

<u>Mobile app launch</u>

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Federal Ministers, internees, officials of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Interior Ministry, NADRA and developers of Constitution Mobile App. on Thursday.



Time for state institutions to keep national interest supreme:]

President concerned about legality of caretaker govts beyond 90 days

😂 News Desk

Arif Alvi on Thursday sent to the prime minister a letter of Chaudhry Fawad Ahmed asking him to look into the issues raised by the former federal minister to uphold the constitution and strengthen democracy in the country.

In his letter to the president, Chaudhary Fawad Ahmed raised issues with and the law. regard to the legality of the interim setups in the two provinces of the country.

He had said that the interhad completed their stipulat- racy in Pakistan.

ed period and the constitution did not provide for the contin-ISLAMABAD: President Dr. uation /extension of the period fixed for the interim setup.

Fawad had further stated that caretaker governments were introduced as per Article 224 of the Constitution to facilitate the Election Commission of Pakistan in holding free, fair, just, and honest elections in accordance with the Constitution

In his letter, President Dr Arif Alvi asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to examine the matter to ensure the im governments in Punjab upholding of the constitution and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and strengthening of democ-

JUI-F chief rules out talks with PTI chief



腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said it was time for the State institutions to get united for upholding the Constitution and keeping the national interest supreme.

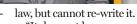
Addressing at the launch of the 1973 Constitution mobile application, he said Pakistan was currently at the crossroads of constitutional challenges, which required a sense of wholeness to be demonstrated by the State institutions.

In connection with the golden iubilee of the country's constitution 1973, the mobile application has been developed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the leadership of Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb in collaboration with National Data-



base and Registration Authority (NADRA). The application will act as a digital source to help raise awareness among the general public about the 1973 Constitution.

Shehbaz Sharif said the Constitution had its roots in the parliament, adding that according to the world-recognized concept, the judiciary can only interpret the



"It does not happen anywhere in the world that a court issues a stay order against a legislation which is still in the making," he

said. He urged the judiciary to reassess its role and become the protector of the Constitution. The prime minister said the

1973 Constitution was the result

of the hard toil of the politicians said that it would not hesitate from all backgrounds, who arrived at a consensus in formulation of the sacred document.

He recalled that veteran politicians of their times including Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Mufti Mehmood, Khan Abdul Wali Khan and several others rose above their political differences to write a constitution that acted as a binding force for the federation.

He said although politicians made mistakes in the past, but it was the time to rectify them.

"We have indeed learned a lesson and we are making efforts to take Pakistan out of these problems," he said. "Great people learn from their mistakes and hold the national interest high."

He said the government took over in difficult time, however,

in protecting the State and the Constitution.

PM Sharif said on the eve of the 50th anniversary, the decision to include 1973 Constitution in the syllabus at schools and college levels was remarkable in raising awareness about its sanctity.

He expressed the hope that the young generation would learn about the Constitution and healthy academics debates would be held at educational institutions.

The prime minister felicitated the parliamentarians, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and NADRA on the launch of the Constitution 1973 mobile application.

Integration of Constitution in curriculum, a major milestone, says Marriyum

😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said the country had achieved a major milestone by integrating the Constitution of Pakistan in educational curriculum on the occasion of its golden jubilee.

tution in the curriculum is a historic milestone. The curriculum does not only include basic components of democracy but also highlights importance and values of the difference of opinion," the minister said while addressing at the launch of the 1973 Constitution mobile application.

The mobile application has been developed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the leadership of Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb in collaboration with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

😂 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday ruled out the possibility of holding talks with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan who was bent upon creating hurdles for

the country. Addressing a press conference here, the JUI-F Chief wondered how dialogue could be held with a person who said that he would accept the elections after he received results and got a two-thirds majority.

He alleged that the PTI chief wanted things to get done according to his wishes as he had already said that he would dissolve the assemblies again even if he got a simple majority.

He regretted that Imran Khan, who should have been disqualified, was being made the centre of national politics.

He underlined the need for the judiciary for dispensing justice, adding that holding

elections within 90 days was a constitutional obligation but how a date given by the PTI Chief after the stipulated time could be acceptable?

He said, "The Parliament had passed resolutions expressing no confidence in the three-member bench of the supreme court."

How the political parties could be forced to hold talks with a person who did not have regard for the national interest, he remarked.

He said the country was confronting a number of economic challenges due to the flawed policies of the PTI government.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was handed over to the IMF in the name of sovereignty, he added.

Moulana Fazl said as a result of those policies, the poor people of the country started to suffer due to inflation.

He said the country would be steered out of the economic quagmire through better legislation.

Imran on warpath against Nawaz

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

LAHORE: (Dunya News) -Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) Chairman Imran Khan flayed on Thursday Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, saying the latter was merely "the captain of the cowards".

Addressing the party workers during Iftar, the deposed premier said, "Nawaz Sharif is not alone. But there are also more players on a team of cowards. The capability of the Sharif family is that all of its members are cowards. Maulana Fazlur Rehman is also a part of Nawaz Sharif's team".

Speaking about his aide Ali Amin Gandapur, Mr Khan said, "Ali Amin Gandapur is determined. Shameless are those people who indulge in activities like this. The police are just busy taking Ali Amin here and there."

Earlier on Wednesday, Mr Khan said that the entire country was in the throes of fascism.

Taking to Twitter, the deposed premier lamented, "The way we have descended into becoming a banana republic where there is no rule of law and only the law of the jungle. It is clear that this reign of terror is not controlled by PDM puppets but by another force that sees itself totally above the law. Our people are abducted, and afterwards sham FIRs are registered."

Ruing the cases lodged against him, Mr Khan said, "As bail in one FIR is granted, another FIR pops up. I have over 145 FIRs filed against me. Its a circus of FIRs. My Bani Gala caretaker, my Zaman Park cook, our social media's Mashwani, Waqas, and my security incharge, Ghumman,all abducted and tortured to try and update their software."

Election Date: SC adjourns to celebrate talks on April 26 Eidul Fitr on

Saturday 😂 News Desk

Shawwal

moon not

sighted,

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Thursday announced that the Shawwal moon has not been sighted in Pakistan, hence Eidul Fitr will fall on Saturday, April 22.

The committee's chairman, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, made the announcement while addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

The Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee had convened the meeting to sight the moon for Eidul Fitr in Islamabad, whereas zonal bodies of the committee also met in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawai and Lahore.

hearing as Govt, PTI to hold

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court

(SC) on Thursday adjourned the hearing of a petition seeking simultaneous elections across Pakistan after being told that a meeting had been scheduled between the government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) for April 26.

A three-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar is heard the petition seeking to hold general elections to all the national and provincial assemblies simultaneously.

Earlier, the apex court had directed the coalition government and PTI to hold talks today and develop a consensus on elections in the country.

However, the proceedings did not resume as the three-judge bench did not appear in the courtroom. Meanwhile, Farooq H Naek, who was representing Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Attorney General

for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan met with CJP Bandial in his

chambers. The Supreme Court, in its written order, stated that it was "impressed" to note that all political leaders had affirmed their fidelity to the Constitution. It also asserted that it would not go back on its order fixing May 14 as the date for Punjab elections.

The order noted that the Supreme court has no objection to the negotiation process for holding general elections simultaneously. "Holding elections on the same day across the country is a legal and constitutional question," it added.

It further said that all executive authorities were bound to implement the decision of the election to Punjab Assembly on May 14. Referring to CJP's meeting with

Farooq H Naek and AGP Mansoor, the order said that both the representatives informed the chief justice of talks between government and opposition.

Today's hearing

After being summoned by the court, leaders of various political parties including, the Pakistan People's Party(PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI), MQM-P, Jamaat-e-Islami(JI) and others appeared before the SC amid efforts for consensus in order to end dispute on elections.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) assured the Supreme Court that they will sit with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) and try to find a solution on the election date.

At the outset of the hearing, CJP thanked leaders of all political parties for coming to Supreme Court on the important issue. The top judge also appreciated Jamat-e-Islami chief Siraj ul Haq for making efforts to initiate a dialogue between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the government.

"You have undertaken a good initi ative. May Allah succeed you," CJP Bandial told the JI chief.

"Integration of the Consti-



The Spokesman

Friday, April 21, 2023

Eid-ul-Fitr

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad along with other members addressing press conference regarding announcement of Eid-ul-Fitr, to be celebrated on 22nd April 2023.



FM Bilawal to attend SCO foreign ministers' moot in India on May 4: FO

🐞 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead the Pakistan delegation to the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) being held in Goa, India on May 4-5, Foreign Office spokesperson announced on Thursday.

In her weekly press briefing, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch told the media that the foreign minister was attending the SCO CFM meeting at the invitation of the current Chair of SCO CFM, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs of India.

"Our participation in the meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to the SCO Charter and processes and the importance that Pakistan accords to the region in its foreign policy priorities," she remarked.



She said that FM Bilaw-Delhi on April 18, 2023. On Wednesday, the spokes-

person said, Director of the

National Disaster Manage-

ment Authority virtual-

lv attended the SCO Expert

Meeting of Heads of Agencies

for Prevention and Elimina-

tion of Emergency Situations

al had also attended the last meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in July last year in Tashkent.

She said Pakistan continued to participate in SCO meetings in keeping with its long-standing commitment to the Organisation.

while on Thursday Muham-Federal Minister for Climate mad Idrees Mahsud, Member Change Sherry Rehman repre-Disaster Risk Reduction, is sented Pakistan at the 4th SCO virtually participating in the Meeting of Heads of Ministries SCO Meeting of Heads of on Environmental Protection Agencies for Prevention and held in online format in New Elimination of Emergency

Situations.

She apprised the media of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar's participation in the 4th Meeting of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan held on April 13 in Samarkand where she highlighted the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and called for humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan.

The MoS also participated in the Meeting of the Quadrilateral Group on Afghanistan which includes China, Iran, Pakistan and Russia and underlined that the untapped potential for connectivity could harness unprecedented new opportunities for the region.

In Samarkand, she also held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The spokesperson informed the media that Pakistan's Head

of Mission in Afghanistan. Ambassador Ubaid Nizamani has returned to Kabul and resumed his responsibilities, after close consultation with the Afghan Interim Government.

She said in his telephone conversation with Acting Afghan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi on April 15, FM Bilawal also reiterated the necessity and responsibility of the Afghan Interim Government towards the safety and security of Pakistan's diplomatic missions and personnel in Afghanistan.

She also mentioned the Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) with Bulgaria and with Portugal were held on April 11 and 13 respectively. A broad range of regional and global issues of common interest including regional security, climate change and cooperation at the multilateral fora were also discussed.

Won't advise to reappoint Usman Buzdar as CM **Punjab: Fawad**

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) vice president Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday opposed the reappointment of Usman Buzdar as the Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab. Speaking on the ARY News

programme 'Off the Record', the PTI vice president Fawad Chaudhry said there are many 'surprises' regarding the tickets allotment as Chairman of PTI Imran Khan himself distributed the tickets for the Punjab Assembly elections.

While answering a question, Fawad Chaudhry said that he will not advise PTI stakeholders to make Usman Buzdar the Chief Minister of Punjab, however, it would be Imran Khan's decision.



chairman did not award tickets for the Punjab Assembly elections to Pervez Elahi, Usman Buzdar and Shehbaz Gill.

Fawad Chaudhry said that the Supreme Court wants to operate in the best environment and look at both the legal and political aspects of the matter.

The PTI vice president criticized the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and said that the coalition government is 'confused', as the PDM leaders are not on the same page.

He also mentioned that the PTI

SBP rebuts Dawn News article

🐞 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Apropos to the story titled "In breach of law, govt borrows Rs239bn from State Bank: think tank", State Bank of Pakistan categorically rejects the content of the article. It is also regrettable that prior to the filing of this story, the reporter did not bother to contact SBP for verification of the data. SBP further reiterates that no breach of Section 9-C of the SBP Act of 1956 has taken place, as asserted by the reporter.

Apparently, the said story is based on a research report by an Islamabad-based economic think tank, Prime Institute (PI) which prima facie has relied on the data titled "Credit/ Loans Classified by Borrowers", on the SBP website. However, this data appears to have been misconstrued by the think tank. Ironically, the reporter relied on an unpublished research report, while failing to corroborate its assertions.

It is clarified that data in the aforesaid table is calculated on accrual basis which takes into account accretion of interest over time and impact

on-lending of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) Allocation, received by the Government of Pakistan as a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Furthermore, gross amount of lending is netted-off against the government deposits with the SBP. Based on these reporting principles, the increase of net SBP credit of Rs. 239 billion to the government sector is attributable to constituent elements namely; accrual of interest (Rs. 110 billion), impact of exchange rate revaluation (Rs. 84 billion) and decrease in government deposits with SBP (Rs. 45 billion). Needless to mention, SBP has not extended any fresh loan to the government since the promulgation of SBP Amendment Act, 2022.

of exchange rate fluctuation in case of

It is further clarified that since the discontinuation of borrowing from the State Bank of Pakistan, the government has repaid SBP debt of Rs. 2,017 billion. It is hoped that in future, the newspaper would contact SBP prior to the publication of news related to the central bank and its subsidiary organizations.

Punjab Polls: ECP extends deadline to submit party tickets

India set to surpass China as world's most populous country: UN

😂 Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS : India is poised to overtake China as the world's most populous nation, with almost 3 million more people than China by the middle of this year, according to a major report released by the United Nations on Wednesday.

In its 2023 State of World Population report, UNFPA, the UN sexual and reproductive health agency, Pakistan's population is projected at 240.4 million.

India is going to have a population of 1,428.6 million - 2.9 Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, million more than China, the

as China's populations began

cratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, the Philippines and surpass. Reuters quoted UN report said. This was expected the United Republic of Tanza- population officials as saying



to decline in the last few years. projected growth in global Eight countries - the Demo-population by 2050, it added. The report doesn't say by

which date India will actually

that the date couldn't be ascertained due to a lack of information from India.

The officials, according that thriving and inclusive socito Reuters, attributed it to the delay in the Census that was supposed to be conducted in India in 2021 but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last Census was conducted in 2011. It is yet unclear when the decennial Census will be conducted.

The UNFPA report said that while reaching the milestone of eight billion people on Earth was a reminder of "our unprecedented gains", concerns over the number were "causing anxiety, and driving more govern-

ments to try to influence fertility rates."

However, the agency notes eties can be built, regardless of population size, if countries are prepared to radically rethink how we talk about, and plan for, population change.

'The relationship between reproductive autonomy and healthier lives is an uncontested truth", said UNFPA's Executive Director, Natalia Kanem, in her foreword to the report.

"As women are empowered to make choices about their bodies and lives, they and their families thrive - and their societies thrive as well."

Three healthcare establishments sealed in ICT

腾 News Desk

ISI AMABAD: The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has sealed three Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in different areas of the Capital Territory.

According to IHRA, the authority's inspection teams carried out inspections of 42 Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in different areas of the Capital Territory during the past two weeks.

Zahir Khan Clinic, Maryam Clinic and Al-Barka Medical Centre were sealed due to malpractices like the absence of qualified medical staff, unhygienic conditions, not getting registration with IHRA and functioning during the suspension.

IHRA suspended the services of two Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) over different medical non-compliance. Right Ways Rehab Center and Grow Hair Transplant and Skin Care Clinic were also suspended. Similarly, 25 Healthcare Establishments were served notices for minor non-compliances and instructed to comply with the directions given by the inspection team. 12 HCEs were found closed upon arrival by the inspection teams.

IHRA teams are also carrying out zone-wise mapping of healthcare establishments in Islamabad and the mapping of 10 HCEs was conducted over two weeks.

Will extend support to PTI candidates for Punjab Assembly polls: Sharaqpuri

😂 Spokesman Report

SHARAQPUR SHARIF : Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Jaleel Ahmed Sharaqpuri vowed on Thursday to stand with former prime minister Imran Khan.

Taking to Twitter, Mr Sharaqpuri said that in line with the Punjab Assembly elections, he will extend his support to the candidates that were nominated by Mr Khan.

On Sunday, Mr Sharaqpuri urged on Sunday Mr Khan to leave the country, as no institution could shield him. Addressing activities of making the institutions a press conference, Mr Sharaqpuri went on to say that the people of the country were forced to live in severe crises. "Even people are longing for bread and better," he lamented.

He claimed, "Those who destroy the national treasury indulge in the



of the state controversial."

Mr Sharaqpuri also urged the stakeholders to refrain from standing against anyone from the institutions. He also made a claim that, like Iraq and Libya, the country was devastated.

Speaking about the cases against Mr Khan, Mr Sharaqpuri said, "The bogus cases have been lodged against Imran Khan".

"Those who are speaking against the Chief Justice are not subjected to the contempt of court", rued Sharaqpuri.

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has extended the deadline for submitting party tickets and allotment of symbols for candidates looking to contest Punjab elections, ARY News reported on Thursday.

According to details, the ECP has revised the Punjab Election Program according to which candidates will be allotted election symbols from April 20 to 26.

Eid holidays will not be applied on election symbols, adding that the general elections in Punjab will take the schedule.

place on May 14th. According to the notification, the deadline for submission of party tickets for the candidates has been

extended until 12 midnight. The Provincial Election Commissioner and all Returning Officers have been informed about the ECP's decision.

The ECP directed all the political parties should ensure to allow party tickets to their candidates by the given deadline.

Candidates participating in the Moreover, the ECP said that the elections have been instructed to submit their electoral symbols to the announced dates for allotting the Returning Officer and complete the allocation process according to

It's not easy to sit with Imran due to his behaviour, says Murad



News Desk

JACOBABAD : Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said on Thursday that it was not easy to sit with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan due to the latter's behaviour.

Speaking to media, Mr Shah said, "It is up to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold the elections. After the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict, the complexities in connection with the holding of the elections increased. If the problems will be solved after the decision, then everybody will be ready to accept the decision"

He recalled that the elections will be held within 90 days as per the constitution. Soon, elections will also have to be held on the vacant seats. All our political parties have their own ideologies. We definitely united to rule. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has always believed in dialogue."

Mr Shah made it clear that former president Asif Ali Zardari and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had always been prepared to negotiate, adding that the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had their own opinions.



National

Friday, April 21, 2023

Anwaarul Haq elected as Azad Kashmir's 15th Prime Minister

😂 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD :Newly elected Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq took oath as the fifteenth Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered the oath to him. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's House on Thursday. Assembly members, secretaries, heads of departments and a large number of citizens participated in the ceremony. The Secretary Services and General Administration read out the notification of the newly elected Prime Minister, after which the newly elected Prime Minister was sworn in by the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing on this occasion, Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that my responsibility

been elected by all the members of the Assembly. Power is not a bed of flowers but a hedge of thorns which I will use only to serve the people. Allies I assure my allies especially the PDM and other members of the Assembly that the way you all cooperated with me in a moment. He said that I will try my best to fulfill the wishes of the allies, but I also request the allies to be patient. I will not promise the people today that Azad Kashmir will present a paradise tomorrow, that the kingdom of angels will be established here in a day. Change takes time. But as soon as we complete the initial phase of governance, you will see a change

heavy mandate with which I have

also want to make it clear today that Kashmir is an indivisible unity, no formula for the partition of Kashmir can be implemented in my presence. The Prime Minister said that I do not believe in protocol but in serving the people. Today I warn



and teachers associated with the health and education sectors to report to their respective duties

within twenty four hours or be prepared for consequences. Government of Azad Kashmir Government of Tehreek Azadi Kashmir Base Camp Today, I assure my brothers of Occupied Kashmir that for the success of the Azadi Kashmir movement, has increased even more with the the doctors, paramedical staff I will convey their voice with all

my strength inside the country and abroad.

He said that neither my attitude nor my personality will change with power. There will be a change, the way the governance has been corrupted in Azad Kashmir and the people's resources have been brutally looted will be brought before you soon. I also pay tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan and variation cannot be imag-

today who have are protectors and are making sacrifices for this country. The Prime Minister said that power is the religion of Allah Almighty. Until yesterday, I did not even think that today I will be in this position. I am grateful to all the allies for expressing their confidence. They said that in the part of the age that I am at the moment, change

ined much. A man can fight the as soon as possible, he said. He whole world but cannot fight his own conscience. I need time to the entire structure of the state improve this system, so I appeal was destroyed and the resourcto all allies to support me with patience and courage.

What I have learned from my political and spiritual teacher Chaudhry Sahab Ali is in my veins and blood. I am included. He said that the complete infrastructure of an entire state is available in Azad Kashmir, needs some time to be physicalbut this infrastructure was not ly visible. I do not want to give given to us for luxury but to serve away the conversation. After the people. The Prime Minister completing the formation of said that I hate the word status the government, you will see the quo. Now will remove the status from Azad Kashmir and you will see improvement here soon. I inform all government employees including my bureaucracy to start using their energies for public service and betterment of the state, or else long. Go on the freedom movement of Kashleave. Talk does not bring change, but for change, you have to prove it by your actions. He said that I Kashmir. I assure my Kashmiassure all friends to walk togeth- ri brothers that I will fight their

said that due to bad governance, es were brutally looted. I will put the evidence of this in front of the people in the coming time. We will make the accountability system transparent and the people will see accountability in the real sense. Our government is a coalition government which government with full vigor. He said that I am also grateful to my twelve members of the assembly who trusted me in very unfavorable circumstances. said that this base camp government has been established to burn down mir. Modi will adopt whatever tactics he wants in Occupied er, I am trying to form the cabinet case with full force he pledged.

Shopping

Multan: Girls are buying jewelry from shops ahead of Eid al-Fitr, as on this grand event people prepare feasts, wear new clothes and apply Henna to celebrate the festival with great Zeal



Crackdown against transporters charging excessive fares on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, a thorough crackdown was conducted against the transporters charging excessive fares on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Taking action at the stand, 3 vehicles were also stopped. During the crackdown, the routes of 2 vehicles were also canceled due to overloading and overcharging. Secretary RTA also returned Rs 1 lakh 75 thousand excess fare to the passengers. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the operation against overcharging will be continued during the Eid days. Strict accountability will be held against the transport companies that rob the passengers. The commissioner directed that the official rate lists and complaint numbers should also be recorded at the bus and wagon stands

A strict security plan will be implemented during Eid al-Fitr. Umar Jahangir



Al-Khidmat Foundation distributed Eid packages

😂 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Al-Khidmat Foundation distributed Eid packages to 100 deserving families from different areas in Wana of Lower South Waziristan District, the price of one Eid package was Rs.8500, the Eid package included flour, rice, sugar, Oil, tea, and dates, wherever there is an opportunity to serve in which Al-Khidmat Foundation has always been at the forefront.

teers of Al Khidmat Foundation reach.

Eid package distribu- people will continue till the



tion, District President of last breath of life, they said In all calamities and diffi- Al-Khidmat Foundation that the achievements of cult situations where no one Abdul Wahab Wazir, Gener- Al-Khidmat Foundation is gratitude to Al-Khidmat else can reach, the volun- al Secretary Asad Bahir, performing in the service are Mumtaz Wazir and Umar being made possible by the Wazir expressed their views undying spirit of the Foun- helpless people have no On the occasion of and said that service to the dation's volunteers.

Later, the deserving nization.

people who received the Eid package expressed their Foundation

That we helpless and words to thank this orga-

European Union supporting Pakistani promote and protect human rights

😂 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan has launched a call for proposals worth 1,700,000 EUR to enable civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Pakistan.

As human rights and democracy are essential values of the EU, promoting and protecting them remains a key priority of its external action. These values are critical for achieving sustainable development and building inclusive, open, and resilient societies. The new call for proposals focuses on strengthening the capacities of CSOs and media in exercising fundamental freedoms, protecting and supporting journalists, bloggers, and other media workers.

腾 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that a strict security plan will be implemented on behalf of the district administration on Eid-ul-Fitr. For the convenience of the people, the holidays of Wasa, Waste Management Company and related district departments have been cancelled. 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.

Delegation of Central Anjuman Tajran meets to Administrations

🐞 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: In a meeting with the delegation of Central Anjuman Tajran Grocery and General Store City with AC City Mian Muhammad Zubair, Divisional Commissioner Ms. Silwat Saeed, Deputy Commissioner regarding the distribution of free flour by the association in Ramadan, DC Ali Annan Qamar, AC City Muhammad Zubair DFC Mian Waqar Yousaf paid the great tributes to their good services for the entire satisfaction of the public.

He said adding that, his services to the public will be remembered for a long time. These views were expressed by General Secretary Sheikh Muhammad Masood, Senior Vice President Rana Shahid Mahmood, Vice President Malik Umar Hayat, Secretary Jinnah Town Haseeb, who were present in the delegation, and on the instructions of Rao Hashim Ali, President Central Anjuman Tajran Kariana and General Store City District.

Mari Petroleum Company Celebrates Earth Day

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum man appreciated MPCL's resolve for Company Limited (MPCL)organ- environmental conservation. He also ized an event to celebrate Earth Day on April19th, 2023. The event was organized by CSR & HSE Depart- urged that other corporates must learn ment of company and ceremony held from MPCL's sustainable development at Company headquarters in Islamabad. It was aimed to promote initiatives ment as part of their CSR plans. creating public awareness on environmental issues and streamlining joint Haider shared his vision of shared efforts by all stakeholders towards responsibility to invest in planet which common goal of achieving environmental sustainability to protect ourselves as to meet the expectations of customand future generations.

Mr. Faheem Haider, Media person-

sion as Chief Guest. At the event, Chair- carbon footprint, conserving resources, highlighted the impact MPCL's various green initiatives are creating and initiatives and should make environ-

At the event, MD MPCL, Faheem according to him is equally important ers and shareholders. He apprised The event was attended by all the audience about company's belief MPCL's HO employees, senior manage- in the concept of triple bottom line ment including Managing Director and how sustainability is the critical aspect of MPCL's business strategy. All nel and members from CDA Authori- green initiatives of company encomty including Chairman CDA, Mr. Noor pass a commitment towards achiev-

ul Amin Mengal who graced the occa- ing sustainability goals by reducing its reducing wastes, promoting sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

At the event, MPCL's Chief of Staff, Brig. Asad Raza (Retd.) highlighted multiple impactful green initiatives taken by company in 2022 - 2023 including development of Islamabad's largest 17 Acres Miyawaki forest, plantation of 25000 fruit trees, installation of various waste bins, public awareness messages boards, benches etc. at Trail 3 and Trail 5 in islamabad. He also apprised the audience that more than 100 Solarization schemes have been executed by MPCLto provide affordable and sustainable energy to underserved communities been executed in the operational area of Sindh. 80



been developed by company and Waziristan along with necessary train-Fruit Orchards on 640 Kanals have handed over to the Farmers of North ings, distribution of seeds, plants and

toolkits to earn sustainable livelihood. 80 Kanals of vertical farming and training of 175 farmers also one among other green initiatives taken by MPCL in Waziristan. He also focused on briefing the crucial aspect of partnerships and need of serious efforts by all to achieve Sustainable development goals.

MPCL's Director HSE, Naseem Qamar acquainted the audience about Pakistan's responsibility being signatory of UN's Paris Agreement and our responsibility as Nation to save the planet for a better greener future. He suggested the audience to celebrate Earth day with a sense of optimism and hope. He expressed pride to be part of an organization which is committed to ensure sustainable future for generations by devising a common goal to protect planet and make it a better place for all.

civil society to

The Spokesman 3



Islamabad 15º – 23º Clear

SERVICES

Namaz	Timings
Fajr	4:04 an
Zohr	12:07 pn
Asr	4:49 pn
Maghrib	6:42 pn
Isha	8:11 pn
EMER	GENCY

Rescue (Police) ... 15 Bomb Disposal Fire Services Rawalpindi/1122 & 16 Islamahad Emergency Ambulance 1122 & .. 4451122 & Rescue Services .. Motorway Police9266044 Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

9222596 Islamabad Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	
MH	
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	

DEPARTMENTS

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

Realtors played a key role in getting Pakistan out of FATF's gray list. Adil Nawaz

腾 News desk

RAWALPINDI: Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) General Secretary Adil Nawaz Bhatti has warned the government that any additional tax on the real estate sector in the upcoming budget will have a strong reaction from the realtors. There is a need to introduce the system of freehold properties in Pakistan. This time the realtors will not sit still. Realtors played a key role in getting out of FATF's gray list. Looking forward to the steps taken by the government to revive the real estate sector. In a statement, RECA General Secretary Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that freehold properties will increase foreign investment in the country. After the Lahore High Court's decision to abolish unfair taxes like 7e, a positive response should be given by the government. The real estate sector should be regulated and given the status of regular industry. The immediate implementation of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act will give this industry an opportunity to play its role in the country's development. He said that the government and private partnership can revolutionize the sector. Overseas Pakistanis have immense confidence in this sector.

Radio Pakistan is being adapted to modern requirements: Tahir Hassan

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defense Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed visited Radio Pakistan, Islamabad for a video podcast interview in the newly established state of the art podcast studios.

Director General Radio Pakistan Tahir Hassan apprised the Senator of the latest initiatives taken by Radio Pakistan to align the national broadcaster with modern day requirements.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sved visited different sections of Radio Pakistan including newly established sports channel, Exclusive English Channel 87.6, technology channel,

the World and External Service and renovated on modern lines the most popular Sautul-Quran Channel of Radio Pakistan.

He also visited News and Current Affairs Channel, to improve its revenue.



the Director General Radio

Pakistan for his steps on war

footing to modernize Paki-

stan Broadcasting Corpora-

tion saying he is really amazed

to see the state of the art studios

developed just in a few months,

terming it the vision and dedi-

cation of the current manage-

General News Room, Social Media and renovated news

studios. The Senator appreciated the initiatives undertaken by Director General Radio Pakistan Tahir Hassan to equip the National Broadcaster with modern gadgets to meet the changing needs of broadcasting and revive its old glory as well as the steps taken by him

ment of Radio Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain

Syed said Radio Pakistan is the identity and proud of Pakistan. Expressing his special affection for Radio, he said Radio is

his romance which he developed at a very early age when his father gifted him a Radio set on passing the matriculation examination with flying colours. He said that he used to listen different foreign radio stations and actively participated, through letters, in their programs

He said the role of Radio for spreading information is very significant and that it is Radio that developed his interest in foreign affairs.

Mushahid Hussain Syed recalled his days as the Information Minister when he inaugurated a FM channel and organized a concert of Abida Parveen at Hyderabad Radio Station.

He also recalled some of the big names which remained associated with Radio Pakistan.

SECP-AAOIFI to host First International Conference on Islamic Capital Markets

😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD : The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) are hosting first international conference on Islamic capital markets.

The one-day conference will be held on May 29, 2023, at a local hotel in Islamabad, and is being organized in cooperation with key industry players in the non-bank financial sector and capital market infrastructure institutions.

AAOIFI is a Bahrain-based, renowned global standard-setting body, entrusted with ensuring the soundness and stability of the Islamic financial services industry, including banking, capital market, and insurance/takaful, in accordance with Shariah. So far, it has issued more than 115 standards in the areas of Shariah, accounting, auditing, ethics, and governance, which are adopted / adapted in different shape and form in no less than 47 jurisdictions and 41 countries globally.

The subject conference aims to define the future direction for the Islamic capital markets in light of the recent judgement of the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) as well as the fast-changing dynamics of the market. Given the rising need for expansion of Islamic capital markets on a global scale, the conference has been themed "ICM developments with ecosystem completion: innovation, growth, and transformation."

Eminent speakers, policymakers, and experts of the global Islamic financial services industry from Bahrain, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, UAE and UK are expected to participate in the conference. Leading players from the local stock market, the mutual fund industry, non-banking financial institutions, and representatives from the takaful industry from Pakistan will attend the conference.

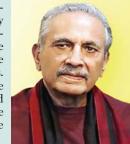
Attendance to the conference is free of charge. Registration for the conference is now open, and participants can get themselves registered using the following link: https://bit.ly/3AbQem8

Decline in rice, sugar output setting off a new global crisis

🐞 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Thursday said a new global food crisis is in the making due to reduced rice and sugarcane output in the major producing countries.

Pakistan should immediately stop the smuggling of rice and sugar and should not allow them to be exported at any price to save the local people from impact, he said.



Shahid Rasheed butt said that strict

measures should be taken for at least one year until the price of these commodities stabilizes in the world market.

The business leader said in a statement issued here today that according to international organizations, rice production is reaching its lowest level in two decades due to the war in Ukraine and a reduction in production in various countries including Pakistan and China.

According to a report, three and a half billion people will be affected by the reduction in rice production, with the majority in the Asia-Pacific, where ninety per cent of the world's rice production is consumed.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that production of sugar has declined in many countries including Brazil, India and Argentina, India pushing its prices in the international market to the highest level in ten years.

The influential sugar mafia was quick to take benefit of the situation, and it has increased prices, which has no justification because the production of sugar in Pakistan is much more than the requirement, he said.

Engro Corporation (PSX: ENGRO) announced its financial results

Beautiful Federal Capital

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the clouds floating on the Awan-e-Sadr after rainy weather in



Eid festivities at Pearl-Continental Hotel Bhurban

😂 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Eid-ul-Fitr is an auspicious occasion that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. It is a time for Muslims around the world to come together and celebrate with loved ones. If you're looking for a luxurious and serene location to celebrate Eid with your family and friends, look no further than the Pearl-Continental Hotel Bhurban.

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful valley, this hotel is the perfect getaway for those looking to unwind and relax. The luxurious amenifor those who book a room in ties, coupled with the tranadvance for 3 nights. Guests quil ambiance of the location, make it an ideal place to spend quality time with loved ones.



To make your stay even is a great way to save money more enjoyable, the hotel is while enjoying all the luxuoffering a special promotion ries the hotel has to offer.

When it comes to dining options, Pearl-Continencan avail 15% discount on tal Hotel Bhurban has you the best available rate and covered. Their Garden Café get a complimentary break- and Nadia Restaurants are fast for two. This promotion offering a delicious buffet nental Hotel Bhurban.

and Hi-Tea for all three days of Eid. The Hi-Tea is available from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and Buffet Dinner is available from 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM.

Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Guests can indulge in a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes including soups, salads, appetizers, main courses, and desserts. The chefs have curated a menu that caters to different tastes and preferences, ensuring that everyone will find something to enjoy.

With the serene location, luxurious amenities, and delicious dining options, you are sure to have an unforgettable experience. Book your rooms and tables now to experience the ultimate Eid experience at Pearl-Conti-

Pakistan may become the sixth country with 3-digit inflation

腾 Tariq Khattak

Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said Pakistan that has nosedived into a very serious economic and political crisis world to have triple-digit inflation in mismanagement continued and necessary steps were delayed.

The inflation genie is out of the bottle, the cost of living is rising and the standard of living of tens of millions is falling at a rapid pace with no hope in sight, he said.

There are no efforts on the part of the government to control inflation and provide relief to the masses as the rulers

struggling with each other, he added. Aslam Khan said that presently 73 ISLAMABAD: Brig. (R) Aslam countries struggle with double-digit inflation and it can get worst any time and they can join the club of countries with triple-digit inflation.

He said that more than about 2 can become the sixth country in the percent inflation erodes buying power of the masses, damages consumer confidence, eats into business and corporate competitiveness, and harms entire economies.

The reasons behind inflation are reckless borrowing, erosion of the value of the rupee, profiteering, supply chain issues, shortages, pent-up demand, and government stimulus, he informed.

Large-scale and long-term economic mismanagement is also a reason and opposition is more interested in behind inflation in Pakistan which



has resulted in a mess that has forced millions of Pakistanis to struggle to put food on the table amid one of the country's worst economic crises

The holiday that marks the end of

Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month, used to be a guaranteed earner for small shops and businesses but now this is not the case.

Many worry they will not even make enough to pay their monthly rent, with inflation hitting its highest levels in

There are no buyers in the market as the cash-strapped country of more than 220 million people saw year-onyear inflation hit 35.4% in March. Food prices surged more than 47% in 12 months, with transport costs rising by 55%.

So far, the population has not turned to the violent street protests that brought down the government of Sri Lanka in 2022 bit it is not unlikely, he warned.

😂 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro Corporation's standalone revenue for the first quarter was PKR 6.4 bn - down by 21%, primarily due to lower dividends received from Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited (EPCL) due to reversal of commodity cycle and increase in gas prices. Correspondingly, the Company posted a 12% decline in PAT of PKR 6 bn in Q1 2023 against PKR 6.9 bn in Q1 2022.

On a consolidated basis, Engro Corporation's revenue grew by 10% to PKR 97.3 bn in Q1 2023 from PKR 88.3 bn in Q1 2022. The Company posted a PAT of PKR 8.8 bn in Q1 2023, which is 41% lower than PKR 14.9 bn in Q1 2022. The PAT attributable to the shareholders is PKR 5 bn, translating into an EPS of PKR 8.18 per share (Q1 2022: PKR 13.84 per share). Major variance was attributable to the macroeconomic headwinds resulting in commodity cycle reversal, lower DAP demand and increasing cost pressures.

Dividend Declaration

During the first quarter Board meeting, the directors conducted a comprehensive analysis of the investment opportunities available, prevailing economic situation including but not limited to the prohibitive cost of capital and challenges on import of plant, machinery and raw materials, and the capital structure of the Company. After extensive deliberation, the Board concluded that keeping in view the current circumstances, the most optimum utilization of cash was to pay dividends to shareholders, as a result the Board decided to declare a PKR 40.0 per share dividend.

It is worth noting that this decision will not have a significant impact on long-term investment program of the Company which will continue to be funded by retaining future dividends and/or capital reallocation. Within its long-term investment program, Engro will continue to strive for global competitiveness within the businesses it operates and continue to explore opportunities for increasing exports and international footprint.

Pak-Qatar Takaful Group announces financial results for 2022

😂 Commerce Desk

KARACHI : Pakistan premier and pioneer Islamic financial conglomerate, Pak-Qatar Group has announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2022, for its companies Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL) and Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited (PQGTL).

The Board meetings, presided over by Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah bin Thani al-Thani, the Chairman of Pak-Qatar Takaful Group, discussed the financial results of the companies for the financial year 2022 and their future plans for the year 2023. It was attended by the Directors, including - Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad al-Shaibei, Mr. Ali Ibrahim al Abdul Ghani, Mr. Said Gul, Mr. Muhammad Owais Ansari, Mr. Zahid Hussain Awan, Mr. Farrukh V. Junaidy and Mr. Muhammad Kamran Saleem.

Overview of Financial Performance:

During the year 2022, Pak-Qatar Takaful Group (the Group) achieved a consolidated aggregate turnover of PKR 11.44 Billion*. The Group's Shareholders' Fund posted a net consolidated profit after tax of PKR 207 Million; while, Participants' Takaful Fund (Waqf Fund) generated the net consolidated surplus of PKR 151 Million for the year 2022. Despite severe economic and political turmoil, the Group had

Editorial/Opinion

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Pakistani, Chinese scientists work together

he research institutes in Pakistan and China are working together on the reuse of organic waste in Pakistan.

"We aim to install the first pilot scale project on campus, utilizing the campus food waste", Dr. Farrukh Raza Amin, Assistant Professor at Department of Chemistry, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) told China Economic Net (CEN).

For over two years, he has been working with Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on anaerobic acidification of organic wastes and value-added chemicals production.

"Through the lab-scale experiment, we have developed strains that produces chemicals including Butyric acid, acetate and propionate from food waste. These chemicals are widely used in pharmaceutical, food and paint industry", Dr. Farrukh Raza Amin said.

Furthermore, scientists of the project work to establish a database on organic waste in Pakistan, which includes the characteristics of the feedstock, methane production performance and other basic data to do a systematic study.

The establishment of this information database will benefit both Chinese and Pakistani researchers to pursue research in the given field and provide an important basis to formulate relevant policies and promote the comprehensive utilization of organic waste.

The project is also in line with the energy efficiency and clean energy production practices at industrial scale spelled out in sustainable development goals-7 (SDG-7) proposed by United Nations, which are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a widely adopted technology used for producing biogas along with the digestate used as a fertilizer. However, using a wide range of organic wastes and residuals as substrate and diverse microbial community structure of the bioreactor makes AD as one of the most complicated biochemical processes.

In the process, hydrogen and volatile fatty acids (VFAs) are formed as intermediate products. As these acids are important precursors for various industries as mixed or purified chemicals such as pharmaceutical and food industry, the AD process can be bioengineered to

CPEC: A Decade of Progress and Promise

he bond between Pakistan investment (FDI), which had been low and China is one that has withstood the test of time, enduring every obstacle that has come their way.

The Spokesman

"CPEC is a testament to the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, and it represents a shining example of regional cooperation and connectivity."-Xi Jinping, President of China

In the past ten years, the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a vital project for building infrastructure around the world. It connects China's western areas to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan, making it an important link between countries. This ambitious project started in 2013 and has been a catalyst for change in both countries. It has the potential to bring economic growth, regional connections, and better living standards to the area.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is a major initiative that aims to connect Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan province to China's northwestern region of Xinjiang through an extensive network of highways, railways, and pipelines. The project is not just about infrastructure development but also about establishing a robust economic relationship between the two countries.

The CPEC project has already started to show its impact on Pakistan's economy. The project has helped to revive Pakistan's construction industry, which had been in decline for several years. The construction of highways, railways, and pipelines has created thousands of job opportunities for local workers. The project has also increased Pakistan's foreign direct have also helped Pakistan diversify its

compared to other developing countries. The CPEC project has been an excellent opportunity for China to expand its trade and investment footprint in South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, while providing Pakistan with much-needed foreign investment and infrastructure development. The project is a flagship initiative of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to promote economic cooperation and connectivity among countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The CPEC has progressed significantly over the past decade, with a focus on infrastructure and energy projects. The project has helped Pakistan address its chronic energy shortages, with the addition of over 6,000 mega-

watts of electricity to the national grid, reducing power outages and boosting economic activity. The CPEC project has also helped Pakistan develop its Blue Economy through the development of Gwadar port, which will provide a strategic trade route to China and the rest of the world.

CPEC has also played a crucial role in creating rural-urban synergy and regional connectivity in Pakistan. The SEZs along the CPEC route have attracted significant investment from Chinese companies, which has led to the creation of new employment opportunities and the transfer of technology and skills. The SEZs

export basket, with the export of agribased products such as sesame seeds, seafood, and rice. China has been providing Pakistan with advanced agricultural technology, including drip irrigation systems, seed treatment, and pest control techniques. This technology transfer has helped Pakistan to improve its crop yields and reduce water wastage, resulting in increased agricultural production and revenue.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, terrorism, and political instability, the CPEC project has continued

to progress. The second phase of the project is focused on agriculture sector development, socio-economic projects, and academic partnerships to improve research and development collaborations. The CPEC project has Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani the potential to transform Pakistan's agricultural sector, which accounts for a significant share of the country's GDP and employs more than 40% of the country's labor force. The

> project aims to introduce modern farming techniques, improve water management, and increase the yield of crops such as cotton, wheat, and rice.

> CPEC has helped Pakistan address its human development challenges, such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The project has created over 100,000 job opportunities for Pakistani vouth and provided training and skills development to thousands of workers. The project has also helped improve Pakistan's

healthcare and education systems, with the establishment of hospitals, schools, and vocational training centers. It also helped Pakistan address its sustainability challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity, and environmental degradation. The project has introduced renewable energy technologies, such as wind and solar, to Pakistan's energy mix, reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels. The project has also helped improve Pakistan's water management system, with the construction of dams, reservoirs, and irrigation networks.

The bond between Pakistan and China is one that has withstood the test of time. enduring every obstacle that has come their way. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, being the star project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has brought about a plethora of advantages to both nations and the entire region. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CPEC. it is crucial to reflect on its triumphs and look ahead with a sense of hopefulness. Through unwavering cooperation, partnership, and mutual regard, Pakistan and China can scale greater heights of progress and affluence, not just for their citizens but for the world at large.

Hailing from the historic city of Peshawar(twinned with Urumqi), the erudite Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association has long been a proponent of the deep-rooted ties between the two nations. For those who wish to engage in further dialogue with this esteemed scholar, you may reach him at the following email address: Syeed. Gilani@Gmail.Com.



produce VFAs alongside hydrogen and therefore biogas plants can become biorefineries for producing these value-added products.

The current project aims at producing and accumulating VFAs and hydrogen inhibit their conversion to methane and to extract them as the final products. Moreover, it also aims at the preparation of biosynthetic microbes with the desired characteristics to optimize the process performance.

Time to adopt sensible approach

GM Ghalbi

t is beyond doubt that water is one of the key factors that keep life running across the globe but unfortunately. this main source of life is drying up rapidly in many countries. The dearth of water has turned out to be a global issue and billions of people in several countries of the world have suffered massive-

ly due to this catastrophe and are suffering continuously. The global water crisis has affected dozens of countries but with diverse magnitudes. Pakistan, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, UAE, San Marino, Bahrain, Turkmenistan, Oman

and Botswana, which have been listed in the category of most affected nations from baseline water stress In the prevailing scenario, the governments and people of the most affected countries need to adopt some sensible approach

to tackle this grave issue. Through concrete measures and rational approach, these countries can save their people from the worst dehydration and their agricultural land from being barren.

Three effective techniques:

There are three effective methods through which the badly-hit countries can address this critical issue to a great extent. These useful methods are: a) building a maximum number of dams, b) wise water management and c) launching effective awareness campaigns to highlight significance of water among masses.

Significance of dams:

Undoubtedly, the construction of a maximum number of dams can minimise the damages of serious water scarcity crisis greatly. Several sensible and visionary countries

build enough dams and resultantly now they are facing consequences of serious drought.

Pakistan, which is the world's fifth most populated country with the population of 220,892,340, has only 150 dams and water reservoirs. However, there are multiple reasons such as political and economic instability due to which Pakistan could not build enough dams including much-discussed Kalabagh Dam.

Wise water management:

Wise water management is another key factor, through which the governments of There are 17 countries such as Qatar, India, most affected countries can save millions of cubic feet of water from being wasted in drains. This factor is the need of the hour especially in an era when the population is growing swiftly at global level.

> mainly due to lack of awareness about the importance of this life saving liquid.

> If we talk about Pakistan, this kind of irresponsible behavior is quite common in Pakistani people. The overflowing water tanks can be witnessed on rooftops everywhere in Pakistan's major cities especially Lahore, a city with a population of 13,542,000.

Pakistanis and other such uncaring nations can conserve huge quantities of water by adopting cautious approaches. In this regard, governments in all such countries can play a vital role by issuing strict instructions and penalties for those who used to waste water needlessly. There is a dire need to develop a sense of responsibility this flood water in dams and other reservoirs. among all quarters in such countries.

Effective awareness campaign:

and even NGOs can play an important role

have built thousands of dams to meet their relevant government departments should water needs but some countries could not organize regular workshops and seminars to spread awareness among people.

The banners containing the message of 'save water' should be placed on prominent places in all major cities. Similarly, the advertisements highlighting the significance of water should also be printed and televised in rint and electronic media on a regular basis.

Likewise, the awareness sessions regarding saving water should also be conducted in all male and female schools, colleges and universities to take all student communities on board in this noble campaign. If all these measures are taken properly then one can expect that the wastage of water can be averted sufficiently.

Key factors behind Pakistan's water crisis:

Pakistan is one of the few countries, which suffered massively in the prevailing water It has been observed that plenty of water crisis due to their political and economis being wasted mercilessly in some countries ic instability, lack of planning, vision and management.

The mismanagement and lack of planning in Pakistan can be gauged from the fact that there has been severe scarcity of drinking and irrigation water in several parts of the country almost throughout the year but no department is ready to take any effective measure to end this dilemma.

On the other hand, some massive flood water swept everything causing a gigantic loss in the shape of hundreds of human casualties, properties, livestock and crops worth billions of rupees at a large part of Pakistan every year but no government department bothered to chalk out a strategy to preserve

Several analysts termed the grave mismanagement at government level as the Different public and private departments major factor behind both these destructive situations in Pakistan and these predicain launching effective awareness campaigns ments can be overcome by bringing politto highlight the significance of water and the ical and economic stability in the country.

Inflation kills civilization

Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin

nflation is generally a progressive increase in prices. Low remittances, meagre exports, scant taxes and bad governance lead to inflation. However, in Pakistan, COVID-19, floods, regime change, political vendettas and inter-institutional conflicts have changed inflation into stagflation. Inflation has not only disturbed our routine economic, political and social life, but it has also put our civilization and soft image at risk.

Inflation-ridden countries have no option but to seek loans by putting their sovereignty and national interests in danger. The dwellers of an inflation-battered country lack political maturity, financial pros-

perity, creative thinking and tolerance. Financially-bankrupt masses tend to adopt crimes and prefer suicides. All contemporary problems and crises faced by Pakistan are the result of ongoing political turmoil. Unfortunately, Pakistanis consider all these crises as their fate and evil nemesis. But contrary to the poor masses, their politicians, generals, judges, bureaucrats and government officers are rich to an

unimaginable extent and possess pompous palaces abroad as well.

In prima facie, corrupt political leaders, totalitarian generals, bigot clerics, arrogant public officers and tax-evading businessmen are responsible for all the current crises and inflation in Pakistan. Pakistanis have blind faith in their favorite leaders, and cannot even think of criticizing or holding them accountable for their wrongdoings. To them, their favorite leaders are free from all sins and defects like angels. Pakistanis care about their favorite leaders more than themselves and care their leaders' offsprings more than their own offsprings. However, the fact is that, due to inflation, domestic violence, social uncertainty, street crimes, child labor and mental illness have reached new heights. Electricity and gas bills have exceeded our income. Dozens of people have lost their lives to get substandard cheap flour; and out of a hundred rupee, forty-seven rupees have lost efficacy.

Before the advent of Ramadan, private school and stationery mafia robbed the poor with both hands. In the sacred month of Ramadan, the bakery and butcher mafia left no stone unturned in looting the poor; and now, as Eid-ul-Fitar is just at stone's throw distance, tailors, garment dealers and footwear sellers have also become active mafias to deprive the poor of all kinds of savings. The government and local administration have completely failed to control inflation.

Inflation is a major obstacle in the way of entertainment, enjoying nature, tourism, literature, music, creative thinking and rationality. An infla-



tion-ridden society lacks morality, values, pleasant marital relationships, sincere friendships, satisfactory neighborhood, sumptuous feasts, respect for women, kindness to children, sympathy for disabled persons, space for senior citizens and love for animals. Financially-bankrupt society is indifferent to national integrity, overpopulation, global warming, religious harmony and state's laws. Inflation has

left us of nowhere.

To avoid the negative effects of inflation, the masses have to reduce their unnecessary expenditures; they have to boycott corrupt politicians; and they have to hold their political leaders to account. Purchasing power of the poor has ended, and tolerance is also about to end. The government should stop its political vendettas and focus on public issues forthwith. The poor need decent relief. Before there is widespread lawlessness and anarchy, the government must come to its senses. The country cannot afford more political turmoil, inter-institutional conflicts and interference in one another's domain.

Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin, lecturer at govt boys degree college Pishin.

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International

Friday, April 21, 2023

SCO students' talk with **Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15**



腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To enhance the understanding of young people in the SCO countries in the field of astronautical science and technology, promote their development and deepen practical and friendly cooperation, the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission(GN-FCC) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO), China Manned Space Agency, All-China Youth Federation, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the secretariat of the SCO Youth Committee co-hosted an event in Islamabad attended the event.

entitled " SCO Students' Talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15 " on 20 April 2023.

As the branch venue, Chinese embassy in Islamabad held the "Talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15" event. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Mr. Shahid Mahmood Baig, Chairman of Pakistan Science Foundation, Ms. Asif Farhat, Founder of Institute of Peace and Diplomatic studies, members from Institute of Space Technology Islamabad and many young Pakistani students from different schools

Aliza Jamil, student of Class 8, from generation to generation. Islamabad Model College for Girls, interacted with the Chinese astronaut asking about how to breath in space, the astronaut gave a very comprehensive response from space.

Talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15" event is significant for broadening the youths' horizon and lighting up their dreams about exploring the mysterious and diverse universe.

Youths are young ambassadors of China-Pakistan friendship and hope of our two countries, the iron-clad relationship should be passed from Pakistan and the world.

This year is the tenth anniversary of BRI and CPEC, S&T cooperation is an important part of it, will surely provide strong support to the high quality and sustainable development of CPEC. Cooperation on science and technology between China and Pakistan has achieved a number of remarkable accomplishments, including the Pakistani medicine seeds returning from Chinese space station after experimentation. China's development and Chinese modernization will create more opportunities for

KSA-Jordan relations

JEDDAH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received Jordan's King Abdullah in Jeddah. The pair discussed bilateral ties between their nations.



L'Oréal fund for nature regeneration accelerates biodiversity preservation efforts



Spokesman Report

The Spokesman 5

CLICHY : Ahead of Earth Day,L'Oréal today announced three new recipients of its Fund for Nature Regeneration. NetZero, ReforesTerra and Mangroves. Now were chosen for their innovative approaches to carbon capture in soils, reforestation and mangrove restoration, and for their potential to have a far-reaching, positive impact on the environment and local communities

According to the COP15, one million species are already threatened with extinction and 75% of the earth's surface has been significantly altered. With the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calling for more global cooperation in biodiversity preservation efforts , L'Oréal is accelerating its longstanding commitment to biodiversity beyond its own value chain. Through the fund, which has committed EUR22 million in projects to-date, L'Oréal is engaging with partners with proven expertise to support in the regeneration of degraded lands and mangroves, as well as the restoration of marine areas and forests.

The latest projects were selected following due diligence and based on key criteria including business model readiness, economic viability, and positive environmental and social impacts:

NetZerois a French climate venture operating in tropical areas such as Cameroon and Brazil, that specializes in long-term carbon removal from the atmosphere by turning agricultural residues into biochar. Biochar is a stable, non-polluting carbon that can be added to improve degraded soil. It is recognized by the IPCC as a viable solution with the potential to remove one-to-two billion tons of CO2 emissions from the planet's atmosphere each year.

"At L'Oréal Groupe, our environmental duty goes beyond our business. It is our responsibility to address today's most pressing challenges, like the erosion of biodiversity and its social and ecological impact," said Rachel Barré, Environmental Leadership Director, L'Oréal Groupe. "The L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration is an important vehicle in our efforts towards a more sustainable future for all. With the new projects signed, our aim is to help restore the planet's biodiversity and preserve its abundant ecosystems.

"Our vision for value creation is one where financial performance and environmental and socio-economic impact are inextricably linked," said Muriel Atias, Chief Investment Officer, L'Oréal Groupe. "The L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration is a catalyst for sustainable value creation through private capital, enabling the acceleration of environmental solutions with long-term benefit. Through our impact investing strategy, we can play an important role in tackling biodiversity loss with expert local partners.

The L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration was created in 2020 and is endowed with EUR 50 million for impact investment. In 2021, L'Oréal announced the first two recipients of funds: the Real Wild Estates Company (RWEC), the UK's first rewilding business; and RIZE carbon financing, which helps accelerate France's farming sector towards sustainable practices. The fund is managed by Mirova Natural Capital, a subsidiary of Natixis Investment Managers, one of the pioneers in natural capital investment.

UNICEF report shows above 67 million children missed vaccinations over three years

In the name of honor killing humanity is being murdered: Honor and Religion

腾 🛛 Kiran Asim

lence against women is a common practice and is a worldwide crisis. There are many forms of aggression against women occur at the hands of family members. The So-called "Honor Killing" of women and girls is one horrifying manifestation of this global phenomenon.

The term "Honor Killing" target women whose actions (actual or suspected) violate the honor of their families, an honor that is thought to depend on the sexual purity of its female members. It also includes speaking with an unrelated man, to rumored pre-marital loss of virginity, to an extra marital affair are the common causes of honor killing, often carried out by a father or brother.

A similar story happened twenty-seven years ago. This is the story of an unfortunate woman Imtiaz Begum, 35, and her four children. Who was not only killed in honor killing but her children were also deprived of their right to live. And this is not the story of Pakistan, India or any country in South Asia, but this incident happened in a country like Britain.

Khalid Mahmood who was thirty eight years old lived with his wife and children in Bristol city of UK. He was a Narcissist and mentally ill person who also suffered from personality disorder. Who, in order to save his honor, took away the right to live from his wife, infant child and three daughters, and performed this heinous act to elevate himself in the society

the throat of his daughters Saeqa, 14, Saema, 11, and Uzma, 9, & a toddlerson Hasan, 2, and gave them a very painful death. Being a chapter, his hands did not tremble? Are fathers like that? If his wife was at fault, was it severe or serious enough to deprive this woman of her right to live?

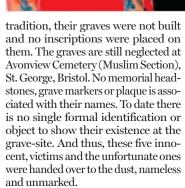
If his wife was wrong, what was the



fault of the children, what was the fault of those three innocent souls who had just stepped on the threshold of adulthood and who were only old enough to catch butterflies, They may have dreamed and also even thought about their future but their dreams were brutally strangled. The unfortunate mother who would never tire of praying for the good fortune of her children and watched them grow up, her prayers and wishes for her children were put to death.

The innocent infant Hasan, 2, who had just come into this world, who had not yet seen the color of the world but his mother's love only, was not only robbed of his mother's love but his breath as well. Strangely enough, the man who brutally slept five people to death was only sentenced to life in prison after being released on parole. This is The way this mentally ill animal cut a huge question mark on the UK judicial system and a stain that has not been washed away over the years.

It is with great regret that the Muslim community members of the Easton Jamia Masjid have come and gone. But no one has talked about this cruelty and brutality till date. The irony is that these five innocent souls were buried in the soil. According to Muslim



To concluded these innocent girls need some sort of physical object to be installed at their grave site. Be it three separate head stones, three grave markers or one dedicated plaque according to the Islamic values.

Unfortunately, the community members of the Easton jamia mosque, being Muslims, did not speak against this cruelty and brutality? One must understand that honor killing has nothing to do with Islam and it is purely an act that is against the teaching of Islam and has no roots in Islam whatsoever. Allah Almighty says in Quran:

"If anyone kills a person unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land. It would be as if they killed all people. And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if they saved the life of all people."

From this Ayah of Quran it again becomes clear that human life is sacred. One cannot kill a human unless the person being killed is spreading mischief in the world or life for life. Other than that saving a life is saving humanity and killing one is killing humanitv..

In Islam the rule and law is equally applicable on men as well. Moreover, if the woman is found guilty of the crime, even then an individual does not have any right to kill another person or woman in particular. The ruling that Islam gives is free from gender biasness and both the genders are to be held equally responsible for the act and it's consequences.

The notion of honor killing and shame as a justification is not unique to any one culture or religion. Indeed honor and honor based violence is not only a part of some Arab countries and South Asia but also reflected in historical events in many countries. In a nutshell, honor killing in Islamic definitions, refers specifically to extra legal punishment by the family against a woman and is strictly forbidden by the Shariah (Islamic Law). Religious authorities disagree with extra punishments such as honor killing and prohibit it. So the practice of it is a cultural and not a religious issue.

😂 News Desk

NEW YORK : The public perception of the importance of vaccines for children declined during the COVID-19 pandemic in 52 out of 55 countries studied, UNICEF warned today in a new report on immunization.

The State of the World's Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination reveals the perception of the importance of vaccines for children declined by more than a third in the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Senegal and Japan after the start of the pandemic. In the new data, collected by The Vaccine Confidence Project and published today by UNICEF, China, India and Mexico were the only countries studied where the data indicates the perception of the importance of vaccines held firm or even improved. In most countries, people under 35 and women were more likely to report less confidence about vaccines for children after the start of the pandemic.*

Vaccine confidence is volatile and time specific. Additional data collection and further analysis will be required to determine if the findings are indicative of a longer-term trend. Despite the falls, overall support for vaccines remains relatively strong. In almost half the 55 countries studied more than 80 per cent of respondents perceived vaccines as important for children.

However, the report warns the confluence of several factors suggest the threat of vaccine hesitancy may be growing. These factors include uncertainty about the response to the pandemic, growing access to misleading information, declining trust in expertise, and political polarisation.

"At the height of the pandemic, scientists rapidly developed vaccines that saved countless lives. But despite this historic achievement, fear and disinformation about all types of vaccines circulated as widely as the virus itself," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director. "This data is a worrying warning signal. We cannot allow confidence in routine immunizations to become another victim of the pandemic. Otherwise, the next wave of deaths could be of more children with measles, diphtheria or other preventable diseases."

Alarmingly, the decline in confidence comes amid the largest sustained backslide in childhood immunisation in 30 years, fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic interrupted childhood vaccination almost everywhere, especially due to intense demands on health systems, the diversion of immunization resources to COVID-19 vaccination, health worker shortages and stay-at-home measures

Today's report warns a total of 67 million children missed out on vaccinations between 2019 and 2021, with vaccination coverage levels decreasing in 112 countries. Children born just before or during the pandemic are now moving past the age when they would normally be vaccinated, underscoring the need for urgent action to catch up on those who were missed and prevent deadly disease outbreaks. In 2022, for example, the number of measles cases was more than double the total in the previous year. The number of children paralysed by polio was up 16 per cent year-on-year in 2022. When comparing the 2019 to 2021 period with the previous three-year period, there was an eight-fold increase in the number of children paralysed by polio, highlighting the need to ensure vaccination efforts are sustained.

The pandemic also exacerbated existing inequities. For far too many children, especially in the most marginalised communities, vaccination is still not available, accessible or affordable. Even before the pandemic, progress on vaccination had stalled for almost a decade as the world struggled to reach the most marginalised children.

Of the 67 million children who missed out on routine vaccination between 2019 and 2022, 48 million didn't receive a single routine vaccine, also known as "zero-dose". As of the end of 2021, India and Nigeria (both countries with very large birth cohorts) had the largest numbers of zerodose children but increases in the numbers of zero-dose children were especially notable in Myanmar and the Philippines.



The Spokesman

Economy/Commerce

Friday, April 21, 2023

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
41,007.82	40,499.34			
Day's High	Day's Low:			
41,086.67	40,499.34			
Index Value	Change			
4,927,251,667	+508.48			
Percentage	Time			
+1.26%	20 Apr, 2023 1:30 pm			
Europe: FT	SE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
7,902.61	+3.84			
Percentage	Time			
+0.049%	20 Apr, 4:40 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
33,846.81	-50.20			
Percentage	Time			
-0.15%	20 Apr, 12:48 pm GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nik	kei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change			
28,657.57	+50.81			
Percentage	Time			
+0.18%	20 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9			
Open Marke	t Forex Rates			

n Markel Forex Rale

Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	189	191	
Bahrain Dinar	756.62	764.62 212.5 41.77 42.24 313.5 36.59 3.58 2.2 937.3 65.56	
Canadian Dollar	210.5		
China Yuan	41.37		
Danish Krone	41.84		
Euro	310		
Hong Kong Dollar	36.24		
Indian Rupee	3.47		
Japanese Yen	2.15		
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.3		
Malaysian Ringgit	64.96		
NewZealand \$	176.41	178.41	
Norwegians Krone	27.93	28.23 747.05	
Omani Riyal	739.05		
Qatari Riyal	78.6	79.3	
Saudi Riyal	75.7	76.4 212.5 27.62 319.27	
Singapore Dollar	210.5		
Swedish Korona	27.32		
Swiss Franc	316.77		
Thai Bhat	8.33 8.48		
U.A.E Dirham	78 78.8		
UK Pound Sterling	356 359		

Minister for Industries assures cooperation to ICCI for new **Industrial Park**

腾 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Federal Minister for Industries and Production said that promoting industrialization is the key priority of the government to improve the economy and assured that he would fully cooperate with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in its endeavors for the establishment of a new industrial park in the region. He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President. Momen Agha, Federal Secretary for Industries and Production was also present on the occasion

Syed Murtaza Mahmud said that after the Eid holidays, he along with Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Federal Minister for Board of Investment will hold a meeting with ICCI to take forward the matters for ICCI industrial park. He said that ICCI will be given representation in the Boards of the attached departments of his Ministry. He lauded the initiative of ICCI for organizing Pakistan-Ethiopia Business Forum and said that ICCI should send formal invitation to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs to attend the Forum while he would cooperate in this regard. He said that the government is working on a new policy



for electric vehicles. He assured that he would cooperate in resolving the key issues of the business community.

Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the Federal Minister for Industries & Production about and gave useful proposals to promote industri-Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar the importance of a new industrial park in the alization in the country.

region to promote industrialization, create jobs, improve exports and increase tax revenue. He stressed that the government should extend all possible cooperation and support to ICCI for early materialization of this important project, which is in the national interest. He said that ICCI should be given representation in the Boards of the departments working under the Ministry of Industries so that the business community could give its input in their decision-making process for better growth of the industrial sector. He said that ICCI plans to organize a Pakistan-Ethiopia Business Forum during the upcoming visit of the Ethiopian business delegation along with the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia and invited the Federal Minister for Industries and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs to attend the Forum. He also apprised the Minister about the key issues of the business community and sought his cooperation to redress them.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI informed the Minister about the difficulties of cooking oil manufacturers due to restrictions on LCs and said that he should play a role to address this issue.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG and Faizan Shahzad also spoke at the occasion

FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan posts strong financial results



🐞 Commerce Report

KARACHI:FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) announced its financial results for Q1, 2023. The Company reported a revenue of PKR22,651 million in the first quarter, showcasing 62% topline growth versus last year, driven by mix improvement, widening our distribution footprint, and volume growth in both, the Dairy-Based Products and the Frozen Desserts segments.

the Company improved its gross margin and operating margin by 70 bps and 30

across the value chain. However, the Profit After Tax (Rs 990 million vs Rs 664 million same period last year), as a percentage of sales, declined by 40 bps due to increase in finance cost and taxation.

Dairy-Based Products Segment

With a growth of 66% versus Q1 2022, the segment reported a revenue of Rs. 21.2 billion. The flagship brand, Olper's, led the growth in the segment along with strengthening its market leadership positrade activities

bps respectively, by driving cost efficiencies terms of volumes and distribution each month. Building upon the momentum of last year. Olper's Flavored Milk was launched in a new flavor of Mango. Other brands like Olper's Full Cream Milk Powder (FCMP), Olper's Cream, and Tarang also gained healthy market shares. Frozen Desserts Segment

The segment reported a revenue of Rs. 1,441 million, reflecting a growth of 19% versus same period last year. This growth has been enabled by the segment's plan-Despite inflation and rupee devaluation, tion through consistent brand building and ning, timely investment for opening the ice cream season, and the introduction of

NCC's facilitation to help improve export opportunities for **SMEs: PRGMEA**

😂 Commerce Desk

The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) on Thursday appreciated the efforts of Ministry of Commerce to launch first-ever National He said that the Pakistan's Compliance Centre (NCC) to facilitate the businesses, especially the exporters, saving the move will prove to be very effective for SMEs, helping them promote their business, besides improving export opportunities amidst slowdown in economic growth industry. and sliding forex reserves.

Mubashar Butt added that that several importing countries, under the guise of meeting specific regulatory, environmental, social, health, and quality compliances, impose these non-tariff barriers. value-added textile exporters often faced such unforeseen requirements, especially when exporting to developed countries and countries forming various Economic Blocs and Free Trade Areas, adding to the cost for Pakistan's local

ing and capacity building.

He said that it was an irgent need of constants ly upgrading our production processes, making them climate-friendly, sustainable, and more inclusive especially in terms of sharing benefits from international trade agreements and market access concessions with those involved in the supply chain at all levels and the NCC will definitely to facilitate the industry in this regard. He expressed the hope that the NCC will act as a supportive entity for all international compliance requirements and develop a user-friendly online database and other resources to assist to assist the industry and public as well as private sector stakeholders to understand and comply with international regulatory requirements, which is the need of

Current Account Surplus Manifests Economic Contraction: Irfan Sheikh

😂 Commerce Desk



KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has explained that current account surplus in Pakistan's case for March 2023 is

no reason to celebrate: in fact, it manifests a massive economic contraction like never before. Declining imports mean fewer industrial exports in the months to come and even lesser capacity to make timely repayments on external loans, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, based on latest trade statistics for nine months of the outgoing fiscal, i.e. July 2022 - March 2023, apprised that textile exports have shrunk by 12.4 percent to \$12.48 billion and IT & ITeS industry's export remittances shrunk by 0.5 percent to \$1.94 billion as opposed to 47 percent average growth IT & ITeS posted for 2 consecutive years, i.e. FY21 and FY22.

Whereas, as far as the total exports inQ1 - Q3 FY23 are concerned, Mr. Sheikh apprised that they stand at \$21.046 billion as againts \$23.35 billion in the same period of the last year. We have exported \$2.304 billion lesser this year; which reflects 10 percent decline and it is difficult to understand what government's economic team is celebrating after achieving current account surplus through contractionary, regressive and recessionary measures, he added.

The incremental downslide registered in the export proceeds for the third quarter of FY23 is specifically alarming as it is indicating an even abysmal export performance in the fourth quarter, i.e. April 2023 - June 2023 as the mainstay of Pakistani exports, textiles declined by a whopping 22.6 percent in March 2023; and, we are perhaps heading towards an unchartered territory of unprecedented economic contraction - even in comparison to Pakistan's rather battered economic history, FPCCI Chief added.

Olper's Cheese continued to grow in a new product, Shahi Mango Stick.

Eid Shopping

FAISALABAD: People are buying, selecting and purchasing shoes from a shop at D-Ground in the city, ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.



Jubilee Life Insurance Celebrates Ramazan through gift distribution

🐞 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In the spirit of the Holy month of Ramazan, Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, as a socially responsible corporate entity celebrated the occasion by distributing gift bags to the students at Karachi Port Trust Primary School. The initiative aimed to spread happiness and joy among the children during the holy month of Ramazan. Rizwan Aziez, Head of Bancas-



surance, Faiz ul Hassan, Head bution, and Saqib Hayat Mirza, Insurance were present at the

of Corporate Business Distri- Business Head, Individual Life

ceremony.adil

The goody bags contained a variety of items that fulfilled the nutritional and entertainment needs of the children. The activity brought smiles to the faces of the students, who were delighted to receive the gifts. Jubilee Life Insurance continuously initiates empathetic and community-serving activities to support not just various causes and communities but also individuals like school-going children who deserve the most to enjoy the blessings of Ramazan to the fullest.

PRGMEA Central Chai man Mubashar Naseer Butt observed that the local exporters are presently not competitive globally because of multiple reasons, including high energy cost, rising markup rate and the lack of implementation of the international standards.

Hailing the federal commerce minister Naveed Qamar and Commerce Secretary Sualeh Ahmad Faruqi to open the NCC, he said that it is a right step in the right direction, as it was one of the major demands of the exporters to provide them such facility under a one window solution with the sole objective of ensuring international compliance requirements and facilitate the exporters and certification agencies through information shar- the hour.

Etihad Group celebrates launch of a new block



😂 News Desk

LAHORE: Etihad Group is proud to announce the launch of a new block in its Etihad Town Phase I project. The development is situated at a prime location on Main Raiwind Road and features state-of-the-art amenities. green spaces, and modern housing options that cater to the needs of families and individuals looking for a contemporary, convenient, and luxurious living experience.

Etihad Town Phase I, has been declared a resounding success by its developers and

has received an overwhelming response from investors and buyers alike.

While talking to the media on the occasion, Etihad Group COO Mr. Sheikh ShujaUllah Khan stated "Etihad Town Phase I is a result of our commitment to providing world-class housing solutions that enhance the lifestyle of our residents. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that this development offers the best possible living experience, and we are confident that it will be a sought-after destination for those looking to purchase or rent a new home

Sports Friday, April 21, 2023

The Spokesman

PAK vs NZ T20I: Persistent hailstorm washes out fourth T20I

🐞 A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Persistent hailstorm played spoilsport in the fourth PAK vs NZ T20I and forced the contest to be abandoned, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed.

Watch PAK VS NZ 4th T20I Live Streaming at ARY ZAP

The fourth T20I of Pakistan vs New Zealand series was underway here at the Pindi Cricket Stadium before a heavy hailstorm took the field in its grasp in the 19th over of the first innings

New Zealand had accumulated 164 for the loss of five wickets when the downpour commenced in the 19th and continued to pour the field, resulting in the action being called off.

Taking to Twitter, the PCB confirmed the aforementioned news.

Earlier, Imad Wasim's sensational opening spell dented the touring side's



flying start and powered Pakistan to hold them at 54/3 in the seventh over.

wickets at regular intervals, their opener Chad Bowes was standing his ground While the touring side was losing firmly and was ticking the scoreboard.

The right-handed batter scored a magnificent half-century before finally falling victim to Pakistan's ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi. He scored 54 off 38 deliveries, hitting seven boundaries and a six

Following his dismissal, Mark Chapman stood up for New Zealand and took them past the 150-run mark amid his 56-run partnership with Rachin Ravindra, who perished in the 19th over after scoring eight off 12.

Chapman remained the top-scorer for New Zealand with an unbeaten 42-ball 71 with the help of 10 boundaries and a six.

Imad led the bowling attack for Pakistan with 3/19 while Shaheen and Haris Rauf made one scalp each.

The Green Shirts lead the five-match series 2-1 and will now be setting their sights on the final match to complete the series triumph.

Nadal pulls out of Madrid in Alcarazgrinds past Bautista Agut worrying French Open blow in Barcelona Open last 16

😂 Sports Desk

MADRID: Rafael Nadal said Thursday he will miss next week's Madrid Masters as he continues to struggle to recover from a hip injury, dealing a significant blow to his French Open preparations.

"For the moment I've missed Monte Carlo and Barcelona. And unfortunately I won't be able to be in Madrid either," Nadal said on Instagram.

"The injury still hasn't healed," he added. The 36-year-old Spaniard

has not played since losing in the second round of the Australian Open in January. Nadal is hoping for a

record-extending 15th French Open title at Roland to fruition. Garros in May, but his hip flexor problem he suffered in Melbourne has badly disrupted his run up to the tournament.

The 22-time Grand Slam up to two months.



the start of the clay-court treatment and see if things have become an increasing season, but it did not come

"In principle it was comeback. supposed to be a recovery period of six to eight weeks and now we're around 14," said Nadal. "The reality is that the situ-

champion — he shares the ation is not what we would and see if things improve men's record with Novak have hoped for. All medito try to get to what comes Djokovic - had originally cal indications have been next." thought he would be out for followed, but the healing has not gone as they told us

improve, but that he was issue since he won his 14th not setting a deadline for his French Open crown last year. At Wimbledon last

"I can't work on what I summer he was forced to need to compete. I was trainwithdraw from his semi-final because of an abdomiing but a few days ago we decided to change course a nal injury. bit, to try another treatment

Last month he dropped out of the top 10 for the first time since 2005, and is currently ranked 14th.

round, it was a very difficult game," Alcaraz The French Open starts on told Spanish broadcaster Teledeporte. May 28, with Nadal now in a



BARCELONA :World number two Carlos Alcaraz had to sweat as he beat Roberto

Carlo Masters with back and hand problems and struggled at times against the veteran Spaniard as he continues to warm up for the French Open in May.

Top seed Alcaraz breezed past Nuno Borges on Tuesday but found it much tougher going in the last 16 amid windy conditions as he continued his Barcelona title defence on the court named after Rafael Nadal.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion is not "I'm very happy to go through to the next

Cricket Team

😂 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board today confirmed Mickey Arthur's appointment as the Director of the Pakistan men's cricket team. In this role, Arthur will be involved in designing, formulating and overseeing

strategies behind the Pakistan men's team.

Mickey Arthur appointed Director-Pakistan men's

The 54-year-old will also be a part of the coaching staff for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, away tour to Australia and home series against the West Indies. He will also be present with the side for Pakistan's matches against India in the ACC Asia Cup.

During his time from 2016 to 2019, Arthur coached Pakistan to No.1 in Tests and T20Is, and also helped the side to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

Najam Sethi, Chair of PCB Management Committee: "I am pleased that Mickey has formally rejoined the Pakistan men's cricket team with an enhanced role in which he will be responsible for formulating and implementing strategies for the upcoming assignments across all formats. Furthermore, he will also be responsible for strengthening the national team culture, identifying and grooming future stars so that we can strengthen our bench-strength and strategically secure our future.

"Having lived and worked in Pakistan during his previous tenure, Mickey knows the current players, the structure and the system at the back of his hand. I am sure he will incorporate learnings from the previous tenure so that he can have an even more successful second term.'

Mickey Arthur: "I am absolutely thrilled to be reioining the Pakistan cricket team and look forward to working with the group.

"Since moving on, I have kept a track of the players and their collective performances. This is a talented bunch with the potential to be number one across all formats and my endeavor is to put in place strategies and create an environment that can contribute in further enhancing their performances so that we can extract the best out of them."

Gate money from fifth T20 match to be donated to Türkiye-Syria earthquake victims

🐞 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: 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:

Bank name: Bank of Pakistan

Account title: Pakistan Cricket Board Account number: 2081003169856007

😂 Sports Desk

Bautista Agut 6-3, 7-5 to reach the Barcelona Open quarter-finals on Thursday. Alcaraz pulled out of the recent Monte

playing in Barcelona because of a hip injury and announced earlier he will not be fit to take part in the Madrid Masters next week either.

court tournaments at Indi- in a difficult situation." an Wells and Miami, with his sights set on a return at have decided to try a different

added. "This is how things Nadal said he and his team are now."

"I can't give deadlines

because if I knew I would

the Rome Masters – the last major tune-up event before Nadal's fitness problems Roland Garros.

He pulled out of hard- initially and we find ourselves tell you, but I don't know," he race against time to be fit for has, how tough he is, and it wasn't easy at all with the wind." Alcaraz said that he had to accept the weather conditions with a "good face and a good attitude".

"Everyone knows the capacity Robe

Inter set up all-Italian Champions League semi with AC Milan

😂 Sports Desk

MILAN: Inter Milan set up a blockbuster derby in the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday after a 3-3 draw with Benfica saw the Italians through 5-3 on aggregate.

Simone Inzaghi's side will face local rivals AC Milan in the last four thanks to goals from Nicolo Barella, Lautaro Martinez and Joaquin Correa which ensured straight-forward qualification.

Both Milan giants are trying to become the first Serie A side to win Europe's top club competition since Inter last lifted the trophy in 2010.

"It was a big night for everyone at the club, and we deserved to go through over the course of the two legs," said Inzaghi.

"The players were incredible over the two matches. Getting to the semi-finals is a dream and now that we're here we

want to go try and go all the way."

Inter had come into Wednesday's clash in a miserable run of form in which their only win in their last eight games had come in last week's first leg in Portugal.

The win set up two mouth-watering clashes with Milan next month after the Italian champions saw off Napoli on Tuesday night.

It also snapped a three-match home losing streak in which Inter hadn't scored a single goal and continued their impressive season in cup competitions while their league campaign flounders.

Martinez and Correa ended worrying goalscoring droughts with their strikes, as well as making sure that Fredrik Aursnes, Antonio Silva and Petar Musa netting for the away side made no difference to the outcome of the tie.

IBAN number: PK71NBPA2081003169856007

Farah predicts emotional 'last'London Marathon

😂 Sports Desk



LONDON : Mo Farah is predicting "tears and emotion" when he retires from marathon running after the London Marathon on Sunday.

The British distance great, a fourtime Olympic champion on the track, announced in January that 2023 would

be his final year as a top-flight athlete.

Farah missed last year's edition with a hip injury but the 40-year-old, who has been in training in Ethiopia, is now ready for one final appearance. "Sunday will probably be my last marathon in terms of just being realistic," Farah told a press conference in London on Thursday.

"It will be my last marathon. It won't be my last race but in terms of the marathon, the London Marathon will be my last."

He added: "I started the mini-marathon here so for me it will be quite emotional. I remember (when I was) 14 years old, I was here watching great athletes running on the Sunday and I was here taking part in the mini-marathon.

The support, the people coming out in London, I think that will get to me but I will try not to think about it and run. After the race maybe there might be a bit of tears and emotion."

Farah won gold in both the Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 metres at the 2012 Games in London before retaining both titles in Rio four years later.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
as legal heirs. 1.Noureen Bibi (Daughter) 2.Ghazala Bibi (Daughter) 3.Foreen Akhtar (Daughter) 4.Zahida Shaheen (Daughter) 5.Razia Begum (Spouse)6.Raja Khan Farooq (Son)7.Raja Wakalat Hussain (Son)8.Raja Qadir Hameed Khan (Son) 9.Raja Adil Khan (Son) 0n the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of	Shehzad Hasan with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms. Najma Hasan citizen number 6110122198276 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Shehzad Hasan (Son) 2.Nadeem Hassan (Son) 3.Zaheer Hasan (Son)4.Zafar Hasan (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	Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Adil Ayub with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ayyub citizen number 3740503801911 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Saba Ayub (Spouse) 2.Muhammad Adil Ayub (Son) 3.Muhammad Harris Ayub (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	moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Idrees citizen number 6110119391283 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Maryam Shaheen (Daughter) 2.Shaheen Bibi (Spouse) 3.Muneeb Baig (Son)4.Muteeb Baig (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	4.Farzana Bibi (Daughter) 4.Farzana Bibi (Daughter) 5.Muhammad Mateen (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	Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Amjad with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Rehman citizen number 6110126395937 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Zamirah Jan (Daughter) 2.Bashiran Bibi (Daughter) 3.Rukhsana Bibi (Daughter) 4.Farzana Bibi (Daughter) 4.Farzana Bibi (Spouse) 5.Muhammad Iqbal (Son) 6.Muhammad Iqbal (Son) 6.Muhammad Ghulam (Son)10.Muhammad Ghulam (Son)11.Muhammad Amjad (Son)12.Muhammad Nadeem (Son) 0.n the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the	Succession Certificate by Ms. Shehr Bano Zaidi with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms. Tasleem Zehra Zaidi citizen number 3740596398468 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Shehr Bano Zaidi (Daughter) 2.Syed Muhammad Ali Zaidi (Son)3.Mohammad Meer 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	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Sabiha Safdar with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Safdar Hussain Malik citizen number 6110169103245 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Riffat Zahra (Daughter) 2.Sabiha Safdar (Daughter) 3.Sehrish Safdar (Daughter) 4.Saima Safdar (Daughter) 4.Saima Safdar Nawaz (Daughter)5.Masood Safdar (Son)6.Waqar Hussain (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