

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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RAWALPINDI



Imran should better produce evidence before court instead of hurling allegations: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan to better produce evidence either before police or courts instead of resorting to hurling allegations against others.



China welcomes Syria's return to Arab League: Wang Wenbin

China on Monday welcomed and congratulated Syria on its return to the Arab League and termed it as conducive to strength and unity of Arab states (AL). Addressing a regular briefing held here, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, "We believe this is conducive to the strength and unity of Arab states, the development and revitalization of the Arab world and peace and stability in the Middle East.... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal 18, Tuesday, May 9, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 33

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

ECC Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM orders urgent action to end KP flour crisis

News Desk

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday ordered an inquiry into the flour crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and directed urgent steps to end the crisis.

The prime minister from London contacted his advisor and President Pakistan Muslim League-N KP Engineer Amir Muqam and spoke to him on the issue relating to unavailability of flour in the province.



He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was an important part of the country like other provinces and stressed resolving the problems of the people on priority.

ISPR condemns Imran's 'irresponsible remarks' against military officer



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has strongly condemned the 'highly irresponsible remarks' by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against a senior officer of Pakistan Army.

In a statement issued today, the military's media wing said that Imran Khan has levelled 'highly irresponsible and baseless allegations' against a serving senior military officer 'without any evidence.'

"These fabricated and malicious allegations are extremely unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable," the ISPR maintained.

It pointed out that this has been a 'consistent pattern for last one year wherein military and intelligence agencies officials are targeted with insinuations and sensational propaganda for the furtherance of political objectives.'

"We ask the political leader [Imran Khan] to make a recourse to legal avenues and stop making false allegations," the military's media wing said.

The ISPR concluded by saying that the institution reserves the right to take legal course of action against patently false and malafide statements and propaganda.

A day earlier, PM Shehbaz Sharif lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for 'maligning and threatening' Pakistan Army.

In a tweet, the prime minister said Imran Khan's act of 'routinely maligning and threatening Pakistan Army and Intelligence Agency' for the sake of petty political gains was highly condemnable.

"Imran's leveling of allegations without any proof against Gen Faisal Naseer and officers of our Intelligence Agency cannot be allowed and will not be tolerated," he noted.

Trilateral FMs dialogue calls for urgent humanitarian support to Afghanistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The trilateral dialogue of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan has called upon the international community for sustained and urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, reiterating resolve to fully harness country's potential for regional connectivity.

The 5th China Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue was held here on Saturday (May 6) attended by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang of China and the Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi of Afghanistan, according to the joint statement issued here by the Foreign Office.

The three foreign minister stressed the importance of sustained and urgent humanitarian support to the people of Afghanistan including the imperative to bridge funding gaps for humanitarian operations.

Emphasising for exploring realistic pathways towards the revival of the Afghan economy, the three sides reaffirmed their resolve to fully harness Afghan-



istan's potential as a hub for regional connectivity.

They underscored the need to refrain from intervening into internal affairs of Afghanistan, and to promote Afghan peace, stability and reconstruction.

The three sides urged the relevant countries lift their unilateral sanctions against Afghanistan and return the assets overseas for the benefit of the Afghan people, and create opportunities for economic development and prosperity in Afghanistan.

Stressing that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan served the common interest of the region, the foreign ministers underscored the critical importance of trilateral cooperation in promoting this objective.

The three sides resolved to further deepen and expand their cooperation in the security, development and political

domains based on the principles of mutual respect, equal-footed consultation and mutual benefit. They underscored the need to tackle security challenges posing a serious threat to regional and global security, and directly impacting the stability and economic prosperity of the entire region.

They agreed to coordinate and cooperate on security, organized crimes, drugs smuggling etc. and called on the international community to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and provide necessary supplies, equipment and technical assistance in this regard to the relevant countries.

Trilateral FMs dialogue calls for urgent humanitarian support to Afghanistan, harnessing connectivity potential

The foreign ministers stressed on the need of not allowing any

individual, group or party, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) etc., to use their territories to harm and threaten regional security and interests, or conduct terrorist actions and activities.

Underscoring the imperative to generate economic activity within Afghanistan, the ministers stressed the importance of exploring realistic pathways towards the revival of the Afghan economy.

To this end, the ministers agreed to consider further supporting the reconstruction of Afghanistan and exploring trilateral investment possibilities aimed at industrialization and job creation.

The three foreign ministers stressed that the importance of existing projects including CASA-1000, TAPI, Trans-Afghan Rail-

ways etc. would enhance regional connectivity as well as ensure economic uplift and prosperity for the peoples of this region.

They emphasized to push forward the "hard connectivity" in infrastructure and "soft connectivity" in norms and standards, further explore the facilitating measures for the movement of people and trade activities between the three countries. They also agreed to enhance transit trade through Gwadar Port.

Expressing satisfaction at the existing trilateral cooperation, the three sides agreed to carry out exchange and training programs and to strengthen people-to-people exchanges by conducting the trilateral programs in line with the List of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Practical Cooperation Projects, adopted by Foreign Ministers in this dialogue.

The foreign ministers reaffirmed to continue cooperation in areas of mutual interest like economic development, capacity building, and improving livelihoods. They agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields such as agriculture, trade, energy, capacity building, border management etc.

SC Bill: AGP directed to submit parliamentary record today

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) on Monday directed Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan to submit a parliamentary record by tomorrow (Tuesday) in petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, aimed at clipping the powers of the CJF.

On the last hearing, Supreme Court (SC) issued notices to the government, AGP, political parties, bar councils, and others to submit their response in the petitions against Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023.

The bench is headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and comprises Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed. At the outset of the hearing, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz also forwarded plea for the formation of the full court to hear the matter. Justice Ijazul Ahsan said



your plea has not been marked till now.

After being asked by CJP Justice Umar Ata Bandial, AGP Mansoor Awan hoped that the record of the Parliamentary proceedings will be received tomorrow. "We have filed plea for full court to hear the pleas."

AGP in his arguments before the SC said that the matter of benches and appeals in the SC has been fixed in the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023. The right to change lawyer has also been given to the petitioner in the judicial reforms bill, he added. He said the matters fixed in the law were of administrative in nature and

added that rules of SC were also finalized by the full court and the amendment can only be done by the full court. Responding to the AGP Mansoor Awan, Justice Ayesha Malik said any bench can hear the cases at SC. "Do government wants to take advantage of the full court," she asked.

PML-N's arguments

After the completion of arguments of the AGP for the formation of a full court, PML-N lawyer Barrister Salahuddin in his arguments said for the first time the implementation on the law is halted via a stay order. He said pleas for the formation of full court are given in routinely, the same happened in the cases of Justice Qazi Faez Isa and former CJP Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

Justice Ahsan said the matter of Justice Isa was forwarded to the CJP, the top judge was not hearing the matter by himself.

CJP Justice Bandial said the cases of Iftikhar Chaudhry and Justice Isa were of presidential reference. The trial of the SC is initiated whenever there are allegations against any of the judges, he remarked.

Muqam discusses flour crisis in KP with PM

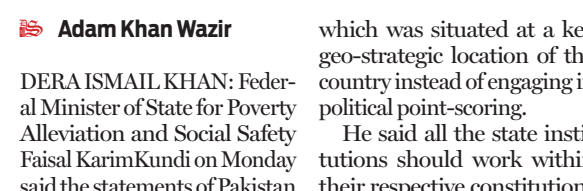


Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam, in a telephonic contact with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who is in London, has discussed the flour crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A statement issued on Monday said that Muqam informed the premier about the concerns of the people of KP regarding the flour crisis, adding that the prime minister ordered an immediate probe into the issue. The prime minister said that all the provinces including KP were of as much importance for him as the Punjab, adding that pragmatic steps would be taken to address the difficulties of the masses.

Imran Khan's statements has no credence as he is suffering from 'mental issues': Kundi



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Federal Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said the statements of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan had no credence as he had been "suffering from mental issues after losing his backers".

Frustration in that regard was also evident from the statements of his party comrades, he said while talking to media persons and speaking at a ceremony of handing over a cheque of Rs 0.8 million grant to Chaharpur Bar President Nazir-Niazi at the Paharpur Bar Complex. Referring to the local level politics, Kundi said he felt no problem in having an alliance with other political figures to achieve the socio-economic development of the district

which was situated at a key geo-strategic location of the country instead of engaging in political point-scoring.

He said all the state institutions should work within their respective constitutional domains as it would help ensure political stability and promote democracy in the country.

The judiciary's job was to do speedy justice on merit, the Parliament's was to legislate and that of the armed forces to defend the country, while the politicians worked to solve the people's problems, he elaborated.

Kundi said the visits of Chinese and Afghan foreign ministers to Pakistan at the invitation of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would have a positive impact as far as the region's socio-economic development was concerned.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the recipients of Corporate, Humanitarian and Strategic Achievement Shields in a ceremony organized by the Network for Human and Social Development (NHSD), at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.



Photo: PID

Upholding the Constitution vital for political stability, citizen rights: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said upholding the country's Constitution was the responsibility of all segments of society because the document not only guaranteed political stability but also ensured the citizens' fundamental rights.

"In addition to the administrative authority, it is the duty of the State and its organs to bring improvement to the society through a system based on welfare," he said in his address at a ceremony to recognize public contribution towards social welfare, held here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The event, organized by Network for Human and

Social Development (NHSD), acknowledged the services of departments and individuals in the field of humanitarian service and philanthropy.

President Alvi stressed that the Constitution vested its power in citizens which led to realizing a welfare State with a political system based on social justice.

He said supremacy of the Constitution was vital as its pillars set out the goals for basic rights in various areas including education, health, employment, and social and economic justice.

"A Constitution does not belong to a politician or an institution, but to every individual of the country," he said. The president empha-

sized the importance of social welfare and philanthropy to address the problems amid the growing population, particularly in the shape of poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment.

As per UNICEF data, he said the 27 million out-of-school children of Pakistan were a serious challenge that required urgent steps for their inclusion in the educational and skill-set system.

Also, the country's 10 percent population of persons with disabilities needs mainstreaming, he added.

President Alvi highlighted the importance of adopting a preventive approach to health rather than a curative one to cope with the costly treatment of several diseases including

Hepatitis, AIDS, and communicable ailments.

He said national progress was linked with the implementation of the system of social caring and improving the lives of the people.

President NHSD Amir Ikram Ameen said his organization was serving vulnerable communities of Pakistan through disaster management and mitigating disaster risk through poverty alleviation and ensuring educational and health facilities to women and children in remote villages.

Vice Chairman Standing Committee Akhuwat Foundation Badar Haroon said the welfare organization in 20 years empowered the people through microfinance loans

worth Rs 200 billion with a 99.9 percent return rate.

He mentioned that 2,000 transgenders above 50 years of age were registered with Akhuwat Foundation, which was catering to their medical facilities in a respectable way.

Chief Executive Office ACT International Syed Mubashir Ali Shah Banoori said the organization in close coordination with government departments rolled out several projects during the recent flood emergency by providing the affected communities with food and shelter. Also, the provision of seeds, fertilizers, livelihood training, and restoration of agriculture at large is also being carried out, he added.

PDM's attention is only to take revenge from Imran Khan: Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that PDM should have mercy on the nation, separate from power, hold immediate elections, immediate elections are the need of the country. These people are clinging to power. All their attention is focused on revenge actions against Imran Khan and Tehreek-e-Insaf. The country and the nation are in serious trouble. People's lives have become twofold. Inflation has brought out the cries of the people. There is no such thing as governance in the country.

No measures are being taken to control inflation.

It seems that there is no such thing as government in the country. He expressed these views while addressing the functions in various union councils of NA-156 and PP-217 and meeting the elders. He said that by not holding the election in 90 days, PDM and caretaker government are committing violation of the constitution. Tehreek-e-Insaf will not remain silent against this violation of the constitution.

Whenever the elections are held, success will be the destiny of Tehreek-e-Insaf. The people of Pakistan have decided to support Tehreek-e-Insaf



Tehreek-e-Insaf will sweep the next election and come to power with the power of the people. While meeting the delegation led by PTI leader Zul Noreen Bhutta in PP 217, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Tehreek-e-Insaf has become the most popular and strongest political party of

Pakistan at present. Its roots have spread among the masses. Whenever Imran Khan gave a call, Tehreek-e-Insaf workers came out on the streets. Workers should not be disappointed in the current situation. Tehreek-e-Insaf workers should prepare for the election. Tehreek-e-Insaf is the only

party whose workers are ideological and ready to shed their blood and sweat on the orders of Imran Khan. Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi had a busy day in Multan. He went to various union councils of NA 156 and PP 217 where he recited Fatiha for deceased personalities. He participated in Qal Khwani of Majeed Khan. Delivered Fatiha on the death of PTI worker Nadeem Bhatta's mother. Congratulations to Irfan Ansari on performing Umrah at UC 48. Delivered Fatiha on the death of Abdul Rahman Bohna's. Attended the funeral of his long-time colleague Chaudhary Amjad in Tatepur

CTD had great success during the operation in Kacha Area

Quaratul Ain Asim

RAJANPUR: Broke up a network supplying arms and ammunition for serious crimes and shootings at the police Currier who supplied arms to two big active criminal gangs Lund and Dulani was arrested. Abdul Khaliq was operating as a second carrier. CTD officials also recovered two rocket launchers in an intelligence-based operation. During the investigation, shocking revelations were made regarding the supply of arms and ammunition.

Modern arms and ammunition are being supplied from Balochistan, investigation revealed Lund and Dulani gangs recruited miscreants Ramzan Bugti and Sattar Patafi to get arms and ammunition Sattar Patafi's brother Javed Patafi made a deal with Balochistan's biggest smuggler Khan Musuri Bugti. CTD officials

Rocket launchers and propellers were purchased from Khan Musoorie Bugti Arms and ammunition money was withdrawn from easy paisa accounts Rocket launchers and propellers were brought from Rukni to Hajipur and Rajanpur, CTD officials said. The launchers and propellers were transported by bike with the help of two local carriers.

IHC instructs FO to ensure safety of Dr Fozia during visit to US

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday instructed the Foreign Office (FO) to coordinate with Dr Afia Saddiqui's lawyer in the United States for the preparation of case for her release from jail and also take measures for the security of Dr Fozia Saddiqui during her visit to the US for meeting her sister.

Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan heard the case filed by Dr Fozia Saddiqui regarding the release of Dr Afia Saddiqui from a US jail. Dr. Fozia Saddiqui appeared before the court along with Clive Smith, Dr Afia's lawyer in the US.

At the outset of the hearing, Additional Attorney General Munawar Dogal said Dr Fozia had received a five-year US visa to meet her sister. Fozia Saddiqui and lawyer Clive Smith would meet Dr Afia in jail from May 29 to 31, he added.

The court also instructed the Foreign Office to take measures for the provision of the services of an independent psychiatrist to Afia Saddiqui.

The FO officials apprised the court that there was a need of approval from the competent authority to share the sensitive information. The case was then adjourned till June 30.

CTD arrests suspect 'tasked to prepare suicide bomber'

Raja Furqan Ahmed

LOWER DIR: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested a suspected terrorist in Bajaur raid who had been tasked to prepare a suicide bomber.

Superintendent Police (SP) Amjad Ali told the media that CTD personnel conducted a raid in Bajaur and arrested a suspected terrorist named Ikram. He added that grenade, explosive material and other equipment were recovered from Ikram's possession. SP Ali said that Ikram was associated with the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "The arrested man was given a task to prepare a suicide bomber," he concluded.

In another development today, the Counter-Terrorism Department grabbed a significant success in the Kacha operation and busted an arms supply network targeting police forces and other crimes.

An organised network of illegal arms supplies was busted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) during the anti-bandit operation in the kacha areas. The CTD claimed to have arrested an alleged member of an illegal arms supplier named Abdul Khaliq who was providing arms and ammunition to notorious gangs.

Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to KSA calls on Ishaq Dar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ahmad Farooq Monday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The finance minister greeted the Ambassador-designate and extended his felicitations on his new responsibilities and conveyed his best wishes for success, said a press release.

He underlined that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are deep rooted in history and will further strengthen in future.

He stressed upon further enhancing economic and trade relations between

the two countries which have a great potential of growth given the opportunities for business and investment available in Pakistan.

The finance minister also underscored the importance of enhancing relations in IT, agriculture and tourism sectors between the two brotherly countries.

The Ambassador-designate reaffirmed his resolve to strengthen economic and commercial relationships between the two countries and sought support of the finance minister in this regard. Senator Ishaq Dar extended his full support and cooperation and hoped that the bilateral collaborations between the two countries will further grow during the tenure of the Ambassador.

Parliament will not bow to Imran's intimidation: Rana Sana



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said on Monday that if Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan intended to force and intimidate Parliament in order to hold elections, it will not come to pass.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that it was a fallacy on Imran Khan's part to assume that he can have his way and accomplish whatever he desired.

The minister reiterated that the government would not engage in

any dealings tainted by Imran Khan's dishonesty and obstinacy.

Rana Sanaullah said Imran Khan has employed various tactics, but they have proven futile. Imran Khan himself know he was uttering falsehood, and he fabricated baseless and entirely fictitious narratives, he asserted.

"He tells lies ten times every morning upon waking up. What course of action should be taken against this?" "If concrete evidence emerges, we shall certainly take appropriate action", responded to a question regarding life threats to PTI chief, adding that there was no need for anyone to resort to harming Imran Khan, and false FIRs will not be filed against anyone just merely based on a false acquisition of Imran Khan.

Negotiations are currently underway with PTI, and there were individuals in PTI's camp striving to steer things in a positive direction, he added.

China welcomes Syria's return to Arab League: Wang Wenbin

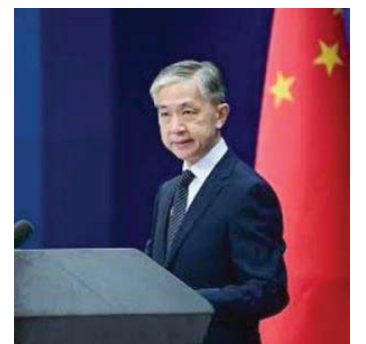
Spokesman Report

BELJING: China on Monday welcomed and congratulated Syria on its return to the Arab League and termed it as conducive to strength and unity of Arab states (AL).

Addressing a regular briefing held here, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, "We believe this is conducive to the strength and unity of Arab states, the development and revitalization of the Arab world and peace and stability in the Middle East. This serves the long-term interests of Arab states."

He said that China has always supported Arab states in seeking strength through unity, and actively supported Syria in returning to the Arab League.

China has actively engaged various parties through our own channels. Last month, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue Zhai Jun visited Syria and had an in-depth exchange of views with Syria on seeking a political settlement of the



Syrian issue and facilitating Syria's return to the Arab League, he added.

Wang said that recently, China sent a task force to relevant Arab states for deep-going discussions on Syria's return to the Arab League.

At the invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad will soon visit China. As a sincere friend of Syria and other Arab states, China welcomes and supports Arab solidarity and will continue to work relentlessly to that end, he added.

FBR amends rules on temporary importation of vehicle

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue on Monday, through an SRO, amended the rules regarding the temporary importation of vehicles to circumvent the misuse of carnet de passage/temporary importation of vehicles by foreigners/expatriate Pakistanis.

The FBR issued SRO 533 (I)/2023 dated 08.05.2023 amending the temporary importation of vehicles rules covered under Chapter VI of the Customs Rules 2001,

said an FBR press release.

Under the new rules, the definition of the "tourist" has been updated and new provisions have been incorporated to strictly monitor carnet-related information through Pakistan Customs Computerized System and by keeping close liaison with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

According to the new rules, the passport of the tourist will be flagged with the carnet documents for proper reconciliation of vehicles imported under the facility.

University plays key role in promoting knowledge-based economy: Governor

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rahman, Governor Punjab and Chancellor has said that universities play a key role in promoting a knowledge-based economy. Human resource development and advanced research are indispensable for national development. Governor Punjab expressed these views while addressing in the 19th Convocation of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. On this occasion, degrees were conferred to 1024 graduates, including 28 PhD, 66 MPhil, 79 gold and 68 silver medals. During his visit to the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, the Governor of Punjab distributed more than 6.13 million rupees scholarships to 48 students belonging to Balochistan under the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund.

He inaugurated the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals at the university and inaugurated the annual degree show of the College of Art and Design. Governor Punjab

said that our educational institutions should produce graduates who have high academic skills as well as excellent personal qualities. In the last few years, Islamia University Bahawalpur has shown extraordinary progress in every department. The establishment of inter-university consortium, inter-cropping technology of maize and soybean crops, establishment of National Cotton Breeding Institute, initiation of pilot project in Cholistan on rain enhancement project with international cooperation to develop agro-economic zone, establishment of first-of-its-kind nursing college in any university are exemplary steps. Governor Punjab appreciated the organizing of the Bahawalpur Literary and Cultural Festival at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Bahawalpur Trade Fair to promote tourism.

He said that the establishment of the Centre for Performing Arts and Digital Media Production is commendable. In his address on this occasion, Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has been included in the top 800 universities of the world in the ranking of times higher education. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is implementing teaching,



administrative, and financial reforms to join the top 100 world universities. Under these reforms, the number of faculties has been increased from 7 to 15, and the number of departments

has been increased from 48 to 142. Around 2,000 full-time and part-time teachers are providing educational services to more than 65,000 students across seven campuses. More

than 100 student societies have been established at university faculty and department level for the character building of students. Along with the activation of Khawaja Farid Chair and Sir Sadiq Mohammad Khan Abbasi Fifth Chair, Institute for Saraiki Language and Literature has also been established. Along with the addition of more than 40 buses to the university transport, the scope of this facility has been extended to the neighboring towns.

As many as 28 selection boards and 63 selection committees were organized for the increase of competent and hardworking manpower in teaching and non-teaching fields, as a result of which 3500 people were appointed. The development budget of the university increased from 3 billion to 12 billion, and the non-development budget increased from 3 billion to 8 billion. Meanwhile, Governor Punjab Engr. Baligh ur Rahman attended the condolence reference of late journalist Islam Zamir at Abbasia Campus and paid tribute to his journalistic services.

Fantastic

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the clouds floating on Fatima Jinnah Park, during hazy weather in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

E-registration started in Gujranwala division

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: As in the whole of Punjab, the registry through E-registration has been started by the Punjab Land Records Authority in Gujranwala division. The training of all revenue officers and staff about E-registration was held in the district council hall of Gujranwala. Regarding the Registration in Division, while inaugurating, it was clarified that the Punjab government has provided the facility of E-registration to the people sitting at home. A web portal has also been generat-



ed for E-registration which will eliminate middlemen, fraud. Public involvement and individual responsibility are ensured for good governance through this transparent methodology. Madam Anjum Zahra Director Operations, Additional Director Operations Chaudhry Muhammad Shafique said that customers

will get the challan from the E-stamp web portal. After paying the prescribed fee in Bank of Punjab, customers will be able to write the guarantee at home. Assistant Director Software Development Punjab Land Record Authority Farooq Azhar Qureshi said that users will be able to register the seller, customer and witnesses by themselves. After writing the document, it will be digitally transferred to the registrar. Consumers will submit biometric verification and statements in front of Sub-Registrar at scheduled time.

Govt is fully active to achieve higher production of cotton on this year

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: After getting a bumper crop of wheat this year, the federal government is fully active to achieve abundant production of cotton and important instructions have been issued to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research in this regard. Cotton Commissioner Dr. Zahid Mehmood told this in a telephonic conversation with Sajid Mehmood, Head of Department of Transfer of Technology, CCRI Multan. The Cotton Commissioner said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research is working together with the four provinces to achieve the target of cotton production and cultivated area.

PM says federal funds will help in solving state's financial problems

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the release of more than 9 billion rupees by the federal government would be helpful in addressing the solving financial problems of the state in addition to early completion of developmental projects. The Prime Minister Haq expressed these views while talking to public delegations that called him here today. He said that the release of funds would pave the way for development in the state. He said that financial stability was necessary for running the affairs of state. "The wheel of development which was stopped has started to move again", the PM said, adding that providing relief to the people was the first and foremost priority of his government.

Qureshi's wife is under treatment in Aga Khan Hospital Karachi



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi's wife is under treatment in Aga Khan Hospital Karachi. Ex-Governor Sindh Imran Ismail, Leader of Opposition in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Shaikh, Jay Prakash and other leaders arrived at Aga Hospital. Expressed Greetings and best wishes

He prayed for his recovery and expressed good wishes. Makhdoomza Zain Hussain Qureshi was also present on this occasion

Earlier, Qureshi Reached Karachi by Aircraft from Multan on today. He went straight from Karachi Airport to Agha Hospital where his wife is undergoing treatment.

Karachi Arts Council organized Eid Milan Dinner and Qawwali

News Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized an Eid Milan dinner and Qawwali for the members of the Arts Council and their families in Jaun Elia Lawn. In which a large number of members of the Arts Council participated. In the ceremony, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah welcomed all the members along with Secretary Ejaz Farooqui and members of the governing body. A large number of members of Arts Council Karachi enjoyed a great dinner along with their families. After the dinner, a Qawwali Night was organized by Qawwal Fareed Ayaz and Abu Muhammad Qawwal Group. The participants kept swaying on the great performance of Qawwal Fareed Ayaz and Abu Muhammad Qawal. Members said that every step taken by the President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah for the welfare of the members is commendable.



IG Police KP's visit to Wana received a grand welcome on arrival

Waziristan police bravely fought against terrorism under very difficult conditions

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur was welcomed by senior police officers including DPO South Waziristan Shabbir Hussain Marwat and DC Lower South Waziristan Mohammad Nasir Khan on his arrival at Wana yesterday.

On this occasion, the armed forces of Waziristan Police presented a salute and the officers presented flower bouquets.

SP Investigation Fazal Subhan, DSP HQ Wana Nadir Khan and SP CTD Izhar Shah were also present on the occasion, DSP Nadir Khan wore a traditional tribal turban.

IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa distributed checks to police heirs under Police Martyrs Package and promised to continue all possible cooperation with them and planted sapling in DPO Wana office in connection with a

tree planting campaign.

Earlier, DPO South Waziristan Shabbir Hussain Marwat welcomed IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and thanked him for visiting Wana in adverse conditions, the DPO while briefing the IGP PK said that some police stations in Waziristan are in the final stages of completion and work on some is going on fast.

On this occasion, IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur while addressing a large gathering of police officers and officials in AC Wana Jirga Hall said, that the police of Waziristan bravely fought against terrorism in very difficult situations and made the country proud by sacrificing their lives and work is going on rapidly to bring new reforms in the police of the merged districts, and efforts are being made to provide them with all kinds of facilities. A large number of officers and personnel of various units of the South Waziristan Lower and Upper Police units partici-

pated in the Darbar.

Chief of Police of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while addressing the police court/Darbar said that we can never forget the eternal sacrifices of the police of South Waziristan and tribal districts.

Police personnel who sacrificed their lives for the safety of the public will always be remembered.

The IGP said that the government will soon equip the tribal district police with all the facilities to make them an ideal police and no omission will be made in this the sacrifices of the police, special forces and levies forces in the tribal districts are not hidden from anyone, the personnel who sacrificed their lives will always be remembered.

He said that the job of police is a sacred profession and by wearing the police uniform, a heavy responsibility is placed on the shoulders of the officers to move forward as a team for the establishment of peace in the entire province.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police



Force has made a golden history by sacrificing its present for the bright future of the country and the nation, from the rank of constable to the IG rank in the war against terrorism.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police are being equipped with modern equip-

ment and thermal i-sight TI cameras, weapons and ammunition to deal with terrorists.

He urged the participants of the Darbar to play their role in changing the traditional Thana culture by showing good manners with the people.

Police personnel should make good morals, honesty and dedication to work their motto, create convenience for the public

However, patience should not be lost at any point, no lapse in providing services to the public will be tolerated and he said that all his resources will be used for the welfare of the police force personnel.

The police department will take steps in every forum to provide the best educational facilities to the children of the police, equal health facilities will be provided to the police personnel and their families.

He said that financial assistance will be given to the daughters of police officers on the occasion of their marriage, providing equal opportunities for advancement to every police officer and officials under the system of service structure and development system prevailing in the force including the merged tribal districts will go.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3: 39 am
Zohr 12: 04 pm
Asr 4: 55 pm
Maghrib 6: 55 pm
Isha 8: 30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Public Defense of Iqra University's Ph.D. Scholars Mr. Ahmed Salman Abbasi will be held on Saturday May 13, 2023

KARACHI: Faculty of Business Administration Iqra University's PhD Scholar Mr. Ahmed Salman Abbasi's Public Defense will be held on Saturday May 13, 2023 at 11: 00 am at ORIC. Scholars, Faculty members and students of the same field will participate in it. Mr. Ahmed Salman Abbasi completed his PhD Dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zaki Rashidi. As per HEC requirements, his PhD Dissertation has already been approved by foreign evaluators.

Improve Service Delivery at Health Centers in South Punjab: Captain Saqib (R)

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Measures have been initiated to further improve service delivery at health centers in South Punjab and instructions have been issued to coordinate health facilities from basic health centers to tertiary hospitals. Instructions have also been given to speed up the implementation on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab. These instructions were issued by Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar while presiding over a review meeting in connection to public service delivery in health sector. Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care Mehr Muhammad Hayat Luk and Secretary Specialized Health Care Afzal Nasir Khan gave briefing on this occasion. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Retd) Saqib Zafar said the decision to appoint consultants in the evening and night shifts in DHQs and THQs be strictly implemented. He said surprise visits be paid to ensure presence of doctors and para medical staff in health center in far flung area.

Pakistan Game Developers Conference (PGDC)

Air University organizes Pakistan's maiden Game Developers Conference

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Computer Games Development (CGD) at Air University, holding a unique and first-ever Pakistan Game Developers Conference (PGDC-2023), scheduled today here at main campus in Islamabad from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The conference aims to bridge the gap between industry and academia in animation, gaming and graphics, providing attendees with a distinctive opportunity to learn about the latest trends and innovations in the gaming industry while networking with professionals and enthusiasts.

Being a pioneer to introduce formal degree program at bachelor and master levels in computer games development in Pakistan, Air University takes the lead to arrange a 1st game developers conference



The idea was taken from successful academia-industry models of advanced countries. The industry experts anticipated that with a compound annual growth rate of 12.9%, the gaming industry is likely to generate \$249.32 billion in 2023 and up to \$583.69 billion in 2030.

PGDC-2023 will bring together renowned gaming experts, technical professionals, students, gaming industry

representatives, and government officials from all over Pakistan to share their knowledge and expertise of the gaming domain. The event will feature special talks by experts in the gaming industry, technical talks, and workshops by leading professionals. Attendees will also have the opportunity to explore the gaming projects and knowledge of emerging technologies from workshop, making it an enriching and informative experience for all.

Air University's Department of CGD is committed to provide a platform for the gaming industry's growth and development in the country. This conference is a testament to vision and mission of University and a commitment to promote industry-academia collaboration through innovative ideas.

Traffic Jam

ISLAMABAD: A large number of vehicles are stuck in massive traffic jam at Express way as people are on their way to home after office timing in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Aasma Butt presents 'Dulla Bhatti'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's well-known producer and director Aasma Ismail Butt has decided to present a stage drama on the life of Punjab's well-known historical character "Dulla Bhatti" to pay tribute to her national heroes whose script distribution ceremony was held at Rawalpindi Arts Council. A large number of artists participated in the event.

Ms. Aasma Ismail Butt thanked the participants on this occasion and said that this drama contains the courageous life of "Dulla Bhatti", the lion of Punjab.

In which the priceless moments of his life and heroic deeds will be mirrored.

With the help of this Drama, a message will be given to the young generation to follow the footsteps of their national



heroes. Because living nations always remember their heroes, but those who forget them, failure is their destiny.

Aasma Ismail Butt said that a stage drama was made on Dulla Bhatti only in the black and white era. After that, no

film or drama was made on this great character in Hindu Pakistan.

In this play, I will do the directing myself. Its writer is Arshad Chahal, while the associate director of this stage drama will be Sulaiman Sunny.

This drama will be presented on 26 May 2023. Famous TV and stage artists will play their roles in the drama. Among them are artists Afzal Latifi, Ali Zeib, Mehboob Ilyas, Rizwana Khan, Subia, Honey, Kaleem Khan, Jhalak, and others.

Cultural Mela kick off at Attock

News Desk

ATTOCK: Punjab Arts Council has organized a three day cultural Mela at Government Post Graduate college Attock. Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza was the chief guest of the opening ceremony of the Mela. While addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Mela, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that culture of Punjab is based on various historical, religious, cultural and traditions.

Principal Government Post Graduate College Professor Majid Waheed Bhatti said that nations are recognized in the world only by their culture and this creates unity and unity among people of different regions and races. A nation that forgets its cultural traditions is also forgotten by history. There is a need for us not only to be proud of our culture but also to introduce it to the world. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said in his address that Punjab is a land of beautiful and diverse cultural colors and the changing lives here share love. The regional customs and cultural traditions of Punjab are the backbone of our society.

The land of Punjab is adorned with storytelling, folk dialects and famous



folk tales which, like five rivers, make this land the cradle of love, peace and harmony. The colorful and diverse cultural beauty of different regions of Punjab, Pothohar region, Son Valley, Malika Kahsar, Saraiki Wasib, Cholistan, plains and four hundred areas of Punjab is an example and the beautiful culture and civilization of these regions is a valuable asset for us. The purpose of the fair is to provide entertainment to the people as

well as enlighten them about the culture and traditions of this region, he added. In the opening ceremony of the cultural fair, folk singers Leila Jatti, Hikmat Awan, Muhammad Hamza, Rameez Ishaq received a lot of applause from the audience by presenting beautiful music. More than 20 artisan stalls, traditional food are also part of the cultural fair. The cultural fair will continue till May 10 at the Government Post Graduate College.

Riphah University Awarded Construction Contract to Izhar Construction



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamic International Medical College Trust (IIMCT) awarded the construction contract for Riphah Medical City Package II to Izhar Construction (PVT) Ltd (ICPL) at Gulberg Greens Islamabad. The contract ceremony was graced by the presence of the Worthy Managing Trustee Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Vice Chancellor Riphah International Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad, Executive Director Islamic International Medical College Trust Mr. Asadullah Khan, Director Operations (Pakistan) Meinhardt Group Mr. Samad Wazir, Director Technical Mr. Imran Younus Meinhardt Group along with Amir Izhar and Omar Izhar, the owners of Izhar Group of Companies. The project will be built at Plot no PB-29, Gulberg Expressway Business Avenue (D & E) Gulberg Greens Islamabad. As the first of its kind, this medical city has the capacity to provide care to a vast number of patients from both nearby and distant areas of Pakistan while also facilitating research into emerging healthcare issues. It is an excellent initiative towards promoting community welfare and providing public access to advanced healthcare facilities in Pakistan.

PRCS marks World Red Cross Red Crescent Day



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) jointly organized an awareness walk at F-9 Park here on Monday in connection with Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrations under the theme "Everything we do comes from the heart".

The walk was aimed at raising public awareness about the humanitarian work carried out by PRCS and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in Pakistan.

The event was attended by Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, staff from PRCS, ICRC, IFRC and RCRC Movement partners in Pakistan including the Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross, and German Red Cross, as well as volunteers, students, and people from different walks of life.

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari expressed his pride in being part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and praised the commitment and passion of the staff and volunteers who work selflessly to help those in need.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed said that in Pakistan, we continued to face numerous humanitarian challenges, from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods to conflict-induced displacement and food insecurity and in such difficult times, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, along with the partners, has remained steadfast in our commitment to providing essential humanitarian assistance to those in need. "Let us continue to work together, from the heart, towards a more just and equitable world", he added.

Property expo held in June at Islamabad



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A successful event related to the property expo held in June at a local hotel in Islamabad was attended by a large number of people from the real estate industry, including Aizaz International Red Sun Builder Saffron PCM. Owners of Group Silver City Mega City and other societies participated in large numbers and assured to make it a success.

Addressing, he said that this is going to be the biggest expo of Pakistan, God willing, and a large number of overseas Pakistanis from all over the world are participating in it, and in this expo, you will get various options regarding property. If you want to invest in property, then definitely attend this expo, all the big businesses of Pakistan Major actors, politicians and people from other walks of life will also participate in large numbers. Regarding the expo, the event held today was a great success and at the end, he thanked all the guests from his heart and said you And together we have to make this expo the biggest expo of Pakistan.

What's On

'Service Camp for Afghan Refugees'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Inspire Pakistan in collaboration with Transparent Hands is organizing Service Camp for Afghan refugee community residing in Sagian Pul, Lahore, Pakistan on 10th of May 2023, between 9 am to 3 pm. The service camp aims to provide medical and psychosocial support to the refugee community as a protection activity.

Mr. Yasir Ayaz Khan, Protection Assistant, Mr. Asif Shahzad, Communication/Public Information Associate from UNHCR- Pakistan and Ms. Sheherbano, Project Manager, CBP, Inspire Pakistan will be visiting the camp.

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 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Revelations of raw wheat and bard robbers of Kacha

In 2017, in the months of March, April and May. The police appeared in such a large number in their armored vehicles in the rough area of Bangla Ucha, Sahib Jamal Deen Wali that the robbers will be completely wiped out from Rajanpur Sadiqabad Bhong to the Sindh area. Six years have passed, every year they have a full operation in days, but the bandits have not been wiped out, nor has the operation been completed till date.

Where wheat is cultivated on a wide area. The production per acre is much higher than the rest of Pakistan and remember that April and May are two months reserved for wheat harvesting. Because on this whole bela which covers an area of 1000 acres. Daku Raj is established with the connivance of the police. Therefore, every year it becomes very important for the police to take out this wheat from this bela and bring it safely to the markets. Here there is the rule of strong and big robbers, there the distribution is done on the basis of half share with the robbers and where there is the rule of small and weak robbers, the police takes the whole crop. Now the question is who owns this land and how is the crop cultivated here. For your

information, let me submit that the villages of the villages are settled in this valley, they have some lands and the government land is also there in thousands of acres. There are bandits from there or bandits from outside are also settled with the facilitation of these local people.

For farming, dacoits pick up people from outside Bela and make them do all the labor of the land, take them on launches and boats in Diesel Bale for extortion from petrol pumps, steal tractors and agricultural machinery from all over the country and is taken there which is used for farming.

And the only town in Rajanpur is across the river, which is the area of Rahim Yar Khan. Shireen Mazari Sahiba also belongs to the

same town. This raw material operation is just a war for obtaining wheat. Which in some cases is done to deliver the wheat of big robbers to the big markets of the country. All their wheat is usurped on the basis of half harvesting and by creating a war situation with petty dacoits

And this whole operation is done with great planning and everyone from a constable to the IG of Punjab and Sindh gets financial benefits from it. All over the country people are hanging in the hands of robbers. But neither an operation is seen nor any action is taken to protect the life and property of the people. The raw wheat is more valuable than the human lives that fill the stomachs of these elites. The people living in Bela i.e the landlords, are at a loss in the police operation, who get grain of the whole year for personal use to feed their children and also in charity from these barbarian robbers in exchange for the honor of the women of their house.

same town. This raw material operation is just a war for obtaining wheat. Which in some cases is done to deliver the wheat of big robbers to the big markets of the country. All their wheat is usurped on the basis of half harvesting and by creating a war situation with petty dacoits

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Analysis

Kiran Asim

British monarchy is anchored in reality

One of the greatest shows of pageantry, pomp and regal tradition thrilled the world on Saturday. The world watched as the House of Windsor formalized the succession of King Charles in the first coronation of a British king since 1937.

What a task King Charles has to succeed his mother, who was so adored and admired globally. Her sense of public service was outstanding. Her 70-year act is a challenging one to follow. In the positive column, King Charles has had plenty of time to prepare, as the longest-serving heir apparent in British history. He has given considerable thought as to how he would wish to conduct affairs as a monarch.

Three related challenges stand out if he is to preserve the institution for the next generation. How will he ensure the monarchy is relevant to the 21st century, while retaining its deep heritage? How will he heal the rifts and issues in the Windsor family itself, which have so fed the media circus? And how can he ensure the British monarchy retains its position as head of the Commonwealth at a time when many members want independence and seek restitution for historical grievances such as slavery and colonialism?

The tricky balance between tradition and modernity is one the royal family has always grappled with. The coronation service gave a raft of clues when compared to the 1953 event that crowned King Charles' mother. It was more inclusive. The congregation was more representative not just of Britain as it is today, but the world as a whole. The coronation oath included "peoples of all faiths." King Charles has spoken out in praise of Islam, comfortably the second most-followed religion in Britain.

Updating the royal brand matters. The royal family has always evolved, but critics might argue too slowly on occasions. If it modernizes too fast, then will it lose that sense of symbolism, pageantry and ritual for which the British royal family is famed? They want to keep that mystique; not normalizing the family too much but at the same time feeling in touch and relevant.

Does the British monarchy have a role beyond the titular and symbolic? King Charles was an activist prince of Wales. His countless letters to ministers became a political issue. He had passionate causes, not least the environment, which he has campaigned on since the 1970s. Even his detractors admit he was way out in front on this issue. Will he now act out his constitutional role of noninterference in political affairs or will he attempt to deploy his considerable influence and soft power? It is hard to imagine he will be quiet.

Yet, will this be enough? The opinion polls do not make great reading for the monarchists. More than 60 percent of Britons said they either did not care at all or only very little about the coronation. The older generations were, perhaps unsurprisingly, keener on the event. Queen Camilla has more favorable ratings than 10 years ago, but the issue of Princess Diana will haunt them for years to come.

Many demand greater transparency regarding the royal family's finances. During the cost-of-living crisis, the costs of the monarchy are under increasing scrutiny. The monarchy has to be seen as delivering value for money. King Charles can nurture greater transparency on this. The family must also be sensitive in not appearing remote and unaffected by the daily economic challenges millions face every day. How can the royal family's enormous charitable undertakings be managed more successfully and deliver better value for money?

Israeli incursions ...



Amjad Rasmi

Riasat-e-Madina, Islamic Touch and introducing dangerous trends

Imran Khan and PTI has introduced several dangerous and unethical trends which were never seen before his arrival into the politics of Pakistan. After Khan disclosed to the public, in violation of state secret legislation, a diplomatic cable from the US urging action be taken to remove Khan in a coup on 8 March 2022, opposition parties submitted a motion of no confidence against him to the National Assembly's secretariat. On 1 April 2022, Prime Minister Khan announced that in context of the no-confidence motion against him in the National Assembly, the three options were discussed with "establishment" to choose from viz: "resignation, no-confidence [vote] or elections". On 3 April 2022, President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly of Pakistan on Khan's advice, after the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly rejected and set-aside the motion of no confidence; this move would have required elections to the National Assembly to be held within 90 days. On 10 April, after a Supreme Court ruling that the no-confidence motion was illegally rejected, a no-confidence vote was conducted and he was ousted from office, becoming the first prime minister in Pakistan to be removed from office by a vote of no confidence. Khan claimed the US was behind his removal because he conducted an independent foreign policy and had friendly relations with China and Russia.

Readers, I seen many articles written on the subject of reasons behind failure of Imran Khan. Farrukh Javed Abbasi also wrote a very comprehensive article last year. I will use the details collected from his essay and many other sources to prove my words.

The most important reason for Imran Khan's failure was his overconfidence. He

thought himself as Aristotle and others as illiterate. His speeches also resembled the reflection of his mentality in which he used to show that he is the only genius in the world and all others know nothing.

As prime minister, Imran Khan never respected or acknowledged the role of the opposition. He closed all doors of legislative negotiation and kept pushing for draconian victimization of his opposition. He got caught up in the competition and forgot about his performance. Every word you utter is a policy of the country, but Imran Khan's constant desire to just be a winner and an aggressive leader forced him out of negotiations in a lot of key legislative processes, and he had to work with Law Minister to use presidential ordinances to run Pakistan. He was practically a dictator and not a leader of parliament for his 3.5 years in power. In the game of parliamentary politics, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir's success didn't come from vicious victimization of others but from becoming national leaders and choices for the entire country. Imran played the game wrong and pushed himself into a very difficult spot.

Another reason for Imran Khan's failure was lack of his competence. Nawaz Sharif started as a finance minister of Punjab and was under the guidance of General Gilani's government. He spent time in the Punjab Assembly and moved up to become the chief minister of Punjab first, where he started the politics of development and learned how to run the country, which ultimately made him a prime ministerial contender and prime minister thrice. Imran Khan kept pushing to become Pakistan's prime minister from 1996 to 2018 and stayed out of the legislature due to his vociferous denial of acknowledgment of the system of parliamentary democracy.

To become a good prime minister,

you must be an avid reader and a good foreign policy, economics, and administrative generalist. A lot of politicians are avid readers of local and international newspapers and are aware of almost everything that is going on. Being articulate on all areas of the country and being aware of the country's issues should be a very basic pre-qualification for the leader of the house. Imran Khan's foreign policy speeches sounded elitist. His two-pronged policy of building aggression towards the US coupled with his foreign affairs team's back-channel begging for a call from the US President showed that he had no idea of foreign policy. He didn't engage the Saudis or Emiratis in bringing the US to the table. His national security adviser isolated Pakistan in the Afghanistan withdrawal situation. It was a golden opportunity for Pakistan to portray itself as a key ally to the US in the war on terror and a partner in Afghanistan's peacekeeping process.

Imran's economic team's delay in going to the IMF and halting CPEC created an economic crisis in Pakistan. Hiring Reza Baqir despite Reza's catastrophic performance in Egypt was also a very incompetent decision. In the last three decades, Reza's monetary policies led to the highest inflation rate. The lack of support for the Ministry of Petroleum and Ogra on petroleum products was also a blunder. Starting a NAB case against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and backing out of the cheapest LNG agreement in global history showed that Imran Khan's energy team was focused on his agenda and did not review the

LNG contract.

Imran Khan's strategy was only focused on putting an end to the politics of his opposition, not on himself and his party's competence. He was the only political leader in Pakistan who had the chance to learn the system for 22 years before becoming the country's prime minister. He had five years of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to learn from. He also had the support of the powers that be; no opposition at the start of his tenure; the ability to put anyone in jail for any case he wanted to; and the full backing of most in the media. Instead of learning how to run the government in his 22 years of political 'struggle', he kept insisting that everyone in Pakistani politics was a thief. Instead of researching his economic policies, he delegated them to Asad Umar, did not allow Asad to work for a few months, and replaced him with two previously tested and failed finance ministers. There is no way a person with that kind of mindset of oppression, weak decision-making capabilities, and zero ability for team building was an ideal person to run the affairs of the fifth most populated country in the world.

Imran Khan promised to establish a state resembling Riasat e Madina in which justice and all facilities will be equally provided to all and without any sort of discrimination. He failed to set such a model State and proved it as just a political stunt. He promised to provide one crore jobs and fifty lakh houses but in reality thousands of people lost their jobs and thousands remained homeless.

Readers, Imran Khan also have been using the name of Islam for gathering

political favor from people. I received a video from a reliable source few days ago indicating an incident during PTI Jalsa on Eid ul Fitr in which a boy while addressing PTI Chairman Imran Khan says that the first luckiest parents of the world were Hazrat Abdullah and Hazrat Amna as Almighty Allah blessed them with a great son Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) while the second luckiest parents were Ikram Ullah Niazi and Shaukat Khanum to whom got blessed with a son like Imran Khan. People have strongly condemned this sort of resemblance of an ordinary person with our great Holy Prophet. Imran Khan, the leader of the PTI, has adroitly exploited the sentiments of the people by the utopian promise of forming a Riasat e Madina, and the use of religious jargon in his public speeches.

On 26 May, on the occasion of the Long March on Islamabad, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri whispered in the ear of Pakistan Tehreek-e Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to give an Islamic touch to the speech to entice the listeners, who were the party's supporters. Incidentally, the media's microphones captured the whisper and revealed the way the political pulpit had been playing with the sentiments of the listeners. Khan acted accordingly by configuring a sentence on the spur of the moment proclaiming his affection for the Prophet (PBUH). The episode took place just before Khan called off the March.

Readers, Imran Khan and his party has also been involved in defaming Pak Army despite of its notable services for the country. Their speeches are on record. Recently, the confession of Dubai-based Abdul Rehman Kamal, who is propagandizing against the Pakistan Army on social media, has come out. Abdul

Poverty, lack of jobs, public safety contribute to rise in street crime

Ramal Naushahi

I want to express my concern about the escalating street crime issues in our country. It seems that every day we hear about incidents of robbery and assault, which not only pose a threat to the safety and well-being of our citizens but also erode the trust and confidence in law enforcement agencies. There are many factors that contribute to rise in street crime. One of the primary causes is poverty which forces individuals to criminal activities to meet their basic needs. Lack of education and lack of job opportunities may also lead to do street crime. We have to tackle these issues, we need to invest in education and job training programs that provide individuals with the skills and opportunities to improve their lives. Social welfare programs such as health care can also help to alleviate poverty and reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior. At the same time, we must improve our law enforcement strategies to anticipate and prevent crimes.

(Writer is student and based at Lahore)

100th anniversary of founder of the modern Azerbaijani state

Underlining that the 100th anniversary of founder of the modern Azerbaijani state, genius politician and statesman, National Leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev is the landmark event in the history of our country, revering the dear and eternal memory of the Great Leader, remaining committed to his rich spiritual legacy based on universal values, rule of law and justice ideals, reminding about Heydar Aliyev's exceptional services in implementation of fundamental reforms to build democratic legal state, the importance he attached to safeguarding human rights and freedoms, continuing humanity, compassion and humanitarian traditions, believing that persons to be released from punishment will make their contribution to development of prosperity of our independent state and society, considering the appeals on pardoning to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan from a group of convicted persons, their family members, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan, human rights organizations, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev signed an order "On pardoning of a group of convicted persons on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of National Leader of the Azerbaijani



people Heydar Aliyev" on May 8, 2023.

Under the order, 801 convicts were pardoned, of whom 463 persons were released from serving their sentence, 220 persons from serving half of the unserved part of their sentence, 118 persons from other punishments unrelated to imprisonment (restriction of liberty, correctional works, fines, conditional sentence).

At the same time, it should be noted that 14 of the pardoned convicts are foreigners. According to the order, 12 of them were released from the full sentence, and two from half of the sentence. According to the relevant

verdicts, after release from punishment, forced removal of four foreign convicts outside the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan is planned. Other foreign convicts are Azerbaijanis by nationality or their family members are citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, so, forced removal will not be applied to them.

In addition, 10 convicts were released from punishment based on the appeals of human rights organizations.

Among them were journalist Elchin Mammad, Chairman of the Citizen and Development Party Ali Aliyev, as well as five people were convicted in connection with the Tartar events, and three

people were convicted in connection with the Ganja events that occurred in 2018. Taking into account that those persons have served the major part of their sentences, and their behavior during the period of serving their sentence, their family situation and health, a decision was made to pardon them.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of National Leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, the Commission on Pardon Issues under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan have held 14 meetings since this January, and about 2,400 documents were discussed at those meetings.

It should be noted that this order is the biggest act on pardoning for the number of people covered ever adopted in the history of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan. For comparison, it should be noted that the Order on Pardoning dated May 24, 2018, adopted on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, was applied to 634 convicts.

The Order on Pardoning adopted on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of National Leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev is planned to be implemented by May 10.

(Release of the Press Service of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism celebrates successful participation at ATM 2023



News Desk

DUBAI: Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) made an impressive showing at the 30th edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), held from 1-4 May at the Dubai World Trade Centre, further reinforcing Dubai's position at the forefront of the world's leading travel destinations. More than 122 public and private sector establishments held a large number of business meetings on the Dubai stand, resulting in a highly successful event for DET and a positive outlook for Dubai's tourism industry in 2023 and beyond.

This year's ATM held under the theme Working towards Net Zero' focused on responsible tourism and coincided with UAE's Year of Sustainability. During the four-day event, DET highlighted the pivotal role being played by the city's tourism industry towards supporting the strategic UAE Net Zero 2050 initiative including activities that have been rolled out by Dubai in the area of sustainability, in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai to make it the best city in the world to visit, live and work. ATM's sustainability theme also steered the conversation towards yet another milestone event that Dubai will host later this year, COP28, the UN Climate Change conference, while stimulating further interest in Dubai's remarkable multi-pronged blueprint for sustainable growth, aligned with the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33.

As a testament to its success at ATM 2023, DET was presented with the 'Best Stand for Doing Business' Award, for its impressive three-storey exhibition space. In bestowing the award on DET, the ATM judges cited the stand's comfortable seating, spacious layout and high-quality hospitality combined to create an inviting environment for visitors.

Dubai's successful participation at ATM 2023 follows the strong performance by its tourism sector in Q1 2023 that saw the city welcome 4.67 million international overnight visitors from January to March, compared to 3.97 million tourists during the same period in 2022, a 17% YoY growth and achieving 98% of pre-pandemic levels in Q1 2023, making it the fastest recovering destination globally.

Six Chinese Yutong electric buses arrived in Samarkand



News Desk

TASHKENT: The Chinese company Yutong has delivered six electric buses to Samarkand. This was reported in the Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan.

"Measures are being taken in Samarkand to improve the quality of transport services to the population, create additional amenities for passengers, and improve the urban public transport system," the agency notes.

Earlier it was reported about the purchase of 100 modern electric buses this year in order to upgrade the rolling stock of urban public transport in Samarkand.

Vesak Day event showcases the Rich Gandhara Heritage of Pakistan

Tooba Khan

TAXILA: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), in collaboration with the Gandhara Resource Center Pakistan (GRCP), Guangdong Guangji Foundation, Paper Miracle, Center for Culture and Development, and the Department of Archeology and Tourism Punjab, successfully organized a grand Vesak Day event. Distinguished participants, including the ambassadors/high commissioners of Sri Lanka and Nepal, as well as federal and provincial government officials, scholars, and philanthropists, gathered to celebrate and honor the ancient Buddhist heritage of Gandhara.

The event commenced at Taxila Museum, where the esteemed attendees were warmly welcomed by Rana Aftab, Managing Director of PTDC. Dr. Nadeem Omar Tarar, Gandhara Chair at the University of Wah, led the group to the Dharamrajika Stupa in Taxila, a site renowned for its relics of Lord Buddha, graciously deposited by King Ashoka. This standing ceremony served as a symbolic homage to the spiritual significance of the region.

During the seminar, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka emphasized the profound importance of the Gandhara heritage of Pakistan for Buddhists around the world. The Ambassador of Nepal echoed this sentiment, highlighting the cultural significance of Gandhara for Nepal, as the birthplace of Buddha.

Notable guest speakers shared their perspectives on the occasion. Imran Shaikat, CEO of Jobs International, reflected on the potential for cultural diplomacy through Buddhism between Thailand and Pakistan. Rana Aftab, MD of PTDC, expressed his optimism for the growth of religious tourism in Pakistan. The Additional Secretary



of the Ministry of Religious Affairs updated the audience on the ministry's efforts to promote religious tourism in the country.

Kim HorToH, Chief Architect of SurbanaJurong and a patron of GRCP, highlighted the significance of international support from Buddhist countries in assisting local Buddhist communities in Pakistan. Amber Tajwar, CEO of Guangdong Guangji Foundation, provided an overview of the invaluable contributions of Chinese Buddhist charities in advancing healthcare and education in Pakistan. Dr. Zafar Mirza, former SAPM, commended the Gandhara Resource Center Pakistan for raising awareness and promoting Buddhist religious tourism in Taxila. Col Dr Talat-Shabbir, Director, Islamabad Strategic

Studies Institute, Islamabad, highlighted the role of Gandhara cultural heritage as a strategic asset to be used in the cultural diplomacy with the Buddhist world.

Elli Takagaki, CEO of Miracles, shared her inspiring experiences as a Japanese woman working in Pakistan. The Director of Punjab Small Industries Development Corporation, briefed the audience on the pivotal role of the said department in safeguarding the craft that the local artisans of Taxila hold and the facility of Gandhara Art Village that they have provided to support these artisans and revive the remarkable art techniques that Gandhara holds. Munawar Lal Buddhist addressed the challenges faced by the Buddhist community in Pakistan and

emphasized the need for international support for Buddhist countries.

The event concluded with Ahsan Shah Zaidar offering a vote of thanks to the distinguished guests and inviting them to a delightful dinner at Zaidar House, Taxila, where further discussions and networking opportunities awaited.

The Vesak Day event served as a vibrant celebration of the rich Gandhara heritage of Pakistan. It showcased the cultural diversity, religious harmony, and immense potential for religious tourism in the country. Through collaboration and international support, Pakistan aims to preserve and promote its ancient Buddhist legacy, reinforcing its commitment to fostering global understanding and peace.

Pakistan-Afghanistan ties are beyond the neighborhood: ISSI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan-Afghanistan ties are beyond the neighborhood. Besides shared religious and cultural values, we are inter-related in economic issues as well." This was stated by H.E. Amir Khan Muttaqi, Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan during his Public Talk, organized by the Centre for Strategic Studies, Islamabad, today, under its Distinguished Lecture Series.

Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, moderated the event. She said that the visit of the Acting Foreign Minister was a continuation of Pakistan's political engagement process with Afghanistan and this event was held at CAMEA's efforts to reinforce bilateral relations.

During his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood underscored the importance of Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to Pakistan and highlighted the uniqueness of the Paki-

stan-Afghanistan relationship in view of the indissoluble bonds between the two peoples. "There are no other two countries in the region that have so much in common as Pakistan and Afghanistan do", which "makes positive mutual engagement a matter not of choice, but of necessity", he said. Amb. Sohail Mahmood recalled the events since 15 August 2021 and Pakistan's steps bilaterally, regionally and internationally to support the fraternal people of Afghanistan including through humanitarian and economic support, facilitation of bilateral trade and transit trade, and regulated cross-border movement.

He also highlighted the international community's expectations from the Interim authorities including inclusivity, human rights of all citizens of Afghanistan, and counter-terrorism actions. He stressed that Pakistan had also remained bilaterally engaged with the authorities in Afghanistan to ensure that terrorism and security-related issues were effectively addressed.

While expressing his views,



H.E. Amir Khan Muttaqi, recalled his previous visit to ISSI and said that since then, much had changed and many of the pessimistic analyses had proved to be wrong. He went on to say that the Interim government had overcome several challenges and that its first order of business was to convey to the region and

beyond the desire to form a "new foreign policy" based on cooperative dialogue and joint ventures. The Acting Foreign Minister further highlighted that, despite facing numerous challenges after assuming power, the Interim government had been able to attain progress in numerous fields. Contrary to the last twenty

years, it was the first time in decades that Afghanistan was funding its national budget without any foreign assistance and loans. The country's focus had not just been on its own economy but it was also continuously striving to increase regional connectivity and energy cooperation through mega projects like TAPI, CASA-

1000, Trans-Afghan railways, and connecting South Asia to Central Asia through Afghanistan thus paving the way for greater integration.

Speaking about Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral relations, Acting Foreign Minister Muttaqi said that ties between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan

have been sacrificed at the altar of political considerations in the past, resulting in the loss of a lot of opportunities. He said both countries have been facing similar challenges over the past two years; even though the manifestations were different, the pain was common for both. He was of the view that his administration was resolved to turn these challenges into opportunities and take firm steps that help integrate the two economies, so that there can be "cascading effects."

Responding to questions regarding women's rights, Acting Foreign Minister Muttaqi said that female education was neither un-Islamic nor banned permanently; the decree was only suspended till the second order.

The event was attended by a large number of former diplomats, members of Islamabad-based Diplomatic Corps, academics, researchers, representatives of civil society, and print and electronic media.

The event concluded with Chairman BoG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, presenting the Institute's of the guest.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,829.49	42,241.98
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,389.22	41,767.45
Index Value	Change
3,670,832,557	-412.49
Percentage	Time
-0.98%	8 May, 2023 5: 00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,778.38	+75.74
Percentage	Time
+0.98%	5 May, 4: 35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,593.68	-80.70
Percentage	Time
-0.24%	8 May, 12: 23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,949.88	-208.07
Percentage	Time
-0.71%	8 May, 3: 15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191	193
Bahrain Dinar	754.71	762.71
Canadian Dollar	212	214.5
China Yuan	41.06	41.46
Danish Krone	41.96	42.36
Euro	314	316.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.15	36.5
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	2	2.05
Kuwaiti Dinar	923.61	932.61
Malaysian Ringgit	63.62	64.22
NewZealand \$	177.3	179.33
Norwegians Krone	26.41	26.71
Omani Riyal	737.24	745.24
Qatari Riyal	77.96	78.66
Saudi Riyal	75.8	76.5
Singapore Dollar	213	215
Swedish Korona	27.47	27.77
Swiss Franc	316.55	319.05
Thai Bhat	8.36	8.51
U.A.E Dirham	77.7	79
UK Pound Sterling	359	362
US Dollar	285	288

Stability of a nuclear power must not be put on the line: Mian Zahid

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said after many friendly countries and international institutions, China has also expressed its concern over the political situation in Pakistan.

Beijing has asked the political forces to sit together to find a solution for their issues which is required to ensure stability.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the advice comes from a sincere friendly country, so it should be taken seriously because China never interferes in the internal affairs of any country.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that China's advice shows that friendly nation is convinced



that Pakistani politicians are incapable of solving their own affairs and their only goal is to gain power at any cost.

Some politicians want power even if the political and economic stability of the country

has to be sacrificed for it, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that China wants peace and political and economic stability in the region which is fundamental for development. China's visionary leadership has brought Saudi Arabia and Iran closer under the same vision and is worried about Pakistan's economic situation and wants to improve it.

The Chinese Foreign Minister has also asked Pakistan and Afghanistan to resolve their issues through dialogue and has also promised to accelerate the pace of work on CPEC and reduce the economic pressure on Pakistan. He has expressed his determination to make Russia part of the project.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that China's One Belt One Road project is game changer, 151 countries have become part of it and Pakistan is a core member of CPEC project and we will support this project through political and economic stability.

The business leader said that during the time of PML-N, CPEC was being worked on at a fast pace, but during the time of PTI, this project has been slow due to which there was little warmth left in mutual relations.

The current government re-stabilized relations with China as soon as it came to power, which our friendly country is satisfied with, but due to the current political turmoil, this project is again affected.

Political instability has also forced friendly countries and international organizations to withdraw, which is causing damage to the country's economy and people, but some politicians do not care about it.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the case of China is not just a friendly country, it has invested billions of dollars in CPEC, which it also wants to protect. Our politicians should take the path of negotiation seriously and everyone needs to find a solution to the political and economic problems.

PPL offers Financial Support to Education Sector in Punjab



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), a National E&P Company and one of the largest corporate donors has recently funded a science laboratory at Akhuwat College in Kasur to facilitate hands-on science-based teaching and learning and for free-of-cost quality education to deserving youth.

Founded in 2001, Akhuwat is a non-profit organization that focuses on supporting the deserving through interest-free micro finance, free-of-cost quality education and healthcare and other socio-economic measures.

Brig Syed Mahmood Ul Hassan (Retd), General Manager Shared Services of PPL accompanied by Chairman Akhuwat Dr.

Muhammad Amjad Saqib visited the PPL-funded Biology Laboratory, at Akhuwat College, Kasur and was briefed on the facilities being offered to the students.

PPL, through its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, remains committed to investing in human resource development and capacity building of country's youth, especially the under privileged.

MMBL achieves 48% revenue growth despite challenging economic conditions

KARACHI: Mobilink Bank (MMBL) reported its financial results for Q1 2023, demonstrating strong business resilience in the face of challenging economic conditions. The Bank's unaudited financial statements indicate a remarkable 48% increase in its revenue. Mobilink Bank's strong emphasis on digital banking services enabled it to reach previously underserved communities and generate substantial revenue growth, with its Branchless Banking (BB) network also witnessing rapid growth. In the first quarter of 2023, the Bank achieved an impressive year-over-year (YoY) percentage increase of 61% in BB revenue.

are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

In the first quarter of 2022, Mobilink Bank granted loans with an average ticket size of PKR 203,000. Moreover, in Q1 2023, the average ticket size increased significantly and reached PKR 288,000, representing a 42% increase from the previous year. Additionally, MMBL's Profit Before Tax (PBT) in the first quarter of 2023 increased by 298% compared to the same period in the previous year.

Commenting on the bank's performance, Ghazanfar Azzam, President & CEO MMBL said, "The remarkable revenue growth in the first quarter of this year is a testament to the Bank's strong performance across all business verticals. We have made persistent efforts towards achieving our objectives, including providing innovative and inclusive digital financial solutions that cater to a diverse customer pool. However, it wouldn't be possible without our customer's unwavering support and confidence in us."

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that

Media plays an important role in spreading awareness about agricultural research

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: For the successful organization of the full print and electronic media coverage of Three-day National Dialogue on Agriculture Research organized by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council. Mr. Atiq Al Ahsan Qureshi, In-charge of Public Relations Department, PARC, was honored with a shield of appreciation.

Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain and Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali presented the shield of appreciation to him in the closing session of the national dialogue while senior officials of the institution were also present on the occasion. Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, thanked the media representatives and



said that print and electronic media are playing an important role in creating awareness about agricultural research and bridging the gap between researchers and farmers.

The coverage of the most important event like National Dialogue on Agricultural Research by print and electronic

media can reach the farmers in every corner of the country so that the farmers can reap the benefits of agriculture as eminent researchers and scientists in this event hand over years of agricultural research and made agricultural recommendations based on research.

He further said that due to the active participation and involvement of local and national media, all the stakeholders of the agricultural sector were brought under one umbrella who will continue to work closely with PARC and assist in disseminating agricultural recommendations to farmers through print and electronic media.

Chairman PARC thanked the Public Relations Department of PARC for ensuring professional communication between the media and the institution.

PMI's sustainability strategy takes centre stage in 2022 integrated annual report

News Desk

KARACHI: Philip Morris International (PMI) has published its 2022 Integrated Annual Report, highlighting progress against its sustainability targets and commitments. The report outlines PMI's continued evolution into a science- and technology-driven company that aims to replace cigarettes with better alternatives for adult smokers who would otherwise continue to smoke.

"As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic and the global climate crisis, PMI remains committed to delivering a smoke-free future and driving positive impact in society and the environment," said Jacek Oleczak, Chief Executive Officer of PMI. "Our latest Integrated Report highlights

the progress we've made toward our ambitious goals, particularly in expanding the availability of our smoke-free products, investing in product and operational sustainability, and promoting diversity and inclusion within our company. We remain laser-focused on advancing our ESG agenda and driving progress on the most pressing issues facing our business and the world at large."

PMI has established eight strategies to tackle its most pressing areas of impact, including climate change, circularity, and human rights, and established 11 goals that form the basis of its 2025 Roadmap. PMI has also developed 19 key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress via its Sustainability Index.

Kazakhstan keen to strengthen trade ties with Pakistan - Yerzhan Kistafin

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that his country is keen to strengthen and deepen trade ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to trade with each other in multiple sectors. 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.

The envoy spoke about the opportunities for doing business in Kazakhstan and the advantages of his country as a regional hub. He welcomed ICCI's plan to take a delegation to Kazakhstan and assured the delegation of the provision of all necessary organizational and

logistical support from the Kazakh side to make its visit a successful one.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan can cooperate in many fields including construction, agriculture, energy, textiles, pharmaceuticals, tourism, engineering equipment, machinery, banking & finance for mutual benefits.

He said that ICCI plan to take a big delegation to Kazakhstan in July this year to interact with Kazakh counterparts and develop strong business linkages with them in order to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. He thanked the Ambassador for



his assurance to provide all possible support to the delegation.

He welcomed the launch of direct flights by Kazakhstan with Pakistan and stressed that the government of Pakistan should expedite its work for early start of these flights. He said that Pakistani ports provide the shortest

route to land-locked Kazakhstan to the Arabia Sea and emphasized that both countries should also establish land and railways links to enhance business relations.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan are gateways for each other to get

easy access to their respective regional markets and they should develop close cooperation to take advantage of this potential.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Kazakhstan is an emerging economy and Pakistan is also a big consumer market. He said that close cooperation between them would be beneficial for the economies of both countries.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI & Secretary General UBG, Dr. Muhammad Usman and Ameer Hamza also spoke at the occasion and termed the launch of direct flights a historic development between the two countries.

India's Minister of Foreign Affairs lacks diplomatic skills

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Monday said the Indian Foreign Minister lacks diplomatic norms.

Following the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in India, Jaisankar acted like a councillor of the extremist BJP rather than a foreign minister of the world's fifth-largest economy, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the attitude of the Indian foreign minister has eliminated the possibility of any kind of political and economic cooperation with Pakistan.

In a statement issued here today, he said that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari tackled the situation with utmost courage and used his diplomatic skills to embarrass the Indians.

He said that Indian Foreign Minister Jaisankar avoided shaking hands with Pakistani Foreign Minister, he called Pakistan a supporter of terrorists, occupied Kashmir as India's integral part, and rejected the possibility of resuming talks with Pakistan.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari remained calm and said that regional countries are working together to deal with global problems, especially climate change, poverty and terrorism under the SCO.

He said that Pakistan fully adheres to the principles of mutual trust, equality, respect for cultural diversity and the pursuit of common development.

Bilawal said that Afghanistan continues to be a battleground for the big powers, we should not repeat the mistakes of the past regarding Afghanistan and urged the international community to adopt universally accepted principles for Afghanistan.

Emphasis should be placed on respecting the rights of all Afghans, including the right to education, while the international community should also help build counter-terrorism capacity for the security of Afghanistan, the foreign minister demanded. Shahid Rashid Butt said that Bilawal Zardari, as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, has shown a mirror to the Indians and New Delhi will remember the diplomatic beating for a long time.

KP Governor receives Torch of 34th National Games

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali on Monday received the Torch of the 34th National Games from former Squash World Champion Qamar Zaman and four times international gold medalist athlete Bahre Karam at a ceremony organized at Governor House.

Senior Vice President Pakistan Olympic Association and President KP Olympic Association Syed Aqil Shah, Vice President Pakistan Hockey Federation and former IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Syed Khan, ex-home Secretary Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, Provincial Caretaker Ministers, Office-bearers of the KP Olympic Association, Chief

de Mission KP Contingent Ilyas Afridi, Deputy Chef de Mission Ms Safina Babar (Nowshera) and Ms Sumayyah (Swat), international athletes and people from different walk of life attended the ceremony.

The Torch entered the Governor House after a round of interior city, Peshawar Museum, Qisa Khawani, Gol Ghatri and Sehti House in a traditional Tangha relay.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa appreciated the Government of Balochistan for hosting the Games and assured them full support. He said hosting of the Games in Quetta would give a message of peace to the rest of the world.

He urged upon the athletes to keep



unity in their ranks and extend all out support in a cause wherein Balochistan comes up and hosts the Games.

He said travelling of the Torch to the whole of Pakistan is actively conveying a message of peace and brotherhood. He said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has provided Rs38 million to

Directorate General KP and KP Olympic Association to send 400 athletes contingent to Quetta for Games.

He said steps have been taken by the provincial and central governments for the promotion of sports in the province and talented players are joining the national teams of various sports. He expressed hope that these players would perform well at national and international levels.

He said sports actually teach us peace, unity, sportsmanship, brotherhood. He urged upon the athletes to keep peace in their ranks for a prosperous Pakistan.

Earlier, Governor KP handed over the Torch to four times International Gold medalist athlete Bahre Karam and international boxer Hadia Kamal.

Street Talent

ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are playing snooker at Christen Colony at Sector F-6 as this game have a huge potential in country, but as usual youngsters are starving due to lack of proper facilities.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Azan's top display helps Pakistan U19 down Bangladesh

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Azan Awais top notch century stand took Pakistan U19 to victory over Bangladesh U19 by 78 runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Monday.

The win gave Pakistan a 2-0 lead in the five-match one-day series against Bangladesh U19. Inviting to bat first, Pakistan U19 were dismissed for 271 on the last ball of the 50th over. Azan, who returned undefeated on 69 in Pakistan U19's nine-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first one-day, scored 105 today. His innings included 15 fours which came off 125 deliveries.

After the departure of

Shahzaib Khan (6, 13b, 1x4), Azan was involved in a 57-run partnership with Shamyul Hussain (33, 49b, 4x4s, 1x6) for the second wicket and later stitched 126 runs for the third wicket with captain Saad Baig (51, 64b, 4x4s, 1x6).

Saad's dismissal with the score at 193 was then followed by a batting wobble that saw the tourists lose six wickets for 42 runs, leaving them in a spot of bother at 235 for nine in 46.5 overs. Amir Hassan was then joined by Aimal Khan and the pair knitted 36-run partnership for the 10th wicket. Amir scored 29 off 18 deliveries, which included two fours and as many sixes. Aimal struck 13 in seven-ball with two

fours. For Bangladesh U19, Iqbal Hossain Emmon was the most successful bowler, taking four wickets for 72 runs. Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby bagged three wickets for 52 from nine overs.

In turn, the visitors never allowed the hosts to score freely as the latter were bundled out for 193 in 47 overs. Only Shihab James (42, 63b, 5x4s) and Adil Bin Siddik (40, 61b, 6x4s) were the notable run-getters for the losing team.

For Pakistan U19, right-arm fast Ismail took three wickets for 46, while Ali Asfand, Arafat Minhas and Aimal Khan snapped two wickets each.

After taking a 2-0 lead in the five-match one-day

series, both sides will travel to Rajshahi to take part in the remaining matches scheduled on 11, 13 and 15 May at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. The solitary T20 would also be played at the same venue on May 17.

Scores in brief- Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by 78 runs. Pakistan U19 271 all out, 50 overs (Azan Awais 105, Saad Baig 51, Shamyul Hussain 33, Amir Hassan 29; Iqbal Hossain Emmon 4-72, Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby 3-52).

Bangladesh U19 193 all out, 47 overs (Shihab James 42, Adil Bin Siddik 40; Mohammad Ismail 3-46, Ali Asfand 2-18, Arafat Minhas 2-44, Aimal Khan 2-50).

No fissure in the team, claims Babar after Imam's cryptic tweet

News Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan all-format captain Babar Azam has dispelled the impression of a rift between the players of the national team, saying, "The unity of the team is intact and there are no differences in the team at all."

Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq posted a tweet on Sunday, believed to be an indirect way of venting out his anger for being benched in the fourth and fifth ODI of the recently concluded PAK vs NZ ODI series.

"Life is an unexpected journey so never expect anything from anyone". Be patient, Allah is watching," he wrote. When Babar was asked about Imam's cryptic tweet during the post-match press conference on Sunday, he replied he had not seen the tweet and would see it later. "No one gets angry in this team. The unity of our team is phenomenal and it will remain like this," he added.

"And when something like this happens we try to keep to ourselves because the trust level between us is quite good."

The 28-year-old also shrugged off the reports that Pakistan Cricket Board has decided to retain him as the captain till the ODI World Cup later this year, saying, he had not been informed. "I am not aware if the board has made



that decision. There hasn't been any communication with me in this regard."

However, while commenting on Pakistan's possible squad for the mega event, Babar said he and the management had 15 to 20 players in mind whose names would only be revealed before the World Cup. "Every match before the World Cup is important for us and we are trying to utilize it," he said.

Elaborating on the team's performance in the recently concluded five-game ODI series against New Zealand, the Pakistan captain said, "There were many positives and we were able to check on our bench strength in the series"

"We tried to clean sweep the Black Caps but the way we planned, we couldn't finish it that way."

"We planned to finish the series on a better note; however, early wickets led to our defeat," he lamented.

Tom Latham-led New Zealand took a 47-run consolation win in the final ODI at National Bank Cricket Arena on Sunday to deny Pakistan a 5-0 clean sweep in the series.

The defeat dethroned Pakistan from the No.1 spot in the ODI rankings which they achieved for the first time in history following their dominant win in the fourth ODI on Friday.

Apologetic Messi returns to training with PSG



Sports Desk

PARIS: Lionel Messi returned to training with Paris Saint-Germain on Monday six days after Argentina's World Cup-winning captain was suspended for going on an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

"Leo Messi returns to training Monday morning," tweeted the club along with a photo of the 35-year-old in action.

His return makes it likely he will feature in PSG's home match with relegation-threatened Ajaccio next Saturday.

PSG hold the whip hand in defending their Ligue 1 title, a six-point lead over Lens with four matches remaining.

He was suspended by the Qatar-owned club after failing to turn up for training last Monday.

Instead, the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner travelled to Saudi Arabia without PSG's permission to fulfil commitments as part of a contract with the country's tourist office.

Messi subsequently apologised in a video posted on Instagram to his 458 million followers.

"I had organised this trip to Saudi Arabia having cancelled it previously. This time I couldn't cancel it. I am sorry for what I did and I wait to see what the club decides to do."

The affair has made it increasingly unlikely that Messi will remain at PSG beyond this season, when his two-year contract with the club expires.

Lionel Messi 'agrees' to one of most expensive football deals in history: report

Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi has agreed to sign a deal with Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal, UK-based publication Daily Express reported Monday.

Messi's future with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) has been one of the main talking points in the football world, especially after the World Cup and with his contract set to expire at the end of this season.

"The Argentina captain has been linked with a host of teams including Inter Miami and a return to Barcelona but it now appears he has settled on another club instead," the publication reported.

Segment Golf contest



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The May 2023 Segment golf contest for the Lahore Gymkhana Monthly Medal Golf Tournament backed by Rafi Group who are associated with high rise buildings and real estate, took place at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course yesterday and as Sheikh Abdul Sami the CCO of Rafi Group observed, the tournament brought playing joy for veteran golfers, senior golfers, juniors, ladies and the masterly amateur golfers and such events were held every month. Competition wise, conditions at the golf course were most demanding for these amateur contestants and as expected quite a few talented aspirants and hopefuls got cowed down by the pressure of competition and their chances of achieving glory faded away as putting jitters took over.

Others who ended up happy with their performances in net race are Mansoor A.Khan, and Farooq A.Khan.

Results of Other Categories:

Juniors: Ayan Bashir, Winner; Faiz Khan, Runner Up; Ladies: Aisha Moazzam, first gross; Minaa Zainab, 2nd gross; So-bia Waseem, first gross; Bela Azam, 2nd net; Veterans: Asad Hameed, first gross; Javed A.Khan, 2nd gross; Khawaja Rizwan, 1st net; Dr Jawad Sajid Khan, 2nd net; Seniors: Najam Hafeez, 1st gross; Omar Zia, 2nd gross; Dr Arshad Mehmood, 1st net; Khawaja Adeel Aslam, 2nd net;

At the conclusion of the Lahore Gymkhana Monthly Medal Golf Tournament, the prizes were awarded to the top performers by Sheikh Abdul Sami of Rafi Group and Shaukat Javed, Convener Golf in the presence of families and competing players.

Game is never over when Iftikhar is at the crease: Will Young

Sports Desk

KARACHI: New Zealand opener Will Young heaped praises on hard-hitting Pakistan batter Iftikhar Ahmed for his courageous knocks against the Black-caps during the recently concluded white-ball series between the two sides.



Pakistan's lone warrior in the final ODI on Sunday, Iftikhar, smashed an unbeaten 94 from 72 balls to keep the opposition on their toes despite the top-order collapse. His heroic knock eventually went in vain as Pakistan were all-out for 252 while chasing 300.

Earlier in the T20I series, he also played a similar knock when he thrashed a blistering 60 in just 24 balls in the third game in Lahore but could not sail his side to the finish line.

The grit shown by Iftikhar did not go unnoticed as the Kiwi player Young spoke highly of his knock, claiming he was distressed after dropping the former on 60. "He is an amazing player. I can recall a couple of knocks when he almost won the game singlehandedly" said Young in the post-match press conference.

"I think the game is never over when Iftikhar is at the crease. And when I dropped him on 60 at point, my heart was pumping" Young, who starred with a brilliant 87-run knock, said he was happy with the team's victory and the way he played in the final ODI.

"We were able to take wickets today which we were not able to do in the previous game and managed to put pressure on the opposition," he added.

Commenting on the importance of the Pakistan tour before the World Cup - scheduled later this year in India - he said, "Playing in the subcontinent condition will help us a lot preparing for the mega event".

Furthermore, the right-hander also hailed the local crowd for their support and lauded Pakistan for its great hospitality.

"They were obviously home fans but they were nice and friendly to us as well. And the way we were treated in hotel rooms at various hotels was outstanding," he said.

"Hospitality was great," he remarked.

New Zealand concluded their second tour of Pakistan this year on Sunday with a consolation 47-run win in the final ODI at National Bank Cricket to avoid the 5-0 series whitewash.

The tour commenced on April 24 with a five-game T20I series in Lahore and Rawalpindi. Despite falling behind 2-0 after the first two games, the visitors managed to tie the series at 2-2.

India call up Ishan Kishan to replace KL Rahul in WTC final squad

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: India named Ishan Kishan as a replacement for the injured KL Rahul for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia at The Oval in June.

Rahul, the captain of Lucknow Super Giants, suffered a thigh injury while fielding during the Indian Premier League match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday.

He had been sidelined for the rest of the IPL and the upcoming mega clash for Test supremacy.

Rahul's replacement Kishan is uncapped in red-ball format but has featured in 14 ODIs and 27 T20Is for India.

The inclusion of the left-hander gives India an extra wicket-keeping option apart from KS Bharat, who only made his debut earlier this year against Australia in the absence of Rishabh Pant.

Rahul's injury is not the only concern for India ahead of the WTC final since pacers Jaydev Unadkat and Umesh Yadav are also being closely monitored by the Indian medical staff.

The left-arm pacer Unadkat sustained a left shoulder injury in the nets during the IPL and is currently undergoing strength and rehab



sessions.

The decision on his availability for the WTC23 final will be taken later, according to a BCCI statement.

Similarly, Yadav also suffered a minor left hamstring injury while playing for KKR in the IPL and is currently being monitored by the medical team.

India have also named three reserve players for the final with Rituraj Gaikwad, the backup opener to Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, and Suryakumar Yadav, the middle-order batter, taking up two of those spots.

Mukesh Kumar, who has previously been with the Test squad, but is yet to make his debut for India, filled the third spot as a standby seamer.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (capt.), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, KS Bharat (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Ishan Kishan (wk)

Standby players: Rituraj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar, Suryakumar Yadav