serious efforts were made to clear the confusion of majority of political forces, there would have been no obstacle in conduction the elections.

The Federal Consolidated Fund of Pakistan, according to the Constitution, can only be ordered to issue by the federal government, he added

To a query about the development on the agreement to receive subsidized oil from Russia, the minister stated that hopefully, within a month, we will have the first shipment coming.

PTI chief wants NRO from coalition govt: Khawaja Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday said PTI Chief Imran Khan wanted an NRO from the coalition government to get rid of all the cases against him which was not acceptable at any cost.

Talking to a private news channel he said "I have repeatedly saying that negotiations should be comprehensive, not only for elections but also on the issues of economic crisis and security situation."

Khawaja Asif said Parliament has already taken its decision regarding the funds for elections.

The other side of the coin in Pakistani domestic politics, Prof: Gholam Mujtaba

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: During an in-house discussion at the Pakistan Policy Institute (PPI) in New Jersey, Professor Dr. Gholam Mujtaba, Chairman of Pakistan Policy Institute USA and Senior Leader of the Republican Party, provided a rebuttal to a particular doctor's lobbying efforts on behalf of a group of doctors of Pakistani origin in the US. The doctor was presenting a misguided perception of Pakistani democracy and freedom to US policymakers.



Dr. Mujtaba pointed out that perceptions are not always reality and that there is a second side to the coin in the current campaign launched against Pakistan. He emphasized that supporters of Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, should also present the case of his anti-American rhetoric before the members of Congress. Dr. Mujtaba made it clear that he is not a sympathizer of any political outfit in Pakistan, unlike the few doctors who are actively lobbying against the current political government of Pakistan.

Dr. Mujtaba concluded his remarks by emphasizing that he is a strong proponent of the Pak-US relationship above partisan politics. He urged the need to understand the ground realities before making any judgments and highlighted that intruding into the domestic politics of Pakistan by hearing one side of the story damages the repute and credibility of the current political government in Pakistan. The discussion provided a different perspective to the ongoing campaign against Pakistan and emphasized the need for a balanced approach to understand the ground realities.

Pakistan single window lab, IUB sign MoU for plant pathology services



Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR :Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and Molecular Plant Pathology Lab at the Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), Pakistan has agreed to build cooperation by signing a memorandum of understanding. The MoU is a form of mutual commitment of providing services of lab tests, and analysis and submission of reports thereof for samples drawn from import, export or transit consignments to customs and other government agencies which utilize these reports for processing and issuance of licenses, permits, certificates and other documents as per respective regulatory requirements. Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob has appreciated the efforts of Chairman Department of Plant Pathology Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Aslam Malghani and his faculty members for initiating this beneficial collaboration to standardized Laboratory practices.

IHC orders transfer of judge hearing Imran Khan's Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD: Additional Session judge Zafar Iqbal, who heard Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's Toshakhana case, was transferred to another court on Wednesday.

The development came after the registrar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued a transfer notification. The judge has been transferred from the west court to the east court, the notification read.

Transfer of at least eight additional session judges has also been done on the order of the federal top court's Chief Justice Aamer Farooq.

Four judges from the west have been transferred to the east, while three present in the east have been transferred to the west.

According to the latest development in Khan's Toshakhana case, the IHC — on April 3 — issued a notice to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for summoning the PTI chief and his wife, Bushra Bibi, without following the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

The federal top court took up the pleas filed by the former prime minister and Bushra Bibi, challenging the call-up notices of February 17 and March 16 issued by the anti-graft watchdog.

Bushra Bibi's petition prayed to the court that NAB call-up notices should be declared illegal.

It moved the court to stay the inquiry by changing the investigation till the final decision of the Toshakhana case and also stay the disciplinary action against the petitioners based on the call-up notices.

IIUI President announces grant of arrears before Eid Ul Fitr

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, International Islamic University, Islamabad chaired an important meeting and announced that keeping in view the ongoing inflation and upcoming Eid, the university has decided to grant the next installment of arrears to the employees before Eid ul Fitr.

Chairing an online meeting that was attended by the Vice Presidents and all the relevant officials, the IIUI President thanked Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister H.E. Mohammed bin Salman for the funding that has been provided to IIUI. Dr. Hathal said the Saudi funding has helped IIUI in the



time of the financial crisis as the university managed its previous month's salaries and installment of arrears through this funding. H.E. Dr Hathal said that welfare of the IIUI community and facilitation of the students are top priorities that is why the decision has

been made to provide installment of the arrears to all the employees before Eid. He added that in the same manner, earlier, the Finance department was directed to release installment of arrears so that all university employees may not face any financial issues

during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Talking about the importance of students' facilitation, the IIUI President said that no stone shall be left unturned to provide an ideal environment of learning to the IIUI students. Referring to the future plans and development of the university, Worthy President said that the university is working on a comprehensive business plan in wake of a prosperous future. He said through digitization, adoption of latest teaching and learning technology and varsity's strategic plan, soon the IIUI shall be among the ranks of leading universities across the world. He said the university, through modern initiatives such ODL, paperless administration and infrastructural reforms, IIUI would soon be shining as a top seat of learning.

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Imran Khan decided to continue his political struggle

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan invited the social media wing of PTI South Punjab for Iftar dinner at his house in Zaman Park in Lahore yesterday.

In which Social Media Wing Head Azhar Mashwani, South Punjab Head Rehman Nousherwan Niazi, Shaheryar Punal and others participated. Imran Khan was very satisfied and appreciated the work of the social media wing.

He said in his speech that the murderous attack on me was pre-planned. The present government wants to remove me from its path. I will be at home for six days, I know that on the day of Eid this government will try to attack me through the police

They will also try to arrest me. I want to stop the bloodshed. We are negotiating while it is not required according to the constitution. Caretaker government is doing everything except elections

After 90 days it is no longer constitutional, whatever it does will be unconstitutional now. The present Punjab government should be removed and an administrator should be installed here. General task is to hold general elections. Whose Bajwa Campaign against me. Because he wanted to take an extension. We called two meetings of the OIC in three months.

If the State Bank does not give the money on the order of the Supreme Court, then the supremacy of the Constitution and the law will end in the country. He further said, the election should be held after 90 days according to Pakistani law. If this does not happen, the constitution

of Pakistan will be violated and PDM will be responsible for this violation.

Thirteen parties of PDM have created a storm of inflation in the country. The common man, especially the middle class and the poor, have been stuck badly in the mill of inflation. Day by day the price of petrol is increasing and the price of dollars is also increasing. Due to which the economy of Pakistan has been destroyed. They are begging the whole world to help them but not cutting their royal expenses.

They are using crores of rupees on their foreign trips. It is the misfortune of Pakistan that the people are grinding in the mill of poverty while the rulers are engrossed in luxury. In our country, the worst violation of human rights is happening, people are being picked up and kidnapped. Wherever there is a PTI worker or a social media activist, they pick him

While we have been blacked out in the mainstream media. How long will they do this cruelty, how long will they stop the voice of the people, how long will they suppress our voice.

Addressing the workers at Iftar, Imran Khan said that we should read and learn from the life of the Prophet SAW because it lifts the society. A leader is never made by taking easy decisions, rather he has to take the hard way. Western research says that fasting does not make a person weak but strong.

Imran Khan said that when I played

cricket, I was kicked out of my team, then after four years I came back and became the best all-rounder. When the time of peace comes, I ask what I am doing wrong. When there is shelling outside, I become strong that no one is able to bow down except Allah.

A cowardly person can never become a leader whereas a truly honest and just person can become a leader. Flight belongs to a free man, not to a weak and cowardly man. Imran Khan asked the social media wing workers to unite and expose the fascism of the government and bring PTI's stance before the world. In the coming election, all the workers of our party should work day and night. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf took 15 out of 20 seats in the by-election. Although we had 18 seats.

But the Election Commission knows only why our three seats were reduced. The Election Commission has become the B team of the current government. I will also say the same to the establishment, to save Pakistan; they should play their role to bring the people out of the mill of poverty.

Our generations will never forget what General Bajwa did to Pakistan. Currently, terrorism is on the rise in the country, there is a storm of inflation in the country due to their incompetence, the value of the dollar has reached to Rs 290. When they overthrew our government through conspiracy, the rate of petrol was Rs 149

per litre. While the rate of dollar was Rs 175. The price of flour was Rs 55 kg and the price of sugar in our government was between Rs 75 to Rs 80.

Currently, the rate of flour is Rs 155 per kg. The price of sugar is between Rs 120 to Rs 130. The price of oil in our government was between Rs 370 to Rs 380. But this time the price of oil is between Rs 600 to Rs 900. How will a labor who earns thousand rupees on a daily wage manage his household expenses? The prices of electricity and gas are also increased. What do they want to do with the people? They are forcing people to attempt suicide.

People are jobless and being thrown out of jobs. The motto of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is we will give jobs to the people and strengthen the economy. The GDP in our government was 6.5 but the GDP in this government is on 1.0

In order to survive in Pakistan, at least we all have to do this together, to reduce inflation and to give jobs. If one or two jobs are given in a house, then the affairs of the house go on. The Supreme Court should acquit Shahbaz Sharif of contempt of court. Despite the order of the Supreme Court, the current government did not give money to conduct the election.

Rana Sana's statement is an open threat to the Chief Justice. Rana Sanaullah says that elections will not be held on May 14. The Supreme Court should take strict notice of Rana Sanaullah's statement

After Iftar dinner, Imran Khan Met with Ex-International test scorer of Pakistan cricket team and foreign media journalist Asim Tanveer.



Kiran Asim



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

The inter provincial racket of professional beggars went unchecked

Like other parts of the country, the organized network of professional beggars are also appearing within the inter provincial bordering district Attock collecting maximum charity and alms during the last week of Ramadan by using their new techniques causing nuisance for the public at large. With less than a week left in Eid Ul Fitr celebrations, the professional and unprofessional beggars from different cities of KP and Punjab province thronged the city's markets and shopping arcades to secure maximum alms and charities by adopting irritating techniques, which are annoying Eid shoppers.

"I came from Attock to Peshawar to secure maximum charity and alms in the last days of Ramadan," said Gul Rehman, a street beggar while talking to media. He said that people of all faiths and communities were living in Peshawar that helped the beggars to collect maximum charity in Ramadan. Some beggars roaming with exposed wounds keep on holding and touching customers when they come out of their vehicles, which could expose them to contagious diseases and viral infections including coronavirus, TB, flu and chest related infections.

It has been witnessed that some beggars were emotionally blackmailing people by carrying medical prescriptions and disability certificates. 'Alms' seekers can also be seen in city markets asking for charity in the name of construction of mosques while many beggars were resorting to lame-duck excuses like seeking treatment of their ailing family or lost jobs. "Beggings has emerged as a major social evil in recent years to the nuisance of people of Attock district, citizens complained. Besides bazaars and shopping arcades, he said Eid shoppers were facing great inconvenience at traffic signals, food restaurants, bus terminals, railways stations, mosques, hospitals, markets and public places due to swarms of beggars in Attock."

It is heartbreaking to see young girls and boys' beggars carrying wipers in their hands often start cleaning cars windows on traffic signals without permission in order to get money." He said some beggars come with water bottles, flowers, garlands, caps and rosaries to give an impression that they are selling it, but actually, they beg for money without the intention of selling anything. Gulzar Khan, a resident of Shadi Khan said he was busy Eid shopping along with his family at Attock when a teenage beggar with black colour in his hand rushed towards him, asking for money or otherwise his clothes would be made dirty." In order to save my clothes, I immediately offered him Rs50, which was refused. On several requests, the beggar accepted Rs 100 and started running towards other shoppers by using the same technique that was intolerable in a civilized society. He demanded the district management and police Attock take instantaneous action against swarms of beggars in the city so that people could take a sigh of relief and do Eid shopping with ease." Beggary has been declared illegal under West Pakistan Loitering Ordinance 1958," said Malik Shafiq advocate. Unfortunately, he said this law had not been fully implemented, which resulted in an increase in beggars especially during Ramadan. He said central and provincial laws

When importance is made unimportant artificially, justice collapses!

Let's recall and concentrate because we are standing on the verge of collapse because of doing injustice with justice. Have we forgotten our jurisdictions, public interests, societal norms and values and especially the code of ethics? When we wage war against the institutions providing justice and make them paralysed, be sure Allah Almighty will justify! Alas! running behind the Premiership has become more attractive or the premiership of people's voice should be preferred in a democratic Republic? Suppressing the justice means that we are ready to put the law by hook or by crook whom people will not accept at any cost and the morale of our society will unexpectedly scale down. Pressing justice means to press the whole state. It is hard nut to crack down all such elements which are united to make the future & system of this homeland pushing and pulling towards law breaking openly, where neither the justice nor the fundamental rights would survive. One significant part of the state is justice & no one can be allowed to play with justice like a toy. let's recall the message of the poet of the East Allam Muhammad Iqbal's sayings; Then read the lesson of honesty, justice, and courage. You will be the leader of the world. In slavery, neither swords nor strategies are useful, whatever tastes arise, the chains are cut, one can imagine his strong arm! The gaze of a believing man is changed, destinies, dominion, kingship, knowledge of things, what are all these, the interpretations of only one point of faith create a Brahmhi

look, but it is difficult. Be careful of humanity! This challenging the supreme court of Pakistan by Political alliances has proved that the prophecies of PTI were correct & this will create dozing in the political scenario in future. It means that there would be no need for courts in future & we are standing to keep no stone unturned to waive the problems? It shows that Imran Khan also has no need to present himself before the courts & all the decisions may be the part & custodian of people only sitting in the assembly & senate with their own consideration! Courts are the guarantee of creating balance in the Societal System & this balance should be maintained. Creating imbalance in the institutions especially the supreme court of Pakistan will emerge a shortfall which will be out of the control where the needs and necessities of assemblies and Senate regarding getting justice will become fused. All and sundry debtors or creditors have liabilities to make the justice system powerful instead weakening it for personal reasons. Justice is the dire need & hope of every citizen for prosperity otherwise the ratio of crime will boost very soon where the already oppressed persons would fall to prey of worries and hurdles. This country depends upon the voices of people's decision who are demanding the electoral college as soon as possible where a lame excuse is outlawed and whether this outlaw could be decided by the courts or any other person ever in the past? It is not a sampling formula but has the duties to resolve it smoothly under the principles of the law. Without the supremacy of law, our existence will become negligible.



Mian Rashid Asghar

In-House Session on 'Recent Trends in Indian Foreign Policy'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) organized an In-House Session focused on "Recent Trends in Indian Foreign Policy."

The Session was attended by practitioners, former diplomats, academics, scholars and researchers affiliated with think-tanks, including Ambassador Zamir Akram; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Ambassador Asif Durrani; Mr. Ilayas Mehmood Nizami, Director General (SA & SAARC); Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, CISS, AJK; Dr. Salma Malik, QAU; Dr. Altaf Hussain Wani, KIA; Ms. Humera Iqbal, IRS; and Ms. Nur-ul-Ain, IPRI.

Participants from the ISSI included DG Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Director and members of the India Study Centre.

The participants covered a wide range of themes — including continuity and change in Indian foreign policy; traditional and new drivers of Indian foreign and security policies; the impact of Indian economy and its present growth trajectory; the relevance and efficacy of 'strategic autonomy' in the



current context; India's quest for 'major power' status; New Delhi's posture and positioning in the great-power competition; the status of 'Neighbourhood First' policy and gaps in regional engagement; slackening of commitment to multilateralism and drift towards 'mini-lateralism'; continued intransigence in peacefully resolving the Jammu & Kashmir

dispute; and stalling of the SAARC process for regional cooperation.

The pursuit of 'Hindutva' ideology in the internal and external dimensions also assessed and its implications for regional peace and security were evaluated. Besides this ideological drift, the participants highlighted the propensity in India to use certain foreign policy

issues for domestic political gains, especially in the run-up to elections. The advice for Pakistan was to be vigilant as India goes through a slew of key state elections in 2023 and Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG of ISSI, made the concluding remarks.

Healthcare Workers' Training at Cordoba Care Institute of Health Management

News Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Fahd Haroon, Minister of State and Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Public Communication and Digital Platforms, attended an Iftar dinner organized by Cordoba Care Institute of Health Management in Karachi. The dinner was attended by leading medical professionals, educationists, members of civil society organizations, and top corporate and media representatives.

During the event, Mr. Haroon spoke about the importance of public communication and tech skills development via digital platforms in healthcare, especially with reference to the need for human resource training for quality healthcare professionals. He emphasised that these professionals are not only required in Pakistan to uplift the local healthcare system but also have great potential export demand in the Middle East, Europe, the Americas, and Africa.

Mr. Malik Ahmad Jalal, CEO & Founder of the Cordoba Care Institute of Health Management (CCI), said, "We are honored to have Mr. Haroon



join us to celebrate the achievements of Cordoba Care Institute in the field of healthcare training. CCI strives to provide quality healthcare services through training and capacity building of the healthcare professionals, particularly from underserved communities."

It is essential to note that Pakistan is prioritizing the strengthening of

the health sector, especially after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country is making progress on SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing). Pakistan's healthcare system is facing a dearth of healthcare professionals, particularly in the fields of nursing and allied healthcare. Although the Lady Health Workers (LHW) program has been revitalized through adequate

training, support, and a revised service structure, which has improved effective coverage of skilled birth attendants, pre, and post-pregnancy care, and neonatal care, the need for trained professionals is still needed in the peri-urban and rural areas of Pakistan.

Pakistan has been making efforts to achieve health-relevant SDGs. However, progress has been slow due to a lack of resources, infrastructure, and skilled human resources. The government has made skills development initiatives a priority to ensure that the demand for public health service delivery is met with quality and quantity both.

There is a need for the government and private sector to collaborate to improve healthcare services and ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to all. The use of digital platforms and public communication can play a vital role in creating awareness of the need for quality allied health resources and improving the behavior-change of patients and care providers. The Cordoba Care Institute provides a quality demand-driven curriculum taught with innovative methodologies to achieve these goals.

LFK-IPS Solidarity Event on Kashmir & Palestine

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) jointly hosted a Solidarity Iftar for Kashmir and Palestine on April 18th, 2023, here in Islamabad. The event brought together Hurriyat leaders, academia, activists, and subject experts from Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and Pakistan to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine.

The Solidarity Iftar served as an opportunity to highlight the ongoing struggles and human rights violations faced by both the Kashmiri and Palestinian people. During the event, LFK launched a report titled India's Impunity in Kashmir: Surveillance, Counter-Insurgency & Politics of Fear, which sheds light on the systematic use of surveillance, counter-insurgency measures, and



political repression against the people of Kashmir.

The event was chaired by Dr. Khalid Rahman, Chairman IPS; and the panelists included Mr. Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, Senior Hurriyat leader and Convener APHC; Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Senior Hurriyat leader and Former Convener APHC; Mr. Abdur Rasheed Turabi, former Ameer Jamaat e Islami AJK; Prof. Dr. Amna Mahmood,

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences IIUI.

Advocate Nasir Qadri, Executive Director LFK, moderated the event and delivered the opening remarks. He said that "Today's event is an opportunity to discuss the current dynamics of occupation in Kashmir in the presence of Hurriyat leadership and IPS Kashmir Working Group.

Dr. Khalid Rahman, Chairman IPS, while delivering the concluding remarks

expounded on the changing dynamics of warfare. He highlighted that "The dynamics of warfare have undergone a significant change, and while physical warfare remains effective, the occupation of territories in modern times has become increasingly difficult, with a few exceptions like that of Palestine and Kashmir. The battle is no longer limited to the battlefield and has evolved into a battle of minds and hearts. To keep a state or house in order, we must focus on our strengths and own our weaknesses.

After the working session of the solidarity event, the LFK released a comprehensive report titled "India's Impunity in Kashmir: Surveillance, Counter-Insurgency & Politics of Fear." This report highlights the systematic use of surveillance, counter-insurgency tactics, and political repression by the Indian authorities against the people of Kashmir.

Naveed Qamar presents Rs8m cheque to PM for quack-hit people of Turkiye, Syria



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister, Syed Naveed Qamar called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and presented cheque of Rs. 8 million for distressed Turkish, Syrian brothers.

Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif was also present in the meeting held in PM house here on Wednesday.

The Commerce Minister presented the cheque on behalf of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce to deposit in Prime Minister Relief Fund for Turkiye and Syria Earthquake Victims.

The Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Oman changes Foreign Marriage Law

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Omanis no longer need state permission to marry a foreign national according to a royal decree issued this week, a rare example of social reform in the Gulf country.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said has, since assuming power in 2020 after the 50-year reign of the late Sultan Qaboos, embarked on long-delayed reforms to improve fiscal stability and attract foreign investment.

According to newspapers in Oman, where the government tightly controls media and public dissent, Omanis previously had to fulfil certain conditions, such as being over a certain age, to marry a foreigner. Unauthorised marriages drew fines.

On Sunday Omani state media said Sultan Haitham had issued decree 23/2023 which cancelled a 1993 law empowering the interior ministry to approve each marriage to a foreigner.

"The facts and circumstances of life have changed, and the economic situation has changed (since that 1993 law)," said Omani lawyer Salah al-Maqbali, re-stating to Reuters comments to Omani media outlet Shabiba on Monday.

The decree states that such marriages must not violate sharia (Islamic law), public order or other provisions banning holders of certain government jobs from marrying foreigners. But marriages previously deemed illegal can now be legalised, it said. The full decree has not yet been published. Omani nationals make up just over half of the population of around 3.8 million people.

Oman is a relatively small crude oil producer compared to its wealthier Gulf neighbours, and was hit by a post-2014 fall in oil prices and by the pandemic-driven price crash.

Higher recent oil prices and fiscal reforms have however improved state deficits and rating agency S&P last month revised Oman's outlook to positive, from stable. It said the government was repairing its balance sheet and had reduced gross debt to 40% of GDP in 2022, from around 60% in 2021.

Trump claims FBI illegally controlled Elon Musk's Twitter company

Former president Donald Trump has expressed his discontent with SpaceX founder Elon Musk's declaration that he voted for President Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election.

Musk revealed during a recent interview with Fox News host Tucker Carlson that he did not vote for Trump and instead cast his ballot for Biden. However, he made it clear that he is not a big fan of the current president.

In response, Trump took to his Truth Social site to express his disbelief in Musk's statement. He claimed that he does not believe that Musk voted for Biden and suggested that the SpaceX founder is trying to curry favour with the current administration to secure government subsidies and permits.

Trump went on to accuse Musk's companies, including his space company, car company, battery company, tunnel company, and even Twitter, of relying heavily on government assistance and subsidies. He also made the puzzling claim that Twitter was "illegally controlled" by the FBI, despite the fact that it was a publicly traded company until recently.

It is worth noting that Musk's companies do, in fact, receive significant assistance from the government. SpaceX holds a contract to launch astronauts to the International Space Station and launches government-owned satellite payloads frequently. Similarly, Tesla receives federal assistance in the form of tax credits as part of the federal government's efforts to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles.

It remains to be seen whether Musk did indeed vote for Biden or if Trump's allegations hold any merit. However, it is clear that Musk's companies do receive government assistance, and Trump's criticism of this fact is not without merit.

ICCI invites French Investors to focus on Pakistan for business and investment

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation called on H.E. Nicolas GALEY Ambassador of France and discussed with him matters for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and France. Laurent Chopiton, Economic Counselor of France Embassy was also present on the occasion.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the current volume of bilateral trade of around USD 2 billion between Pakistan and France is not up to the actu-

al potential of both countries as they have good potential to further enhance it. He stressed for strong business linkages between the private sectors of Pakistan and France to explore new vistas of mutual cooperation. He said that France had supported Pakistan for EU's GSP Plus scheme and it can cooperate with Pakistan in many sectors including energy, IT, agriculture, livestock and tourism. He said that Pakistan is a huge market of around 223 million consumers and France should focus on Pakistan for business and investment.

Addressing the delegation, H.E. Nicolas GALEY, Amba-

sador of France in Pakistan said that France considers Pakistan an important country and wants to have more business relations with it. He said that Pakistan should focus on the EU's parliament for the continuity of the GSP Plus scheme. He said that a French Alumni group would be activated to enhance the cooperation between the two countries. He said that whenever a French business delegation visits Pakistan, he would connect them with ICCI. He said that close cooperation between ICCI and French Chambers of Commerce & Industry can help to explore untapped areas of business cooperation between

the two countries. He said that Pakistan's current difficult economic situation is transitory and Pakistan can attract more investment by addressing the issue of its currency fluctuation. He said that France and Pakistan have signed a roadmap for bilateral cooperation to strengthen relations in all fields of mutual interests including economic development, science & technology, education, culture, tourism, defence, climate change and hoped that it would produce good results for both countries.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan France Business Alliance is working in Karachi and its Chapter



should also be opened in Islamabad to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations between the business communities of Pakistan and France.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that many French companies are already working in Pakistan and more should come to explore joint ventures and investment in areas of interest.

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI Faizan Shahzad also shared useful ideas to promote trade and economic relations between Pakistan and France.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,499.34	40,448.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,532.76	40,289.95
Index Value	Change
3,101,605,674	+51.29
Percentage	Time
+0.13%	19 Apr, 2023 1:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,898.77	-10.67
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	19 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,919.90	-56.73
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	19 Apr, 1:09 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,606.76	-52.07
Percentage	Time
-0.18%	19 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	189	191
Bahrain Dinar	756.62	764.62
Canadian Dollar	210.5	212.5
China Yuan	41.37	41.77
Danish Krone	41.84	42.24
Euro	310	313.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.24	36.59
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.3	937.3
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	316.77	319.27
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	78	78.8
UK Pound Sterling	356	359
US Dollar	287.5	290

Nation will never forgive those pushing country into darkness: Mian Zahid

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 Wednesday said tolerance and understanding are necessary for politics but some leading politicians have made it a war.

Some failed politicians are not ready to show any flexibility which is destroying the economy and the country, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that self-centred politicians have nothing to do with the problems of the masses and the integrity of the country and they are just interested in gaining power.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the whole burden of the economic downturn is being borne by the masses but politicians don't care.

He said that GDP has come down to half percent but the self-righteous politicians have no interest in the economic improvement or the plight of those whose lives have become

very difficult.

Some frustrated people cannot be allowed to play with the future of the country and its 22 million people for their petty interests, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country's economy is constantly weakening and if the situation is not controlled it will destroy and there will be no use to cry over spilt milk.

The business leader said that the people and institutions involved in the current game should know that the country needs economic reforms without delay.

Privatization of failed government institutions, elimination of electricity and gas losses, import substitution and agricultural reforms are the needs of the hour and if these are not initiated, no one will be able to save the country from bankruptcy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that apart from other institutions, the honour of the judiciary is also at stake which has been involved in political disputes.

PTI chief Imran Khan should start negotiations with the government to be known and remembered as a peace-loving and prudent



leader. He should ensure the implementation of Charter of Economy and Agriculture so that people could get a sigh of relief.

If he played a role in the economic reforms, his name will be written in golden letters in history.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that institu-

tions should avoid going on the path of conflict. The nation will never forgive those who are indifferent to the problems of the people and are constantly dividing them, destroying the society, damaging society, undermining morality and writing the darkest chapter in the country's history.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that there has never been continuity in important economic policies in Pakistan due to political manoeuvres. Interest rates, exchange rates, inflation and laws are changed so rapidly that investors are left confused and unable to make important decisions.

Many investors leave the country disappointed with such conditions, but no one is bothered by this loss. 11% decline in large-scale manufacturing and the closure of various industries is proof of this.

The situation in the country has been brought to such a level that only those are ready to invest who can withdraw their capital with profit in a maximum of three years because they have no idea when the fundamental policies will be changed.

Moti Bazaar

AWALPINDI: People busy in shopping at Bara Bazaar in the city, ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. People prepare feasts, wear new clothes and apply Henna to celebrate the festival.



Photo: Online

Foreign exchange policies destroyed travel agencies: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh

News Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised the federal government, State Bank, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the aviation minister that the massive mismanagement in foreign exchange has blocked the remittance of proceeds of the airlines operating in Pakistan for the past 10 months; and, as a result, some of which have shut down their operations in Pakistan; others are in the process of limiting their operations and the rest are shifting their payment & transaction processing operations to their overseas offices.

FPCCI Chief was addressing a high-profile emergency meeting with the top leadership of the Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP) at the FPCCI Head Office; who informed him that travel agents are forced to shut down their operations due to the double whammy of bad government policies and high-handedness of

the airlines.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that the government has blocked the transfer of revenues of the international airlines in Pakistan to their respective countries of origin or to their head office accounts overseas. As a result, all international airlines have tripled their fares for international travel from Pakistan - drying up most of the business trips from Pakistan necessary for securing export orders; sourcing raw materials for industrial production from various parts of the world; trade promotion & B2B activities; visits to overseas offices or business partners of the Pakistani businessmen; and, also limited the workforce traveling abroad to seek or explore work opportunities.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, demanded that the federal aviation minister, Khawaja Saad Rafique, should meet the stakeholders immediately to listen to their issues & possible remedies; and, help avert yet another important sector of the economy to collapse.

Syed Naveed rolls out NCC, first of its kind in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce has formally launched the first ever National Compliance Centre (NCC), aimed to ensure international compliance requirements and facilitate the manufacturers and exporters.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the center, the minister reiterated the resolve of the government to accelerate efforts for promoting sustainable and inclusive development of the country.

In his address the minister said that Pakistan stood firm in its commitment to United Nations as well as international community for joining hands in their endeavors for promoting ethical supply chains, developing humane and discrimination free workplaces, replenishing and rejuvenating climate.

The NCC will act as a repository of all international compliance requirements and develop a user-friendly online database and other resources to assist businesses, industries, agricultural producers, public and private sector stakeholders, and other entities to understand and comply with international regulatory requirements,



he added.

The National Compliance Centre (NCC) would have a federal-level office with provincial secretariats to ensure coordination at the national level.

The event was graced by Diplomats of various countries including the EU Mission, EU members states embassies, China, US, UK, Japan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

A large number of notable industrialists, representatives from ILO, World Bank Group, Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA) USAID, other development

sector agencies and academia were also present.

Federal Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Interior or Climate Change, Overseas Pakistani and Human, Resource Development, Human Rights, Industries and Production, Attorney General of Pakistan and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs were also present along with senior officials of these departments.

Chief Secretaries of the provinces, Representatives from provincial departments of Labour, Industry, Planning and Development also attended the event online.

Secretary Commerce welcomed the guest formally and introduced the evolution of the idea of National Compliance Centre.

Secretary Commerce informed the audience that in a globalized integrated world compliance and standardization were crucial for export competitiveness.

He urged the businesses to understand the compliance requirements of international markets and assured that the NCC will partner with them in the cause for promoting a culture of equitable growth and discrimination free work place.

Meezan Bank announces Financial Results for the quarter ended March 31, 2023

News Desk

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Meezan Bank Limited in its meeting, held at Karachi on April 18, 2023, approved the financial statements of the Bank for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. The meeting was presided by Mr. Riyadh S.A. A. Edrees-Chairman of the Board; Mr. Faisal A. A. Al-Nassar - Vice Chairman of the Board was also present.

The Bank's profit after tax increased to Rs 15.4 billion from Rs 9.2 billion in the corresponding period last year, a growth of 68%. The Basic Earnings per Share increased to Rs 8.62 per share from Rs 5.14 per share in March 2022. The Board approved 30% (Rs 3 per share) interim cash dividend for the first quarter of 2023. The Bank remains a well-capitalized institution with a Capital Adequacy Ratio of 18.15%—significantly above the minimum regulatory requirement of 12.00%. Meezan is the most valuable bank in Pakistan, in terms of market capitalization, among all the listed banks.

Meezan Bank is one of the largest banks in Pakistan in terms of deposits, which closed at Rs 1.79 trillion. Current account contributed to 51% of its total deposits, amounting to Rs 918 billion while the current and savings account (CASA) deposits represent 88% of total deposits, amounting to Rs 1.6 trillion. The Bank maintained its leadership position in Roshan Digital Account (RDA) with a market share of 25% in terms of the total RDA inflows in the banking industry of Pakistan. Meezan Bank has a network of more than 970 branches in 324 cities and more than 1000 ATMs across the country. The Bank's Mobile Banking App has been consistently ranked as No.1 Mobile Banking App in Pakistan by both Apple Store and Google Play Store.

OGDCL partners with TCF to promote quality education in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under its Corporate Social Responsibility Program, the Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Citizens Foundation (TCF) in Islamabad to promote quality education for underprivileged children in Pakistan.

The MOU aims to construct and operationalize primary level schools

in the OGDCL's operational areas in collaboration with TCF, to empower local communities.

This initiative will enable out of school children to receive quality education at their doorstep, creating a positive impact in society and transforming the lives of families of these children.

It will be a long term partnership for the promotion of education in marginalized sections of society in years to come. OGDCL is a socially conscious organization



and strongly believes in giving back to the communities to transform their lives.

This partnership with TCF is aligned with OGDCL's commitment to improving education outcomes in Pakistan and will make a significant contribution to the country's development.

The collaboration between OGDCL and TCF is a testament to the importance of public-private partnerships in improving education outcomes in Pakistan.

BankIslami sponsors 8th Corporate T20 Cup 2023 at Moin Khan Cricket Academy

Bureau Report

KARACHI : BankIslami, Pakistan's leading Islamic financial institution with 380+ branches in 180+ cities, sponsored the 8th Corporate T20 Cup 2023. The tournament was held at the Moin Khan Cricket Academy, Karachi, during the Holy month of Ramadan between 7-15 April 2023, with late-night matches set to give thrilling sights to youth and cricket enthusiasts.

The tournament featured a total of eight teams who fought their way to the finals under the presence of an exciting audience, a versatile celebrity, and the academy's brand ambassador Mohammad Moin Khan. The tournament began with celebrity matches on April 7 and was followed by two matches per day from April 8 to April 13. The late-night matches provided an exciting atmosphere and showcased the talent of the players.



President and CEO, BankIslami, Amir Ali, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership with Moin Khan Cricket Academy and said, "We are proud to be associated with Moin Khan Cricket Academy and to sponsor the 8th Corporate T20 Cup 2023. We believe that sports plays an essen-

tial role that enhances the character of energetic youth and builds a healthy and prosperous society. We support the sports fraternity in every opportunity we receive."

Speaking at the event, Mohammad Moin Khan said, "We are grateful to BankIslami for being our sponsor for the 8th Corporate T20 Cup 2023. This partnership reinforces our commitment to encourage youth and enhance their confidence and skills in sports."

The tournament was broadcasted nationally and internationally, and the total prize money for the event was 2 million. BankIslami's support for the tournament is a testament to the bank's commitment to promoting sports in Pakistan.

BankIslami is committed to supporting sports in Pakistan and believes that sports brings people together and promotes teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.

Gate money from fifth T20I to be donated to Türkiye-Syria earthquake victims



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD : The gate money from the fifth and final T20 International between Pakistan and New Zealand will be donated to the earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria. The match will be played at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on 24 April and the fans can buy tickets at pcb.bookme.pk.

The border region of Türkiye and Syria was rocked by one of the deadliest earthquakes on 6 February that claimed thousands of lives and destroyed essential infrastructure, including healthcare facilities.

In this regard, the Pakistan Cricket Board will play a part in raising donations for millions of people affected on either side of the border by joining hands with the Punjab Government. The Pakistan side will wear commemorative caps to convey Pakistan's everlasting solidarity to the two nations going through this difficult moment.

Fans who cannot attend the match are encouraged to make their donations for the cause. They can send their donations on the following address:

Arthur to sign 'online' coaching contract today in meeting with Najam Sethi



ISLAMABAD: Following his arrival a day earlier, the Pakistan cricket team's high-profile 'Online' Director Coaching Mickey Arthur will hold a formal meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee head Najam Sethi here today (Wednesday).

Arthur — who is on a two-day contract signing trip to Pakistan — is scheduled to hold meetings with Sethi, skipper Babar Azam and chief selector Haroon Rashid.

English County Derbyshire head coach got a few-day break in between the County engagements to meet the PCB management committee's officials and discuss the roadmap of preparation in the run-up to the ODI World Cup in October and later for the away series against Australia in November-December.

"Mickey will not be available in person most of the time during these months till the ODI World Cup. As director coaching his presence will be online barring a few occasions when he is expected to join the team, especially for mega events," a well-placed source confirmed The News.

The publication learnt that a formal meeting between Sethi and Arthur is expected today where all the details of his contract will be discussed and the signing of the contract will take place.

"Mickey Arthur's trip to Pakistan is more for holding final negotiations which now has become a mere formality. The signing of the contract is also expected on Wednesday."

Arthur's pick Grant Bradburn will continue to act as the head coach of the national team during this period. He will stay in constant touch with the director coaching on the technical side.

"Mickey Arthur's meeting with the team's support staff, captain and the chief selector is also due within the next couple of days," the source confirmed.

When Sethi was approached on WhatsApp he also confirmed that the meeting is due on Wednesday.

The PCB management committee's T20 days in office are to expire on April 22 and so far, there has been no extension notification or no fresh orders from the patron on two members' nominations.

The corridors of power in Islamabad are so far silent on the next move. "What is in store for the PCB, no one knows at this point in time," a source told The News.

Though Arthur is expected to sign a long-term contract with the PCB, the general view is that the management committee should have left it for the permanent board to take a long-term decision.

"Once a permanent set-up is there, such appointments should have been made. Till that time series-to-series arrangement would have been the most viable and sensible option," an official said.

A day earlier, Arthur met the players at the team hotel in Islamabad and had light conversations with all team members. Web Report

The first IUB Ramadan Premier League 2023

Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR : The first IUB Ramadan Premier League 2023 organized by Directorate of Sports, IUB Sports Promotion Society, Directorate of Students Affairs and Directorate of Communication & Public Relations has concluded in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

In this seven-nights long league, as many as 48 teams from various departments and more than 600 students participated in this Ramadan League. The students of the hostels also enjoyed this league, the atmosphere of the festival in Baghdad-ul-Jadeed campus was lit up with the lights of cricket.

IUB Wolves became the first champion team by defeating Markhor XI by eight wickets. From winning team Waqas Khalid, Muhammad Ali, Yousuf Anwar, Hafiz Marjan Haider and Dr. Umir Riaz performed prominently, while on behalf of the runners-up team, the performance of Muhammad Osama, Abdul Rahman and Abdullah Shafiq was outstanding. The closing ceremony of the Ramadan Premier League was held at the Sports Complex in Baghdad-Jeeded, and the chief guest of closing ceremony was Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, while Prof. Dr. Aftab Hussain Gillani, Advisor IUB Sports Promotion Soci-



ty, Mr. Amjad Farooq Warraich, Director of Sports and Dr. Azhar Hussain, Additional Director of Students Affairs (IUB Students' Societies) were guest of honour.

The Vice Chancellor in his address said that it was a pleasure to organize this league and the participation of such a large number of students. The floodlights, the design of this league and other arrangements were impressive. He also appreciated all the teachers who became a part of this league along with the students.

He further said that in the future such activities will be increased and more games will be added along with cricket.

Earlier Prof. Dr. Aftab Hussain Gillani, Advisor IUB Sports Promotion Society and Mr. Amjad Farooq Warraich, Director Sports also congratulated the teams participating in this league and the organizers of this league for the successful organization and paid tribute to the vision of Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob and also thanked them. Dr. Umair Riaz, Qazi Muham-

mad Irfan Khalil, Hafiz Marjan Haider, Adnan Haider, Yousuf Gill and Muneeb Ashraf were in the core committee of this league while Shoaib Manzoor, Mohsin Sattar, Ali Raza were in the umpiring committee. In others, Hasnain Allah Dad, Muhammad Faizan and Muzamil Zaid in the scoring committee, Nageeb Rashid, Malik Faisal, Arslan Asghar, Tayyab Malik, Usman Ghani, Talha Salahuddin, Hassan Bukhari, Asfand Muhammad, Muhammad Shahzad, Ali Raza in the field force committee.

In the commentary panel Hafiz Marjan Haider, Khalid Saeed and Adnan Haider while Rahmatullah Sajid, Muneeb Ashraf and Yousaf Gill performed duties as food committee members. On this occasion, CEO Shamim Group of Industries, Rana Muhammad Khalid, Registrar IUB, Prof. Dr. Moazzam Jamil, Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Prof. Dr. Tanveer Hussain Turrabi, Chairman Department of Plant Pathology, Prof. Dr. Naveed Aslam Malghani, Chairman Hall Council, Dr. Muhammad Faheem Mushtaq, Additional Registrar Mr. Arif Ramooz, Advisor IUB Debating Society, Dr. Zeeshan Tabassam, Advisor IUB Art & Photography Society, Mr. Farjad Faiz, Principal Staff Officer, Mr. Waseem Siddiqui, Assistant Professor, Dr. Adnan Bukhari, Assistant Director Sports, Qazi Irfan Khalil and others were present.

PAK vs NZ T20I: Haris Rauf likely to set major T20I record in New Zealand series

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's right-arm speedster Haris Rauf is just six wickets shy from breaking a long-standing T20I record when his side takes on New Zealand in the remaining two PAK vs NZ T20Is of the five-match series.

Rauf has the perfect opportunity to dethrone West Indies' Jason Holder in the list of bowlers with the most wickets in a five-match T20I series.

The West Indian all-rounder claimed a record 15 wickets in a five-match series against England in 2021.

Rauf, on the other hand, has thus far claimed 10 wickets in just three PAK vs NZ T20Is and needs to take six more to break Holder's record.

Besides Haris, Pakistan's



all-format captain Babar Azam also has an opportunity to set a major T20I captaincy record in

the fourth PAK vs NZ T20I as a victory would make him the skipper with the most number

of victories. So far, he is the joint-holder of this record with Afghanistan's

Asghar Afghan and England's Eoin Morgan after 42 wins.

It is worth mentioning here that the ongoing five-game series took an interesting turn on Monday after New Zealand won their maiden T20I against Pakistan on the latter's home soil on Monday and reduced the hosts' advantage to 2-1.

In the third PAK v NZ T20I, Pakistan failed just four runs short of victory while chasing 164 as the home side could raise 159 before bundling out on the final delivery despite Iftikhar's quick-fire 60.

The Rawalpindi pitch, known for delivering high-scoring contests because of its batting-friendly nature, will host the last two matches of the PAK vs NZ T20I series on April 20 and 24, respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Mueed Rashid with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sheikh Rashid Qamar citizen number 3740599471713 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Rameesha Rashid (Daughter) 2. Uzma Rashid (Spouse) 3. Abdul Mueed Rashid (Son) 4. Rohail Rashid (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Yawar Mehboob with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mehboob Sultan citizen number 6110122640479 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Humaira Mehboob (Daughter) 2. Samina Mehboob (Spouse) 3. Yawar Mehboob (Son) 4. Yassar Mehboob (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Naseem Abbasi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Raja Muhammad Arfeen citizen number 6110118783755 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Kousar Naveed (Daughter) 2. Qamar Abbasi (Son) 3. Muhammad Waseem Abbasi (Son) 4. Muhammad Umar Abbasi (Son) 5. Muhammad Naseem Abbasi (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Aamir Shehzad Sherwani with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Shamim Ausaf Sherwani citizen number 6110189548232 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Nazia Seher (Daughter) 2. Nosheen Murtaza (Daughter) 3. Saadia Salman (Daughter) 4. Aasim Shazad Sherwani (Son) 5. Aamir Shehzad Sherwani (Son) 6. Muhammad Yawar Ausaf Sherwani (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Rashida Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Aurangzeb Abbasi citizen number 3740541604833 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Amina Noor (Daughter) 2. Rashida Bibi (Spouse) 3. Zeeshan Abbasi (Son) 4. Kamran Abbasi (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Moeed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Imran Javed citizen number 3310064317609 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Saba Imran (Daughter) 2. Arfa Imran (Daughter) 3. Shumaila Imran (Spouse) 4. Abdul Moeed (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ghulam Habib with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ghulam Nabi citizen number 6110118899453 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Ghulam Nasira (Daughter) 2. Sadia Naz (Daughter) 3. Rum Naz (Daughter) 4. Khurshid Jahan (Spouse) 5. Ghulam Shahid (Son) 6. Ghulam Habib (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sadat Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Zakiya Begum citizen number 1620209389500 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Sobia Faisal (Daughter) 2. Urooj Kazim (Daughter) 3. Saba Intizar (Daughter) 4. Folady (Mother) 5. Intizar Muhammad (Spouse) 6. Sadat Ullah (Son). On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU