



Ministry includes Qurbani's expenses in existing Hajj package: Senator Talha

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Sunday announced that the ministry would bear the expenses of Qurbani for the pilgrims performing Hajj on government scheme. (Details on Page 8)



Hina Khar meets foreign ministers, discusses ways to enhance ties

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Sunday met foreign ministers of European Union and Indo-Pacific region in Stockholm and discussed ways to enhance their bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. The meetings took place on the sidelines of European Union and Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum 2023 held in Stockholm. The minister met European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Solidarity

Karachi: Activists of Civil Society holding a rally in support of Pakistan Army at Press Club.



Photo: APP

Marriyum terms Imran mastermind behind attacks

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that attacks on sensitive installations, buildings, ambulances, children, schools, hospitals, mosques were planned by Imran Khan.

Terming Imran Khan's statement as a confession she said, "Imran did not have any information about (PTI workers) attacks, terrorism and arson just as he did not know about his marriage during 'Iddat' (period of waiting after a divorce) and being a father of Tyrian White.

"You and your planning are behind the desecration of the memorials of martyrs and Ghazis", she said in a statement issued here.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran Khan had repeatedly threatened that if he was arrested, attacks would be



done and for this elaborate planning was done.

Imran was the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks in Pakistan, she maintained.

The minister said that the Chief of Army Staff and the Director General Inter-Services Public Relations were repeatedly being named as they had refused to meet the "foreign agent" behind closed doors adding, she said that as no secret meeting in the President's House was being held, so the Army Chief and DG ISPR were being named by PTI repeatedly.

Imran pursuing politics of hatred: Rana Sanaullah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday said that Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan was pursuing politics of hatred and urged the public to minus him from politics by using power of the vote.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, he said the recent attacks on state installations were planned and strategized by PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

"The sites were identified, highlighted and training was given to people," he added. "This man is doing the politics of hatred. We knew about it but now it is also before the public."

Rana Sanaullah regretted that the pride of Pakistan, historic fighter jet of MM Alam was also set on fire and at the behest of Imran Khan, martyrs' memorials were torched. The minister said that PTI workers were trained how to make petrol bombs and use them.

He said, "We have recordings of their telephone calls, audios



and videos. We have identified who is responsible for arson in which areas. We will present all this evidence in the court."

The minister vowed that "the gangs trained by PTI chief Imran Khan" would never be forgiven. "They will be identified through CCTV cameras and will not be allowed to go unpunished."

He regretted that despite the request of the Chief Justice of Pakistan Imran had not condemned violence committed by the PTI workers across the country.

Sanaullah reiterated the stance

of PML-N, which took exception to the relief given to Imran Khan by the courts, by saying that no one else was given such relief in Pakistan's judicial and constitutional history.

He said Imran was given whatever he asked for and the Islamabad High Court had given blanket relief to him. The minister said that as per the court decision, Imran Khan cannot be arrested in any case including killing someone.

Rana Sanaullah that there was no solution other than banning PTI, adding, "but it is a

legal process that requires some time." "What you have done with the country, there is no solution but to ban your party" the minister said.

The minister said that documented evidences were available about corruption of Rs. 60 billion committed by Imran Khan. The minister said that Imran Khan and his wife were trustees of Al-Qadir Trust and both were accused of corruption of

Rs. 60 billion and they would have to explain their position in the case.

He further said that Rs. 60 billion were not deposited in the account of the Supreme Court rather it was deposited in the account of a property tycoon. Imran Khan was saying that no one should ask questions about his corruption, he remarked.

The minister said that from day one, it was the stance of political parties that Imran Khan was not a political leader but was a "fitna" He said, that Imran should be removed from politics through the power of the vote, otherwise, he would put the country in danger.

The minister said that reports

provided by security agencies regarding the protest planned by Pakistan Democratic Movement outside the Supreme Court on Monday were "very alarming". He said that there was a lot of anger in the people against the apex court because of specific decisions taken by "a three-member bench" in the past few days.

"We are afraid that if the protest is held in the Red Zone tomorrow, according to Islamabad police it will be difficult to control the protesters." "So, I and Ishaq Dar went to Maulana Fazlur Rehman and requested him to hold the protest outside the Red Zone and Maulana Fazlur Rehman replied that he will respond after consulting his colleagues. The minister expressed the hope that he would accept the government's request.

To a question, he said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan could be arrested again if investigating agency found his involvement in the recent protests.

Every time PTI took to the streets, the same 100-200 people were found to be involved in violent activities, he said adding, "So, this means that they have been trained to do this."

Bilawal declares May 14 as historic day for Pakistan, democracy

News Desk

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party and Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday declared May 14 as a historic day for Pakistan and democracy as well.

On this day the most popular political leader Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and Pakistan Muslim League leader Mian Nawaz Sharif signed the Charter of Democracy (CoD) in 2006.

Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that by following the Charter of Democracy, the prestige of the country has increased and democracy is strengthened.

Former President Zardari handed over all his powers as President to the Parliament through a constitutional amendment.

He said that the 18th constitutional amendment is a pact between the federation and all federating units. He said that only the parliament has the power to make the law and constitution. It is the duty of the rest of the institutions of the state to follow the laws passed by the parliament.



Pakistan's Democracy at 'All-Time Low', Says Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, in an exclusive interview with an international media outlet, has said that democracy in Pakistan is at "an all-time low". "Democracy is at an all-time low. The only hope we have is the judiciary," said PTI chief Imran Khan while speaking with Sky News on Sunday.

He also said that the coalition government was "petrified of elections" and feared being "wiped out" by his party at the polls.

"So they have decided that the only way they will allow elections is if I am inside jail or killed. There have been two attempts on me," he said, adding that his house was also raided while he was away.

The former prime minister also condemned "all violence" when asked about alleged violence by protesters following his arrest from the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC)



on May 9.

Addressing the party workers and supporters on Friday, the former prime minister has urged Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan to launch an investigation into May 9 violence, emerged following his arrest in Al-Qadir Trust case.

The PTI chief urged them to come out of their homes and gather at a spot in their neighbourhood from 5:30pm to 6:30pm tomorrow (Sunday) with a placard inscribed with "Save Constitution, save country".

The PTI chief noted that the police

stopped him for leaving the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises despite the court granted bail in multiple cases. "The police wanted to arrest me under MPO [Maintenance of Public Order] outside the courtroom," he added.

During his address, the PTI chairman maintained that his supporters had always maintained peacefulness during their 27-year struggle. He said he could never forget May 25 when the state unleashed violence on PTI supporters and activists.

Arrest episode PTI Chairman Imran Khan was arrested by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the Al-Qadir Trust case on Tuesday.

The PTI chief was taken into custody by Rangers personnel, who were acting on the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) warrant, from the premises of Islamabad High Court where the former premier had gone to seek bail in multiple cases registered against him.

Turkey Decides Erdogan's Future in Knife-Edge Vote



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Turkey votes Sunday in a momentous election that could extend President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 20-year grip on power or put the mostly Muslim nation on a more secular course.

The presidential and parliamentary ballot has turned into a referendum on Turkey's longest-serving leader and his Islamic-rooted party.

It is also the toughest of more than a dozen that Erdogan has confronted — one that polls suggest he might lose.

The 69-year-old has steered the nation of 85 million through one of its most transformative and divisive eras in the post-Ottoman state's 100-year history.

Turkey has grown into a military and geopolitical heavyweight that plays roles in conflicts stretching from Syria to Ukraine.

The NATO member's footprint in both Europe and the Middle East makes the election's outcome as critical for Washington and Brussels as it is for Damascus and Moscow.

But Erdogan's first decade of economic revival and warming relations with Europe was followed by a second one filled with social and political turmoil.

He responded to a failed 2016 coup attempt with sweeping purges that sent chills through Turkish society and made him an increasingly uncomfortable partner for the West.

The emergence of Kemal Kilicdaroglu and his six-party alliance — a group that forms the type of broad-based coalition that Erdogan excelled at forging throughout his career — gives foreign allies and Turkish voters a clear alternative.

Polls suggest the 74-year-old secular opposition leader is within touching distance of breaking the 50-percent threshold needed to win in the first round.

A runoff on May 28 could give Erdogan time to regroup and reframe the debate.

Turkish elections

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan casts his vote for presidential and parliamentary elections, in Istanbul, Türkiye, on Sunday.



President directs FOSPAH to probe into alleged workplace harassment in ICT Police

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH) to conduct an inquiry into the matter of alleged harassment of a female employee by another employee of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police and conclude the proceedings within 90 days. While referring the matter of harassment at workplace to FOSPAH for inquiry, the President said that right to fair trial was the inalienable fundamental right of every citizen as enshrined in the Constitution, which envisaged that not only the rights of the complainant but also the rights of the accused were to be protected.

He added that right to fair trial entailed that each party could be sure that the process would be transparent and the authority would refrain from abusing its powers. He stated that since mistrust had been shown by the accused upon Departmental Inquiry Committee (DIC), therefore, it was appropriate to entrust the inquiry proceedings to FOSPAH to meet the ends of justice. The President gave these directions while deciding upon the representations filed by the woman complainant and the accused against the order of FOSPAH to remit the case to ICT Police through IG Police Islamabad for a denovo inquiry into the matter and setting aside the order of DIC to suspend the accused and allowing him to resume his normal duties.



As per details, a woman employee (the complainant) of the ICT Police had filed a harassment complaint before the departmental hierarchy of the ICT Police against a male employee (the accused) alleging workplace harassment. The matter was referred to DIC which recommended that the accused may be placed under suspension and charge sheet along with the

statement of allegations be issued for conducting regular inquiry against him. The accused filed a representation with FOSPAH which passed the order for denovo inquiry. Both the parties, then, filed separate representations with the President.

The President in his decision observed that the allegations of workplace harassment had yet to be probed into as

the Ombudsman had directed the department to conduct regular inquiry, however, the counsel of the accused had expressed apprehension that remitting the matter again to DIC was not fair as there was a likelihood of injustice to the accused as he was a victim of departmental/administrative bias which had fabricated the complaint against him. The President said that since both the complainant and the accused were dissatisfied and the accused had shown mistrust upon the Departmental Inquiry Committee (DIC) of the ICT Police, therefore, the orders of FOSPAH were being set aside in the instant case and it was directed to conduct the inquiry of its own and conclude the matter within the statutory period of 90 days.

Coalition Govt requests PDM chief to change protest location

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah met Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday to request that the PDM should not hold a protest outside the Supreme Court.

The meeting took place amidst the current political unrest in Pakistan and the PDM's planned protest outside the Supreme Court. Ishaq Dar and Rana Sanaullah urged Maulana Fazlur Rehman to reconsider the protest location and hold protest at D-chowk.



Meanwhile, Mr Sanaullah also addressed a press conference on Sunday evening and said that he had requested the PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to change the location of protest due to security

concerns adding that reports presented to him were 'alarming' while hoping that he was expecting a positive response.

He added the people were angry and if protests occurred in red zone, then it would be

difficult to control the people. Meanwhile, PDM chief was yet to reach a decision.

Earlier, PDM chief announced that they would continue sit-in outside the Supreme Court of Pakistan until the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Ata Bandial resigns from his office.

The PDM chief made the announcement after an emergency meeting of the PDM, attended by various political leaders including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and PML-N chief organizer Maryam Nawaz.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Mr Rehman criticised the top court for granting bail to Mr Khan in all cases after May 9, and for allegedly giving him preferential treatment. He accused the court of protecting the crime instead of eliminating it and protecting the criminal (Imran Khan).

He also criticized the court for allegedly exceeding its constitutional and legal authority by ordering authorities to refrain from arresting Mr Khan even in unknown cases. He lamented that similar concessions were not given to Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, or Faryal Talpur.

Rioters damaged 23 premises, burnt 108 vehicles: Mohsin Naqvi

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab's caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi while delineating losses in protests Sunday said that 108 vehicles were gutted in the province.

"In Lahore, police vehicles, 12 buses, motorbikes, six Wasa vehicles, eight Rescue 1122 vehicles and a car in a car showroom were set on fire," Naqvi said. "Protesters damaged 23 buildings including Corps Commander's house in Lahore," he said.

Provincial chief minister said that military installations and government properties were attacked under a plan.



"Around 34 attackers were involved in attack on Jinnah House Lahore," he added.

The rioters and arsonists burnt safety cameras on May 09 and two metro stations in Lahore, he said. "Each and every attacker is being pointed

out and all will be brought to justice," he said.

"Around six billion losses have been estimated in rioting incidents so far," CM Naqvi said.

"In Gujranwala an Army check post and a private build-

ing was gutted, while in Multan buses and police coasters were burnt," he said.

"There were no ordinary people in Mianwali, most of them were carrying arms," chief minister said. "The attackers of Mianwali Base wanted to burn aircrafts at the installation," he said.

"There are pictures and video of each person, and everyone being followed," Punjab CM said. "We won't arrest a person wrongly despite any pressure," he said. "Bringing attackers to justice will be our priority," he said.

"These were the targets, which Tehreek-e-Taliban wanted to attack," chief minister said.

First int'l seminar on China-Pakistan science, technology cooperation held in Beijing

News Desk

BELJING: The first international seminar on "China-Pakistan Science and Technology Enterprises Cooperation" was held in the recently established China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Center, Beijing.

The seminar, participated by more than 30 Science and Technology organizations, was co-hosted by Zhongguancun, the Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA) and the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

While introducing the development of Zhongguancun Science and

Technology Park, Lu Yinming shared the achievements of the park.

He informed that in 20 years of development, the park has gathered nearly 20,000 high-tech enterprises represented by Lenovo and Baidu, forming six advantageous industrial clusters such as the next-generation Internet, mobile Internet and a new generation of mobile communications, satellite applications, biology and health, energy conservation and environmental protection, rail transit, and four potential industrial clusters such as integrated circuits, new materials, high-end equipment and general aviation, new energy and new energy vehicles, and high-end develop-

ment of modern service industries etc.

While introducing the construction of the China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Center, the President of ZBRA, Zhang Xiaodong shared that the objectives of the Center viz., to build a bridge between China-Pakistan youth innovation and entrepreneurship; to open up China-Pakistan science and technology cooperation channels; to build a technology transfer cooperation platform; to provide scientific and technological support for China-Pakistan production capacity cooperation, and to strengthen the foundation for China-Pakistan scientific and technological exchanges.

Ministry includes Qurbani's expenses in existing Hajj package: Senator Talha



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Sunday announced that the ministry would bear the expenses of Qurbani for the pilgrims performing Hajj on government scheme.

Addressing a press conference accompanied with Secretary Religious Affairs Dr. Aftab Akbar Durrani here in the Ministry, he said Qurbani had been included in the same package as the decision was made to provide a sigh of relief to the intending pilgrims performing the most expensive Hajj of the history.

The minister informed that the pilgrims performing Hajj on government scheme would be provided a coupon of Qurbani by the Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro before the start of Hajj days in Saudi Arabia without charging any extra money.

It is worth mentioning here that earlier, the expenses of Qurbani were not included in the exiting Hajj pack-

age, in fact, the ministry had some savings that were being used for pilgrims' ease and comforts.

Putting a question mark on the Hajj expenses of 2019, he said after passing through a period of four years, the ministry was hiring buildings and airlines services on a low cost despite inflation in the international market adding that he had asked the ministry to prepare a comparative study of last a couple of years Hajj expenses and promised to make it public.

Highlighting the main factors of increase in Hajj expense, the minister said due to surge in dollars price and depreciation in Pakistan's rupee, the Hajj expenses were risen in the country.

Regarding mandatory Hajj training, he mentioned that it was compulsory for all intending pilgrims but those who could not attend it due to some serious issues, no hurdle would be placed on their way to pilgrimage.

Senator Talha said as many as 26,000 pilgrims would take benefits of 'Road to Makkah' project as their immigration process would be completed at the Islamabad International Airport.

He was of the view that this facility should be at other airports of the country like Lahore, Karachi and Multan but due to time constraints, the radius of this project could not be expanded at these airports.

Hina Khar meets foreign ministers, discusses ways to enhance ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Sunday met foreign ministers of European Union and Indo-Pacific region in Stockholm and discussed ways to enhance their bilateral cooperation with Pakistan.

The meetings took place on the sidelines of European Union and Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum 2023 held in Stockholm.

The minister met European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell. They discussed further deepening of Pakistan's multidimensional relations with the EU. The minister said that GSP+ should continue as an important tool for sustainable development.

She also held discussions with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates Noura Alkaabi.

She appreciated valuable bilateral relations and historic bonds existing between Pakistan and UAE and discussed ways to enhance bilateral engagement and multilateral cooperation in various fields including trade, investment, aviation, higher education and people to people contacts.

She also met United States State Department Counselor Derek Chollet and discussed bilateral and regional issues and vowed to continue multifaceted bilateral dialogue including on trade, investment, energy, climate change and health.

The minister also held parleys with

Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Vijavat Isarabhakdi and they exchanged views on bilateral relations including trade, investment, culture, tourism and Pakistan's continued cooperation with ASEAN.

Hina also met Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom. She highlighted need to enhance bilateral economic cooperation in trade, investment, renewable energy,



sustainable development and information technology, especially in small and medium enterprises sectors. She also emphasised the importance of facilitating Pakistani students who wish to study in Swedish universities.

She also interacted with British Minister of State for Commonwealth Lord Tariq Ahmed and discussed bilateral and regional issues. They agreed to continue working together to further strengthen Pakistan-UK relations.

To reduce the damages brought on by natural disasters, we must collaborate: Dr. Niamat

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: According to the details, in collaboration between the Tameer-e-Khalq Foundation & District Administration Dera Ismail Khan, a one-day "Project Launching Event" of the project "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation project," was arranged. The project "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation," has been started in two Villages councils of Daraban Tehsil, DI Khan, financed by International Organisation for Migration, (IOM). Men and women from diverse walks of life and thought participated in the event, along with the heads of numerous district-level government departments, social workers, Ex-local body representatives, NGOs, INGOs, community elders, and a significant amount of activists.

According to the provincial coordinator Dr. Niamat Ali, the purpose of the project's Launching Event was to

inform various stakeholders about the newly launched project. The goals and objectives of the project, as well as its methodology and key activities, were fully explained to the participants of the event by Dr. Niamat. Dr. Niamat Ali added that it's crucial for the local population to be informed of potential risks and disasters in order to manage them and reduce the likelihood of human casualties as well as financial risks and losses from floods and other natural disasters. He further said that school based Disaster Risk Reduction activities will be carried out also, to reduce and manage the disasters and its risks at school's level.

Muhammad Naeem Mehsud, the project manager for disaster risk reduction, welcomed participants and thanked them for coming to the opening ceremony. According to Muhammad Naeem Mehsud, the project would work with the residents of the two village councils of Daraban with the assistance of the district adminis-



tration to improve the target villagers' awareness and capacity in coping with floods and their damages. He gave a brief overview of the key project activities to date.

Mr. Ahad Yusuf, Additional Deputy Commissioner Relief Dera Ismail Khan, said that Dera Ismail Khan is an agricultural district and the junction

point of three provinces and the floods in August last year had caused havoc in every aspect of life. Ahad Yusuf said that this project will sensitize the local people to deal with the coming natural calamities, adding that the district administration will self-monitor the training process of disaster committees at the village level so that The training

objectives of disaster committees can be achieved and after the training process is over, people can deal with any flood disaster in an organized manner.

District Health Officer Dr. Mehmood Jan Bettani stated that in addition to the government's efforts, the NGOs and INGOs' efforts in the previous year's flood were praiseworthy. He emphasized that the FDMA predicts significantly more hazardous floods this year than were experienced last year, so we need to organise and prepare for the upcoming floods.

Zahid Khattak from TKF, said that this project will form village level male and female committees in the two union councils of Tehsil Draban, namely Gundi Umar Khan and Draban, and similarly two committees will be formed at the village council level also. Training workshops will be organized for the members of the DRR committees, and in collaboration with local communities, community action plans will be prepared at the village level to

deal with the risks of floods and, which will be presented to the relevant district and provincial government bodies.

Mr. Faseeh Abbasi, Assistant Commissioner Rud Kuhi, complimented the locals' assistance to the government in the flood relief efforts as well as their participation in the flood relief efforts from the previous year. He gave the audience the assurance that the district government would keep helping flood victims in whatever way it could.

In his closing remarks for the programme, Mr. Nadir Nazar, Assistant Commissioner Draban, emphasized the importance of local people's active participation in achieving the project's goals of raising awareness, enhancing village level capacity, and developing community plans to reduce and manage the risk of disasters.

On the multimedia screen, videos in the Urdu language were played for the audience in order to better orient them about climate change and calamities

Appreciation

Islamabad: Nighat Wadood SVP, WW,PPP was presented Shield by the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in recognition of her services for society and humanity. She worked hard and enthusiastically to help people recover from mental traumas such as depression, anxiety, addiction and other mental disorders.



35 Kanal State Land Worth Rs.64 Million Retrieved On Orders of Ombudsman Punjab

News Desk

LAHORE: The administrations of Kasur, Toba Tek Singh, Mianwali, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Jhang, Mandi Bahauddin, and Faisalabad districts have successfully reclaimed over 35 kanals of state lands within their jurisdictions following the intervention of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab. These lands hold a combined market value of Rs.6,38,56,578.

According to the spokesman, the ombudsman's office acted upon applications seeking the removal of encroachments and the recovery of government lands from occupiers in these districts.

In another development, Punjab Benevolent Fund Board, under the direction of the ombudsman's office, awarded educational scholarships worth Rs.1,72,000 to six applicants. Mayo Hospital Lahore, in compliance with the provincial ombudsman's order, reimbursed Yasser Taj a total of Rs.4,66,94,985. Additionally, DHQ Hospital Toba Tek Singh paid Gohar Ali Rs.6,82,549 for laboratory supplies, and the Public Health Engineering Department Nankana Sahib returned a security deposit of Rs.3,04,12,085 to another complainant, Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor, the spokesman reported.

Furthermore, the ombudsman's office played an important role in addressing complaints from individuals in various districts, including Lahore, who sought relief from government departments. As a result, these complainants have received a cumulative financial relief of Rs.2,83,50,081, ensuring their rights were upheld.

The plaintiffs have expressed their gratitude to the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab for safeguarding their legal rights.

Rally held in Bajaur district for solidarity with Pak Army



Adam Khan Wazir

BAJAUR: Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry and tribal elders held a rally in favor of Pakistan Army in Bajaur tribal district. A large number of tribal elders, business community and people participated in the rally. The participants raised slogans in favor of Pakistan Army. Tributes were paid to the officers and soldiers of Pak Army on this occasion. While addressing the rally, the speakers said that they strongly condemn the defamation of the Pakistan Army by a specific political party and its workers in their political rhetoric. During the protest, the workers of the political party using derogatory words about the martyrs of Pakistan Army and breaking and mocking the statues made by them is intolerable. They said that Pakistan Army is the need of our country. The entire nation should respect Pakistan's forces from the bottom of their hearts. They said that some politicians are criticizing the Pakistan Army for their political purposes. These elements cannot be in favor of Pakistan.

We know that these political parties are following the agenda of anti-national elements to please their foreign masters. They said that the young generation should wake up and discourage such elements.

Mother of Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan passed away

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: On the mother's death of Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan Central Deputy Secretary General of Pakistan Ulema Council, significant personalities condoled over it.

Here the Lawyers, Journalists, Social, Political & especially the religious figures paid Condolences. On the arrival of these important personalities. Allama Tahir said that I thank all the important personalities and those who wish to share in my moments of sadness & grief. And at the hour of this shock, I pray for the death of my mother, I pray to Allah Almighty to forgive my parents and the parents of all Muslims.

Among the personalities who came to pay their condolences, Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Maulana Yusuf Anwar, Pir Faiz Rasool, Qari Hanif Bhatti, Mufti Nasrullah Aziz, Malik Nawazbformer MPA, Khayal Ahmed Kastro former Punjab Minister, Khawaja Rizwan. Leader PML-N Haji Akram Ansari Former Federal Minister Sheikh Khurram Shehzad, Former MNA Mian Abdul Manan, Former Minister, Aslam Bhli, Trade leader Haji Abid, Trade leader Rana Habib, Chief Editor Express News Khawar Chief Punjab Bol News, Ghulam Dastgir Bol News Faisalabad, Abdul Majid Senior Photojournalist, Allah Rakha Advocate High Court, Khawaja Islam Former MPA, Waheed Rame trade leader Sheikh Ejaz, former MPA, besides them, Hussain Senior Officer, Deputy Commissioner, Chaudhry Abbas Rasool Gujjar, and other important political, social and religious figures were also present there.

Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said that sharing in someone's suffering is the spirit of humanity and Islam teaches tolerance towards everyone, that is why the main focus of the development and prosperity of the country and the nation is peace and justice & its timely delivery is the backbone of a nation.

He further said that if we want to emerge as a strong nation in the world, then we have to adopt the golden principles of Islam and nations that do not learn from history cannot be successful.

Turkish Airlines to order 600 new planes in industry record

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: National flag carrier Turkish Airlines is set to order a total of 600 new aircraft in June, THY Chairperson Ahmet Bolat said Thursday, with deliveries to be spread over 10 years.

Such an order, if confirmed, would be the largest in the industry's history by a single airline, eclipsing a record order by Air India for 470 Airbus and Boeing planes in December.

The surprise announcement spells what marks the fourth mega-deal in a few months. From Air India to Ireland's Ryanair and a new national airline in Saudi Arabia, a handful of carriers have placed firm or provisional orders for 700 jets.

Turkish Airlines' fleet consisted of some 414 aircraft as of the end-April, a figure that will rise to 425 by the end of this year, Bolat said, adding that the fleet will increase to 810 planes by 2033.

He suggested that the company would announce the orders during the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) annual summit, a gathering of some 280 airlines, which will be held in Istanbul on June 4-6.

CTD Operation TTP and Daish 54 Terrorists Arrested in Punjab

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested 4 alleged terrorists of banned outfits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 25 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 25 suspected persons were interrogated and 4

alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. The arrested terrorists include Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Daesh members Salman, Malik Israr, Sher Zaman, Abdul Khaliq and Sher Muhammad, he added.

The spokesman said that explosives 520 grams, one IED bomb, 2 rocket shells, 7 booster shells RPG, 4 detonators, safety fuse wire 6 feet, 2 prima cards, one pistol, 6 bullets, 26 pamphlets, 30 stickers, Mobile phone

and 24340 rupees in cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists.

He said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations and other religious places. The police have registered 4 cases against the arrested alleged terrorists in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Sahiwal, DG Khan and Gujranwala and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Muhammad Arif son of Nazir Ahmed (CNIC#37101-6803851-5) Resident of House No. 171-B Street No. Dar-ul-Islam Colony Attock allottee of residential house No. 23-D Block "B" Lane "C" Area Development Scheme Attock have appointed General Power Attorney to Mr. Abid Pervaiz son of Fazal Dal (CNIC#37101-0990060-1) Resident of Mohallah Jamia Masjid Sayedan, Basaal Tehsil Jand District Attock vide registered deed No. 104/4 dated 08/05/2023 from Sub Registrar Attock.

Now General Power Attorney Mr. Abid Pervaiz son of Fazal Dal (CNIC#37101-0990060-1) wish to transfer to 3rd party.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (Gulzar-e-Quaid) Sub Region Rawalpindi

Pakistan is suffering most serious crisis in History, says Allama Iqtadar Naqvi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Provincial President of Majlis Wahdat Muslim (MWM) Allama Iqtadar Hussain Naqvi, President Majlis Ulema Shia Allama Qazi Nader Alvi, Secretary Political Science Wasim Zaidi, Secretary Organization Dilawar Zaidi, Jawad Mustafa, Atif Hussain while talking to journalists at Multan Press Club Multan said that The state policy is the most sacred document in the constitution. And there are clear orders in the Constitution of Pakistan to end the tension of institutions. No institution is above the constitution. Every institution is obliged to live within its limits. In the same way, he further said that the person of any institution is not exempted from any nature and title and no person is authorized to interfere in the affairs

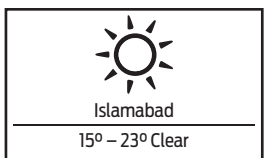


of any institution.

And Pakistan is the fortress of Islam. However, it is the task of the people's government to make Pakistan follow the ideology of Islamic Republic. Those who are bent on opening the door to dictatorship under the name of military democracy, such people are suffering from a fever. Further, he also said that the door to sedition and riots opens due to the discouragement of the consti-

tution, which can be clearly observed in the current situation that if public elections were held in the context of the constitution, this chaos would not have happened in Pakistan. In order to remedy sedition and riots, democratic elections are permissible in Shariah as well as politically. On this occasion, MWM leaders said that Majlis Wahdat Muslims believe in constitutional supremacy in Pakistan.

The majority of people are in favor of the election at this time and this is the best for Pakistan. Finally, the central leaders of Majlis Wahdat Muslim South Punjab said on the most important point, which was related to the tragedy of Trimengal School. It is the hypocrisy of the state institutions not to arrest the murderers and their facilitators even after more than a few days have passed. While our institutions are the best trained forces in the world and there is no doubt about their technical and military skills. Despite this, the killers are roaming free and the heirs of the victims have no peace. The government of Pakistan should ensure measures in this regard, otherwise we do not face any difficulties in defending ourselves and taking revenge of our martyrs.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:32 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 4:57 pm
Maghrib 7:01 pm
Isha 8:37 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Real estate sector in need of incentives: realtors' Association after FBR meeting

Asad Hashmi

ISLAMABAD: It is not possible to bring economic stability by decisions made under the pressure of IMF. The government has to involve the relevant representative business organizations in the consultation process. The real estate sector has been under constant pressure for the past few years but no incentives have been introduced in response. Realtors played a key role in getting out of FATAF's gray list. These views were expressed by Adil Nawaz Bhatti, General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) while addressing the meeting.

Secretary Reza said that when the country was in need, realtors willingly played their part out of patriotism and accepted all the demands of the FBR. Any additional tax on real estate agents and real estate sector in the upcoming budget will see a strong reaction from realtors. This time the realtors will not sit still. Looking forward to the steps taken by the government to revive the real estate sector. The abolition of illegal and unfair taxes like 7E by the Lahore High Court is welcome, now there is a need to introduce a system of freehold properties in Pakistan. Freehold properties will increase foreign investment in the country.

A comprehensive legislative framework for indigenous digital culture stressed in Faculty of Education's Conference

ABC

ISLAMABAD:- Participants of a two day International conference on "transition of traditional universities to online mode" organized by Directorate of Distance Learning Faculty of Education of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) have called for developing a comprehensive legislative framework for indigenous digital culture. They opined that teachers should be fully equipped with the digital skills to create collaborative learning environment in online distance learning mod of education.

In this conference that was held here at the Faisal Masjid Campus, the participants recommended that using the best of traditional and online instruction to develop a better future for higher education, four level competencies are important for media literacy including media knowledge, media analysis, media criticism and media creation.

In the conference, participants addressed the emerging issues and chal-

lenges in the distance education and e-learning. Renowned national and international academicians and researchers expressed views on the ultimate possibilities and guidelines for the maximum role of distance education and e-learning in the national development.

More than 300 researchers, keynote speakers, educationists, experts are participating and it will witness around 70 papers from the presenters hailing from Austria, USA, Lebanon and Pakistan who will participate in conference physically and through online mode.

Addressing the concluding ceremony as Chief Guest, Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) said that after the pandemic, the education has a new landscape and online teaching and learning has emerged as the leading mode of learning. He said there are challenges in the country when we talk about ODL that can be catered and it can pave the way towards easy and quality education.

The concluding ceremony of the confer-



ence was also attended by Acting President, Professor Dr Nabi Bux Jumani.

Professor Dr. Samina Malik, Vice President Female Campus said in her address that education makes the fate of nations, the transition in education because of technology has changed the landscape of learning.

in his vote of thanks hailed the cooperation of the collaborators and thanked for active participation of national and international speakers and participants. Earlier, Dr. Fouzia Ajmal, focal person presented the report and recommendation of the conference. She told that more than 30 universities are participated in this conference through participants and speakers.

The International speakers included Prof. Dr. Thomas Alfred Bauer (University of Vienna, Austria), Prof. Dr. Victoria S. Brown Professor of Teaching and Learning Florida Atlantic University USA, Prof. Maha R. Sourani (Lebanese University Lebanon) and Ms Ramya Srinivasan (Customer Success Director Coursera) joined virtually. The national keynote speakers included Prof. Dr. Shoaib A Khan National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Tamim Ahmad Khan Bahria University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Tanveer Afzal (Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad) and Prof. Dr. Asmat Ullah Khan Dean Faculty of Computing/Director DDL IIUI.

Dangers

MUZAFFARABAD: People are using cable car to cross the river of Allama Iqbal Bridge, which may cause any incident any time and needs the attention for concerned authorities at Chehla Bandi.



Photo: Online

Imran Khan coward who fears jail for his own sake: Azad Kashmir lawmaker

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD :Member Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that Imran Khan is a coward who is scared by the name of jail. A person who himself cannot stay in jail for a day is destroying the lives of other people's children. He wants innocent and ignorant people to clash with the Pakistan Army for his nefarious purposes.



Imran Khan's conspiracy has failed. He expressed these views yesterday while talking to various delegations. He said that Pakistan is currently suffering from internal and external conspiracies and Imran Khan is the mastermind of these anti-Pakistan forces who are trying to fulfill the nefarious objectives of anti-Pakistan forces. Working for The patriotic people will defeat all these conspiracies together with the forces of Pakistan. A country with so much lust for power should be staked, no Pakistani can do this, only the agents of the enemy country can do it.

Mothers most precious, blessed gift from Allah: AJK PM

Bureau Report

MIRPUR (AJK): Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq has said "mother is the most beautiful and precious gift Allah Almighty bestowed on us".

In his message issued on Sunday, to mark International Mother's Day, the PM said that mothers are the most precious and a cherished gift from nature. He said that nothing can match up to mothers' undying and unconditional love in this universe. Referring to the saying of the Prophet (PBUH), the PM said, "paradise lies under the feet of a mother".

"In the history of mankind, it has been observed that there is no relationship as durable, strong, and long-lasting as that of a mother", the PM noted. On this occasion, the PM gave credit to his mother for his achievements and said, "Whatever I have achieved in my life is because of the prayers of my mother". "The parent-child relationship is such that it can't be described in words", the PM further said.

Pakistan's valiant forces are guarantor of integrity of beloved country: Sarfraz Mughal

City Desk



ISLAMABAD : The spirit of patriotism of the Pakistani forces is the guarantor of the integrity of the beloved country. The Pakistani forces not only pay tribute to the service of Pakistan and the spirit of martyrdom for Pakistan, but are also proud of it. In his speech, while expressing the current state of emergency and economy of the country, he said that Jinnah House, military installations, vandalism and burning of public and private properties caused a blow to the country's prestige at the international level, national damage was done and it is against the country's interest, while Pakistan While appreciating the defense and service duties of the forces in a very efficient manner, he said that whether it is the protection of the borders or the elimination of terrorists, floods, earthquakes, epidemics, corona or internal and external threats, the services should be regarded as worship with full capacity.

Gymnast Faisal Fayyaz honored with Innovative Luminary Award in World Education Summit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Innovative Luminary Award is presented to Faisal Fayyaz in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the fields of Gymnastics, Computer Science, Information Technology, Project Management, Quality Management, and Physical Education & Sports Sciences.

One more golden crown feather on the profile of Gymnast Faisal Fayyaz is that he has been selected as an International Judge of Embedded Systems/Computer Science in the world mega events of the science world like the International Science and Engineering Fair 2023, Dallas, Texas, USA & Genius Olympiad, New York, USA. Educacio World & EdIndia also awarded Asia Star Rating Award 2023 to Gymnast Faisal Fayyaz in Asian Education Summit 2023. Gymnast Faisal Fayyaz also organized 1st International Virtual SDG Conference 2023 with the collaboration of Allied Health Sciences, Superior University,



21st digiskillz, Pakistan Computer Society, Social Entrepreneurship Program and Neuron Technologies.

Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Suderburg, Germany also invited Gymnast Faisal Fayyaz as a keynote Speaker for sharing knowledge and views on theme "Innovation and Latest Trends of Business Opportunities" in the international digital computer science conference and 7th Workshop on Modern Management, Digitalization, Sustainability & Social Science.

International Internship University in

2023 has awarded Honorary Doctorate Award in Computer Science on 25th December 2022 and Honorary Doctorate Award in Sports Sciences on 9th April, 2023 to Faisal Fayyaz who is Pakistani Computer Science researcher, Project Manager Professional, Sports Science Scholar, global educator, International Speaker, Renowned Gymnast, International Olympic Certified Gymnastics coach and sports administrator in International India Office, New Delhi, India.

Faisal has demonstrated exceptional dedication to research, technology, and health improvement, bringing groundbreaking insights to the global stage through his well-received research presentation in ISEF Symposium at World Congress Center, Atlanta, USA 2022. As an influential National Youth leader, Faisal has inspired and motivated individuals in Pakistan and beyond with his exemplary work in empowering young minds, evident through his numerous prestigious global awards.

Speakers urge a sustainable development strategy for Neelum valley

Bureau Report

ATHMUQAM (AJK): Speakers at a seminar urged the authorities to take stringent measures for the protection of natural resources and forests of the Neelum valley, the largest hub of biological diversity. They said the valley's forests are 48 percent of the total AJK state owned forests. They are under threat in the absence of needful legislation and flawed implementation of available legislation.

The speakers suggested the government to curb timber mafia to protect the Neelum Valley forests, provide alternate fuel and environmental building materials for the constructions. They said an integrated solid waste manage-

ment system will protect the clean and green nature of the valley.

The seminar was organized by the Forests Protection Council and Community Development Group of the Neelum Valley here Sunday in connection with the 18th annual celebrations entitled "Jashane-Neelum". The collaborating partners were the local municipal committee, forest department and Wapda.

A well-known environmentalist, development strategist and founder of globally recognized Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed and Mayor Neelum Valley Syed Tajammul Hussain Shah were the guests of honour on the occasion. Other speakers included development expert Aftab Hussain

Bokhari, former AJK minister Mufti Mansur ur Rehman, Sardar Muhammad Akram, Jalaluddin Akbar, former Additional Chief Secretary Farhat Ali Mir, Conservator Forest Mir Naseer and Khawaja Lashkar Azad.

Speaking on the occasion environmentalist and founder Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed said: Neelum valley is a largest hub of natural resources, water, biodiversity, minerals and gemstones whereas the tourism potential is immense too. With the increasing trend of commercialization and tourism in the valley, the natural resources will be at stake posing several threats. Therefore, the district stakeholders shall come forward to think

about the conservation of the Neelum valley. He urged the need for an inclusive sustainable development strategy that should be developed through a participatory consultative process.

Munir Ahmed urged the AJK government to allocate special funds and employ local human resources for the sustainable tourism business, conservation, protection and management of forests and other natural resources.

Mayor Syed Tajammul Hussain urged the communities to take a proactive approach in protection and conservation of the natural resources of the valley. He said the development partners' help will play a key role in building the capacity of the newly elected



members of the local administration, and support the community-based governance models. Conservator Forests Mir Naseer

said a joint platform of all stakeholders shall make decisions for the future development, conservation and management of the forests that are a hub of largest species and natural resources.

Founder of the Neelum district Mufti Mansur ur Rehman asked for a community-government liaison forum for an inclusive development. We need to promote sustainable and environment-friendly business mechanisms.

Sardar Muhammad Akram highlighted that the entire valley has only eleven check posts while the staff is too less to monitor the huge area of the forests. The elite-mafia nexus is also a big threat for the communities, forests and the forest guards.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Deceptive frauds through the ages

Azam Tariq Kohistani

Sometimes, and more often than not, I must say, your opinions are manipulated by countless tricks. Vice, lies, and deceit are so intricately wrapped in layers upon layers that you may believe it to be true, but you are unaware of the many underlying layers. The final layer is a hollow, deceitful thing. Interestingly, this has been happening since the beginning of time. However, as human civilization progressed, so did the sophistication of these deceptions. In these matters, humans have made excellent use of the blessing of language given by Allah.

If I were to flip the pages of human history and take you to the valley of Mecca, perhaps I could explain this matter to you more clearly. Due to the beauty of language and expression, the Arabs used to hold gatherings, and poetry was considered the most excellent means of expression. In this art, they seemed to have achieved perfection, and when the claim of prophethood was made, they used their eloquence and rhetoric to oppose it. A propaganda game was played in such a way that if the Prophet of Mercy had not been a prophet and only a reformer, this propaganda would have affected him in the most severe manner. The invitation and its acceptance remained in a state of flux, and this swing never made this movement international, but remained limited to a region, or perhaps it didn't even remain so.

As Allah had to take the work from

His last Prophet which had to continue until the end, the tactics of propaganda, deceit, hypocrisy, and trickery did not work in the way of this movement. However, falsehood and deceit continued to spread and blossom with the power of language and expression. During this period, the journey from caliphate to monarchy... from the era of Banu Umayya and Banu Abbas to the era of the two sheikhs, and even to the Mughal emperors in India, everyone used the power of language and expression to acquire power, authority, and wealth. In the name of knowledge and virtue, great names have made the sea of knowledge flow to perpetuate the rule of rulers.

Take a look at today's politics and see what game is being played with such cunning. If we examine the last five years in Pakistan, we will be amazed by the statistics. The centuries-old game of lies and deceit will be evident before you. For the acquisition of power, through language and propaganda, statements were made that conveyed the message that in this country, one particular party is honest and all the other parties are thieves and robbers [this is partly true]. While our special honest party is abundant in material resources through human means. This honest party has people like Aristotle and Socrates who, upon assuming power, will eradicate all the ills of this country. They will heal the wounds and establish a system of justice by stopping the rampant injustice prevailing in the country. Here you can see how the power of expression has been used so beautifully that when an ordinary person listens to their speech,

they think that this is the real sorrow of the nation and these are the people who will change our 'rotten' system.

But... who has been able to escape this centuries-old game of lies and deceit that has been going on? Only a few educated and wise people have been able to escape the trap here. The spectacle is such that not only ordinary people but countless wise people have also been influenced by their deception, and only these wise people have informed others that these are the real saviors of the nation.

The previous government's rule was characterized by economic devastation and destruction, from which people began to count two and two. From the rule of law to the administrative issues of alleyways, everything seemed to be in disarray. It appears that the only problem in this country is a shortage of funds, otherwise all other issues have been resolved, or perhaps they never existed in the first place. The result of this was that the country's administrative foundations began to weaken. The threads of justice were scattered in such a way that powerful institutions made it their toy and behaved as they wished, without anyone asking questions. The Sahiwal incident is a prime example of this, in which an innocent and unarmed family was ruthlessly killed, injustice upon injustice, until two innocent children were left to witness the annihilation of their family. This cycle of injustice did not stop. When the powerful classes played this game with the law, the story of murder and looting began to be told in every street of this country. An unending series of rape began. Leave aside young women... girls from two and a half years

to ten years old became the target of sexual abuse for a decade and a half. In the length and breadth of this country, this series appears to be operating in an organized manner. In this era of injustice and tyranny, only one word will be heard from you: the country's economy.

Language is being used today as it was used centuries ago. Evil pushes goodness back with its lies and deception, presenting itself as good. This confuses people so that they do not see evil as bad. Thus, falsehood is presented as truth and accepted as such. But here is the problem: no matter how much falsehood is polished and presented as truth, its secret is eventually revealed. The veil of lies is lifted. While using language, you may lie as eloquently as you want, weaving a web of deceit and treachery. But your web is always like a spider's web, not very strong or durable. A single blow is enough to break it.

This method that has been going on for centuries, try applying it to your politics today, it is not a new phenomenon. It is a trick that has been played on people for centuries. Clever and sensible nations cut it off at the beginning. It does not let it blossom and flourish. It cuts off its roots and throws it away. But people like us fall into the trap of these tricks, dance in its deceit, and are subdued by its spell, giving them the power to continue their tyranny for five years.

It is essential to understand this oppression that has been going on for centuries. As soon as you realize that the person whom you trust the most is the one who is deceiving you the most, the first step is taken towards fighting tyranny and oppression.

Efforts to support private sector research in agriculture sector lauded

Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis has lauded the efforts of Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman for fully supporting the private sector in agriculture research and conferring the "Governor Special Performance Award" to Guard Agricultural Research and Services.

A press release received here Sunday said that the award was conferred to the group for evolving two new best-quality varieties of rice seeds first time in the private sector to help boost cash crops in the country besides earning direly needed foreign exchange.

Kashif Younis said Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman is evincing keen interest in strengthening the private sector for developing new varieties of seeds of all crops as agriculture is the backbone of our national economy.

He said to achieve food autarky, on the explicit direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Governor has constituted a high-level provincial seed committee under his chairmanship for creating awareness among farmers for the use of best quality approved seeds for bumper crops as good seeds always play a key role in better yield than traditional seeds.

CEO Guard Agricultural Research and Services informed that new varieties are beneficial for the country due to high exports potential and attractive for farmers due to the low cost and higher per acre yield.

Shahzad Ali Malik further explained that "we have been engaged in rice seed research since 1989 in collaboration with Chinese in the private sector without any government support" and contributing lots for the country.

He said we have already successfully developed 5-Hi tech Hybrid rice seeds varieties which suit our climate and give better production.

He said on the special direction of the Governor we along with rice, are also conducting research and developing cotton and wheat hybrid seeds in collaboration with Chinese academic institutes and hoped to make a breakthrough.

It may be mentioned here that Governor has conferred a special appreciation award to Shahzad Ali Malik recently for developing two new best-quality rice seeds for first in private sector history.



Unforgivable offense of attacking GHQ-I

A very strong, dedicated and professional Army is very important for Pakistan due to many reasons. I have seen very comprehensive details on an article published in globalaffairsexplained and also found very useful details from Wikipedia and some very reliable resources which I am using here in my article to highlight the legacy of our Armed forces and GHQ.

The first reason why Pakistan needs a strong army is for self-defense. Every country in the world is at risk of being attacked by its neighbors, or foreign powers. Having a military force deters other countries from attacking. Although it may seem in the modern world that countries get invaded less, historically countries were often attacked by others. Nations keep an armed force to ensure that other countries do not try to seize parts of their land or conquer them entirely. Huge numbers of countries have land that neighbors claim should be theirs. A military force is needed to deter countries from trying to seize land they claim. Countries have armies as a strong deterrence against attack, because any invading force would need to engage in extensive fighting, with many lives lost, in order to defeat them. Having a military for self-defense is perhaps the main reason countries have armies today. Some countries even call their army the 'self-defense force' in order to highlight that it is only to be used if attacked. Many countries justify high military expenditure because they claim to be threatened by major world powers and they need a large and advanced military to deter being attacked.

Another second reason why Pakistan needs a strong army is to combat internal threats. Pakistan faces threats from armed groups, separatist movements, organized criminal gangs or militias. An army is needed to combat these groups and restore peace to areas they may control. A country's army comes under the control of its government. However, in many countries, there are also armed groups that fight against the government. A country needs a military force in order to protect the government from being overthrown and to restore government control over areas held by anti-government militias. It has been shown that using armed forces to defeat militia groups and bringing peace to conflict areas can be key to a country's development. Having an army is vital for a country because it also acts as a deterrence against the emergence of armed groups internally. People are less likely to revolt against a state that has a strong army behind it.

Another reason why countries need a military is to be able to take a pre-emptive strike against an enemy if needed. Although almost every country claims their army is for self-defense, sometimes a country's best way to defend themselves is by attacking an enemy they know is threatening them. There have been many instances throughout history where countries have used their armies to attack others as a pre-emptive strike before they are attacked themselves. They all claim this is in self-defense, although often this is

disputed. However, having the ability to make a pre-emptive strike is key to a nation's defense and a major reason why countries have military forces. A country needs an army to be able to defend itself, but also to attack. Military tacticians say that sometimes attacking is the best form of defense and so a nation's army needs to be able to strike at other countries, and non-state armed groups, that are threatening them. Having other countries know that a state is able to attack them is key to their security. Although, in modern times, nations invade each other less than in the past, many keep the capabilities to do so in their armed forces as a key part of their defense.

Another reason why countries need to have an army is to protect their allies. Nations form alliances for mutual protection, because of shared values and to build economic ties. Having an army is key to forming alliances. Alliances are also key to a country's global influence and this is another reason why countries need a military. All countries need to promote themselves abroad. Influencing global affairs is key for a country to be successful. Having a strong army is a vital part of being seen as a global power and this is a big reason why having a military is important.

The army is a key part of many nations core identities. It is an institution that unites the country, is often key to its foundation and commands a high degree of respect. A country needs a military around which people can

bond and find a common purpose. Militaries are traditional institutions. They embody their histories and that of their countries. They have rituals and ceremonies that are unique to the country and often carry the legacy of a nation's past. Almost all countries have conflict in their recent history that were key to how the country is today. The military is a link to this past and often commands admiration and respect. In many countries, the military is a key unifying institution that transcends politics, religion and race.

Another reason why countries have armed forces is to help with disaster respond and in times of crises. Armies have extensive capabilities that can prove vital in crises. Military expertise, equipment, logistics and personnel are often deployed when disasters hit. A country's army adds extra capacity to civil defense and disaster response units. Soldiers have the training, command structures and ability to operate in difficult environments. This makes them incredibly useful in disaster zones. Many countries rely on their military in times of crises. From earthquakes to floods, from disease pandemics to extreme weather, the armed forces of a country often plays a key role in helping to increase a nation's capacity to respond to disasters. Often, countries include disaster response training for their armed forces. Militaries also often have specialist equipment that can help with disaster response. Many countries offer this expertise and assistance to other countries when they are hit by disasters. Help from the armed forces of a country can make up a key part of the humanitarian aid they send abroad when friendly countries are hit by crisis.

To be Continued

'Imran Khan: A true leader for Pakistan's future'

Imran Khan Sahib, the honorable and inspirational leader of Pakistan, has touched the hearts of many through his unwavering faith in ALLAH Almighty and his unrelenting commitment to justice. His life has been an example of consistency, determination, bravery, and honesty, and he has brought a phenomenal impact on the new generation of Pakistan.

He has shown us the cruel and ruthless faces of dictatorship and corruption prevalent in the country. Since his childhood, he has been an inspiration to everyone around him, whether it be in the field of cricket or as a philanthropist. He has emerged as the most admirable and influential leader of the entire Muslim Ummah.

His life is an example for us and the generations to come. He has taught us the actual meaning of standing for what is right and just. Khan Sahib has shown that Muslims should not be afraid of anything or anyone except ALLAH Almighty. He has encouraged his followers to always reach out to ALLAH and not depend on others. His courage is beyond words and has won the hearts of millions of Muslims around the world.

Imran Khan is a beloved human being of ALLAH Almighty because of the phenomenal courage he possesses.

His mother is lucky to have given birth to such a leader who is now an example for everyone around him. He has always been a gentleman, and the way he has treated the people around him speaks volumes about his positive upbringing by his parents.

His love for his country and the people of Pakistan is evident in his steadfast commitment to principles. He has faced many challenges and atrocities in the brutal politics of Pakistan, but he has remained steadfast and true to his beliefs.

Imran Khan Sahib's leadership is a true example of what a leader should be. He is a true man, true Muslim, and true leader. His life and actions have shown the way for generations to come. He has always endorsed the teachings of our LAST PROPHET HAZRAT MUHAMMAD (PBUH) and the concept of the STATE OF MADINA, which is a testimony of his love for OUR LAST PROPHET HAZRAT MUHAMMAD (PBUH).

We do not know what the future holds, but the love and admiration Imran Khan has gained will remain live till the doomsday. It is now our turn to play our part by staying loyal and honest to our country.

May ALLAH Almighty bless Imran Khan Sahib with a long, healthy, and prosperous life, and may he continue to inspire us all. Aameen!



Abdul Basit Alvi



Fyza Raja

On the 75th Annual Commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba

Number of Palestinians Worldwide Doubled about 10 Times

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Dr. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), via figures, historical and current data, reviewed the geographical, demographic and economic situation of the Palestinian People on the 75th Annual Commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba, which occur takes place on May, 15th; and those figures and data run as the following:

The Nakba: Ethnic cleansing, displacement of Palestinians and settler colonialism

Nakba in Palestine describes a process of ethnic cleansing in which an unarmed native nation was destroyed and its population displaced systematically to be replaced by Jewish occupiers from all over the world. The Nakba resulted in the displacement 957 thousands Palestinians out of the 1.4 million Palestinians who were living in historical Palestine in 1948 in 1,300 villages and towns. The majority of the displaced Palestinians ended up in neighboring Arab countries, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and other countries in the world. Furthermore, thousands of Palestinians – who stayed in the land controlled by Israeli occupation in 1948 – were driven out of their homes and lands which were seized.

According to the historical documentary evidence, Israeli Occupation controlled 774 towns and villages and destroyed 531 Palestinian towns and villages during the Nakba. The atrocities of Zionist forces also included more than 51 massacres in which more than 15 thousand Palestinians were martyred.

The Demographic Reality: Palestinian population has doubled about 10 times since the Nakba, 1948

The population of Palestine in 1914 was around 690 thousand; of whom only 8% were Jewish. In 1948, the number of Palestinians in Palestine exceeded 2 million; 31.5% of them were Jews. Between 1932 and 1939, the largest number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine reached 225 thousand Jews. Between 1940 and 1947, more than 93 thousand Jews poured into Palestine. Thus, Palestine received around 318 thousand Jews between 1932 and 1947 and more than 3.3 million from 1948 to 2022.

Despite the displacement of more than one million Palestinians in 1948, and the displacement of more than 200 thousand Palestinians (majority of them to Jordan) after the 1967 war, the Palestinian world population was 14 million by the end of 2022, which means that the number of Palestinians in the world has doubled about 10 times since the Nakba, and more than half of them lived in historical Palestine by the end of 2022. Accordingly, their number reached 7 million (1.7 million in the occupied territories in 1948). Population estimates indicated that the number of population by the end of 2022 in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, was 3.2 million and around 2.2 million in the Gaza Strip. As for the population of Jerusalem Governorate, it was about 487 thousand; approximately 65% of which (about 314 thousand) lived in those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli occupation in 1967 (J1). Data showed that Palestinians represented 50.1% of the population living in historical Palestine, while Jews constituted 49.9% by the end of 2022. Israeli occupation continues its control over 85% of the area of historical Palestine, which amounts to 27 thousand square kilometers (km2).

Percentage of Palestinians and Jews in Historical Palestine in Various Years

Palestinian Refugees Status
In December 2020, the records of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) showed that the total number of Palestinian refugees was around 6.4 million of them around two million in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 28.4% of whom live in 58 camps (10 in Jordan, 9 in Syria, 12 in Lebanon, 19 in the West Bank and 8 in Gaza Strip). Those estimates, however, indicated the minimum number of refugees, as many of them are not registered. This number does not include the Palestinians displaced in the period from 1949 till the Six-Day war in June 1967. The



UNRWA definition of refugees does not cover Palestinians who migrated or those who were displaced after 1967 because of the war and who were not registered refugees.

Gaza Strip has one of the highest population densities in the world

The population density in the State of Palestine by the end of 2022 was 899 individuals per square kilometer (km2): 569 individuals/km2 in the West Bank and 6,019 individuals/km2 in Gaza Strip, noting that 66% of the total population of Gaza Strip are refugees. The flux of refugees turned Gaza Strip into one of the highest population densities in the world. Despite the small area of Gaza Strip, Israeli occupation set up a buffer zone over more than 1,500 meters along the Eastern border of Gaza Strip. Consequently, Israeli occupation controls about 24% of the total area of Gaza Strip (365 km2). Also, the continuous siege on Gaza Strip, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, led to a sharp rise in unemployment in Gaza Strip. Hence, the unemployment rate reached 47%, around 69% of the youth aged 15-24 years are unemployed by the end of 2021. The siege also shook the economy of Gaza Strip and turned over half of its population into poor (53%).

More than 100 Thousand Martyrs since the Nakba, 1948

The number of Palestinian

ees in the Israeli occupation prisons, 160 of them are children and 31 women. As for the number of arrests, it reached 7,000 during the year 2022, including 882 children and 172 women, while the number of administrative detention orders against citizens who were not charged with any charges reached 850. Data also indicates that there are 554 prisoners serving life sentences, and 1,000 administrative detainees. Moreover, data indicates that Israel is detaining more than 700 sick prisoners and four prisoners of Parliament in the Legislative Council, in addition to the presence of 23 prisoners who were arrested before the Oslo Accords in 1993 and they are still languishing in Israeli prisons.

Data clearly indicates that the number of martyrs among the prisoners has reached 237 prisoners since 1967 due to torture or willful killing after arrest or medical negligence against the prisoners. Data also indicates that the martyrdom of 114 prisoners since September 2000, where the year 2007 witnessed the highest percentage of prisoners' martyrdom inside Israeli prisons as seven prisoners were killed, five of them died as a result of medical negligence.

Israeli Occupation: Continuous Expansion of Settlements

By the end of 2021, there were 483 Israeli occupation sites and military bases in the West Bank, including 151 settlements and 25

the number of settlers with 2,629 settlers. The ratio of settlers to Palestinians in the West Bank is about 23 settlers for every 100 Palestinians, while the highest is in Jerusalem governorate with about 69 settlers for every 100 Palestinians. The year 2022 witnessed a significant increase in the pace of building and expanding Israeli settlements, as the occupation authorities approved about 83 project plans to build more than 22 thousand units throughout the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

Continuous Confiscation of



Land

Israeli occupation used the land classification according to the Oslo Accords (A, B and C) to tighten their control over the Palestinian land, especially in areas classified as (C) which are

ed by the establishment of the Annexation and Expansion Wall. In addition, and since 1967, Israeli occupation authorities have confiscated about 353 thousand dunums of Palestinian lands and classified them as natural reserves in preparation for their seizure.

Jerusalem: Intensive and Systematic Judaization

As part of the policy of deportation and replacement, Israeli occupation authorities are taking accelerated judaizing measures to Jerusalem in order to obliterate the Islamic and Christian landmarks and displace Pales-

including 48 agricultural tractors, and 53 cars for Palestinian citizens. These attacks also caused the uprooting, damage and destruction of 10,291 olive trees.

Israeli occupation authorities carried out 378 demolitions that affected 953 facilities in the West Bank during 2022

The policy of the occupation forces did not stop demolishing Palestinian-owned buildings and the resulting displacement of residents from their homes throughout the West Bank, as the Office for the Coordination

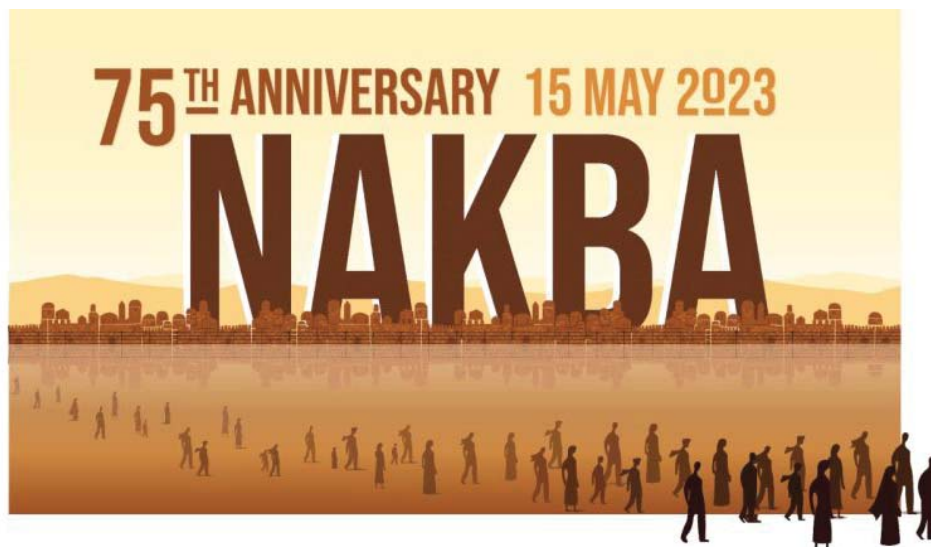
of population, the high percentage of water pollution in Gaza Strip and calculating the quantities of water suitable for human use from the available quantities, the per capita share of fresh water is only 21.3 liters per day in Gaza Strip. When comparing this rate with the Israeli daily allocation per capita, we note that the Israeli daily allocation per capita is more than three times that of the Palestinian individual, about 300 liters per day, and this rate doubles for Israeli settlers to more than 7 times than Palestinian per capita consumption.

Israeli occupation control over the water of Jordan River and Dead Sea

Data showed that the percentage of abstracted surface and groundwater from available water during 2021 was high with an average of 76.4%. It should be noted that Palestinians have been denied, by Israeli occupation, to access and abstract water from the Jordan River since 1967, which is estimated of about 250 MCM. On the other hand, the quantity of water pumped from the Palestinian wells in the West Bank in 2021 was 105.3 MCM from Eastern Aquifer, Western Aquifer and North-Eastern Aquifer. The amount of water abstracted from the coastal aquifer was 192.5 million cubic meters (MCM) in Gaza Strip in 2021. However, this quantity is obtained via unsafe pumping that jeopardizes the sustainability of the source, as the basin sustainable yield should not exceed 50-60 MCM a year, where the groundwater level in the coastal aquifer reached 19 meters below sea level leading to the depletion of groundwater reserves, this led to that fact that 97% of the water pumped from the coastal aquifer in Gaza Strip does not meet the water quality standards of the World Health Organization.

Sources:

1. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2022. Israeli Settlements in the West Bank, 2021. Ramallah-Palestine.
2. Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission 2023. Summary of Israeli Violations in Palestine, 2022. Ramallah-Palestine.
3. The Commission of Detainees Affairs, 2023. Annual Report of Detainees 2022. Ramallah-Palestine.
4. Jerusalem Governorate, Summary of Israeli Violations in Jerusalem Governorate, 2022. Jerusalem-Palestine.
5. UN Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Territories (OCHA), 2023.
6. Palestinian Ministry of Health, Emergency Operation Center. Annual Report, Israeli aggression against Palestinians, 2022. Ramallah-Palestine.
7. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023. Revised estimates based on the final results of Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017. Ramallah-Palestine.
8. Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel. Jerusalem, 2022.
9. Human Rights Watch, 2022.



and Arab martyrs killed since the Nakba in 1948 and until this day (inside and outside Palestine) reached about 100 thousand martyrs[1]. Moreover, the number of martyrs killed in Al-Aqsa Intifada between September 29th 2000 until December 31st 2022 was 11,540. It is said that the bloodiest year was 2014 with 2,240 Palestinian martyrs, 2,181 of them were from Gaza Strip during the war on Gaza. During 2022, the number of Palestinian martyrs reached 231, 56 of whom were children and 17 women. While the number of wounded Palestinians reached about 10,000 in 2022.

More than Million Detention Cases since 1967

25 prisoners have spent more than a quarter of a century in occupation prisons

By the end of April 2023, there were 4,900 Palestinian detain-

inhabited outposts that considered as neighborhoods following established settlements, in addition to 163 settlement outposts, and 144 classified as other sites (industrial, tourists, service areas and Israeli army bases). As for the number of settlers in the West Bank, it reached 719,452 settlers by the end of 2021. Thus, data shows that around 45.4% of settlers live in Jerusalem governorate, where their number reached about 326,523 settlers; out of which 239,951 settlers live in East Jerusalem (J1) "including those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli occupation in 1967". Followed by Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate with 143,311 settlers, 95,279 settlers in Bethlehem governorate, and 50,067 settlers in Salfit governorate. While Tubas & the northern Jordan Valley are the lowest governorates in terms of

under the full control of the Israeli occupation in terms of security, planning and construction, where 76% of the total area classified as (C) is directly exploited by the Israeli occupation; settlements regional councils are controlling 63% of it. While the area of authority regions in the Israeli settlements in the West Bank (Including closed regions allocated for expanding those settlements) is about 542 km2 as it is by the end of 2021; representing about 10% of the total area of the West Bank. Whereas the confiscated areas for the purposes of military bases and military training locations represent about 18% of the West Bank area, in addition to the Annexation and Expansion Wall that has isolated more than 10% of the area of the West Bank. Consequently, more than 219 Palestinian localities were badly affect-

Budget deficit widens Rs3.6tr as govt spending, debt servicing rising: APBF

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has warned that the federal budget deficit has widened by Rs3.6 trillion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year (9M FY23) on the back of a massive surge in spending on debt servicing, as the government paid Rs3.6 trillion in debt servicing in this period, which is very alarming.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the country's economic viability was at stake, as its gross official foreign exchange reserves plunged to lower level. As against the budgeted over \$7 billion foreign commercial loans, the government still saw \$6.5 billion materializing in the current fiscal year.

He said that the country's debt servicing cost may cross well over Rs7.6 trillion in the next fiscal year, which is roughly 15% more than the projected net income of the government but is still lower than the estimates made by the International Monetary Fund.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi observed that based on the fact that the federal government debt stood at Rs54 trillion at the end of April, interest payments in the next fiscal year may cross well over Rs7.5 trillion. The estimated Rs7.6 trillion debt servicing cost is 90% more than this fiscal year's original budget set aside for interest payments and one-third higher than the revised estimates. It seems that taxes will be collected to just pay the cost of interest to domestic and foreign banks.

Ibrahim Qureshi said that the IMF had asked the government to increase the general sales tax rate to a minimum of 18% to raise more taxes, accelerating inflation to 29% and economic growth rate slowing down to 1.5%, ultimately causing higher unemployment and poverty in the country.

Syed Maaz Mahmood added that foreseeing that the elections could be around the corner, the government's focus has now filtered down to two short-term compulsions, including to present a populist budget and to stay out of default. The government appears to have decided to set aside the complex issues such as rising inflation, loss of rupee value, unemployment, food shortages, closure of industries due to import restrictions and collapse of exports and investments for the present and to leave it behind as a carry-forward for the next government.

Top Chinese machinery manufacturers urged to relocate, develop industrial parks in Pakistan

Spokesman News

BEIJING :Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Ghulam Qadir has invited top Chinese enterprises to develop industrial parks in Pakistan, encouraging investment and relocation in export-oriented, efficiency-seeking and labor-intensive sectors.

He highlighted Pakistan's strategic location, lucrative investment incentives, demographic dividend and favorable economic outlook and potential during the 3rd Changsha International Construction Equipment Exhibition.

During the exhibition, he addressed a forum titled "2023 Belt and Road International Business Summit on Infrastructure and Construction Machinery," China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

He sensitized the audience about the government's strong will to facilitate and support Chinese companies who would enjoy substantial market access in EU and USA by manufacturing in Pakistan.

Qatar shows interest to invest in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Qatar has showed keen interest in exploring new investment prospects in Pakistan in various sectors under its national rejuvenation project, Vision 2030.

The interest was shown by Qatar's ambassador to Pakistan,

Sheikh Saoud Abdul Rahman Al-Thani during a meeting with Special Assistant to Prime Minister Jawad Sohrab Malik in Islamabad.

He said Qatar considers Pakistan as its main strategic partner in the fields of education, food supply, setting up LNG plants and airports infra-



structure. Talking to the Qatari envoy, Jawad Sohrab Malik underscored the vast investment potential of Pakistan, particularly in the fields of renewable energy, education, seaport fuel terminals, wind and hydro-power projects and airport infrastructure projects.

Mepco administration orders departmental action against five officers and employees

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) administration has issued orders to take departmental action against 5 officers and employees after a fatal accident occurred in Kot Chhata sub-division area managed by DG Khan circle. Naemullah, a lorry cleaner of Mapco Regional Store DG Khan, was killed while working on the illegal 11KV Shero Feeder lines in Basti Inayatwala. Superintending Engineer DG Khan Circle Mian Hasnain Shakeel has been attached to MEPCO HQ on administrative grounds for violating safety SOPs and illegally working in the field. Engineer Abdul Karim Tanuri, SDO Kot Chhata Sub Division Engineer Saqib Nawaz Khan

Line Superintendent Tufail Ahmed and Line-man Second Nadeem Ijaz of Kot Chhata Sub Division have been suspended. Exen DG Khan Division Azizur Rehman has been given additional charge of SEDG Khan Circle. The administration issued orders to the officers of Department of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Mepco Headquarters Multan to investigate the fatal accident.

And directed to strictly implement safety SOPs and to mobilize safety cell of all operation circles and daily checking and monitoring of field working teams. It has also been ordered to take immediate departmental action against the line staff and concerned feeders in charge who violate the safety rules.

Mother Day

FAISALABAD: Women is selling pickles and garlic at the Sunday Bazar in People's Colony for which World Commemorates "International Mothers Day" on 14 May every year for honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.



Photo: Online

Careem launches manual-booking rides



Commerce Desk

LAHORE : To continue serving customers in light of the suspension of mobile internet services across Pakistan, Careem introduces manual booking rides by launching three helplines for its customer base in Karachi. This manual booking option is aimed at catering to critical movement primarily for educational institutions, hospitals, healthcare institutions and airport rides.

Customers based in Karachi can pre-book a ride 90 minutes in advance by sending a text message (SMS), or a message/voice note on Whatsapp containing their formal request (registered name and phone number on which Careem account is made along with the pickup and drop off location details on these numbers; +92-301-2442-739, +92-320-3581-584, +92-326-3703-258.

The manual-booking rides are cash based only to ensure a smooth experience, since digital payments are also being hindered by the suspension of mobile internet services. This is a limited time service and will be operational only until the mobile internet service resumes.

Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. to invest \$200 million in Pink Salt industry

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc., an American leading company in import, manufacture and supply of sea salt, today apprised the Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan, about its DC plans to invest nearly \$200 million in curating, processing, distributing and importing Pink Himalayan Salt. The investment would be made in preparing feasibility, reserve report, upgradation of mining procedures and processes, construction of world class processing and packaging facility and community development programs, says a press release received here today from Washington DC. During a briefing by top leadership Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. (MSCI), it was informed that Pakistan, with its geographical monopoly of the resource, has a huge reserves of Pink Salt with a potential earning of \$12 billion annually.

According an estimate, the country possesses approximately 22.22 billion tons of the natural resource, concentrated mostly in Salt Range areas of Kala Bagh, Warcha, Khewra and Bahadur Khel, with an immense potential of kick-starting

massive economic activity. The delegation included President and CEO Ahmed N. Khan, Vice President Mr. Tad M. Ballantyne, CCO/Board Member Mr. Muhammad M. Khan, Director & Board Member Mr. Jeffrey Meilander, Mr. M. Shamsheer Khan, Mr. Martyn Element (Vancouver Canada), Mr. Nasim Tyab (Vancouver Canada), Mr. Dan Terret (Vancouver Canada), Mr. Rana Rehan Anwar (Saint Louis), Mr. Tony Garson (London England) and Mr. Attiq Rana (Saint Louis). It was informed that currently Pakistan was retaining \$70 million only in lieu of export of this unique natural resource due to lack of policy framework and adequate facilities for processing, packaging and world-wide distribution.

Briefing the Ambassador, President MSCI Mr. Ahmed N. Khan informed that a multi-pronged solution featuring public private partnership under a clearly defined policy was being worked out to assist the government in regulating and encouraging private sector to take a lead role in exploiting the existing potential. It was informed that the company was undertaking joint venture with Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation. The company plans to raise market awareness globally and

reach 10 million tons of verified extraction by 2030. Two world class processing and distribution facilities would be established in Doha and China to fulfil global demand for Pakistani product. Ambassador Masood Khan welcomed MSCI's interest in making investment and promoting Pink Salt industry in the country. He said that the government was committed to provide every possible facilitation to international investors and business community intending to invest in traditional and non-traditional sectors of the economy.

Highlighting various steps taken for promoting ease of doing business and restoring confidence of the investors, the Ambassador said that Pakistan due to its unique geostrategic location was poised to serve a vast market of Central and West Asia, Middle East and North Africa. He said that there was a huge market of Pink Salt not only in the region but across the world which guaranteed profitable business venture in the sector. The Ambassador assured leadership of Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. of every possible support of the Embassy in facilitating early finalization and implementation of their business plan in the country.

SBCA announces operation against illegal structures in Karachi

News Desk

KARACHI: The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) on Sunday announced to launch operation against illegal structures in Karachi.

Director General SBCA said structures built without the approval of the building plan from the body will be razed in Karachi.

Action will also be taken against the illegal construction on the residential plots and those involved in constructing extra floors and portions without the approval of the SBCA.

Earlier this month, Sindh government dismissed the

acting Director-General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) from his position without disclosing the reason.

The Chief Secretary of Sindh issued a notification



and dismissed the Director General of the SBCA, Ishrat Khuhro, from his position and directed him to report to the Services and General Administration.

Sources within the SBCA revealed that the DG-SBCA Ishrat Khuhro lost his job due to opposing 'powerful' system.

Further improvements were made in measures for occupational health and safety: Mian Akram Farid

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : In the collaboration with Employers Federation of Pakistan and Islamabad Industrial Association IIA and with the support of International Labor Organization, a workshop was organized in Islamabad Industrial Area to create awareness among employees on labor health and safety among employers. Addressing the Workshop, Central Chairman EFP and host of the event Mian Akram Farid said that in the 110th annual labor conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Labor Standard Laws 155 and 187 protect the basic rights of workers, safety and basic health. 110th International Labor Conference on International Labor Standards on Safe and Healthy Working Environments, Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health and No. 187 on the Promotional Framework of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention

I was included in the existing fundamental principles and rights The works . The Organization requires Member States to adopt safety and health measures to respect and promote these principles and rights.

The objective of these workshops is to create awareness among employers. In order for them to better understand, safe and healthy work environment is the foundation of decent work which is very important to increase safety and productivity of workers. Creating safe, healthy and productive work environment is fast.

M. Akram Farid further said that further improvements were made in measures for the occupational health and safety of workers at the workplace and awareness workshops and seminars were continued in the future, which provided better guidance to employers and employees. Chief Guest of The ceremony Islamabad Industrial Association President Ahmad waheed while addressing the confer-

ence thanked the ILO and Employers Federation of Pakistan for organizing the awareness workshop and said that Islamabad Industrial Association along with Workers Welfare Fund and other organizations IIA is working on it earlier and now she will improve it more. Workers are the backbone of every industry and their health and safety is extremely important, through which the productivity of the industry can be increased. Secretary General Syed Nazar Ali addressed the workshop, former presidents ICCI Khalid Javed, Mian Shaikat Masud, Nasir Khan, Mohsin Khalid, Mahfooz Elahi, Sheikh Amir Waheed, former president IIA Zakaria A. Zia, former senior vice president ICCI, Fatima Azim, Mian Shiraz Masood, Rafat Farid, EFP Board Director Feroze Alam, Humayun Nazir, Syed Hasan Mazhar, Ex-Vice President FPCCI Nasir M. Qureshi, Ex-Chairman All Pakistan Pipe Manufacturing Association chudhary waheed-ud-Din,



Owners of Steel Industry, Marble, Soap & Chemical, Oil & Khe, Auto Industry, Flour Mills, Oil & Gas, Pharmaceutical, Pipe Manufacturing, Glass

Industry, Hotels Industry, Software & Technology, Solor Panels Industry, etc. attended, the question and answer session also continued in the work-

shop, and Akhtar Qudus, an expert in Organizational Safety and Health, briefed the participants and answered the questions.

Naila Kiani makes history by summiting Mount Everest

Pakistan's top climber has successfully summited Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani top climber Naila Kiani has successfully summited Mount Everest which is known to be the highest peak in the world at 8849m above sea level. BARD Foundation has once again showed its full support by sponsoring her expedition. She has also recently summited Annapurna I, the world's 10th-highest mountain at 8091m above sea level.



PM praises Naila Kiani for summiting Mount Everest

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday praised Naila Kiani for making Pakistan proud by summiting Mount Everest. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "Adding yet another feather to her cap, Naila Kiani has made Pakistan proud by summiting Mount Everest. Through her passion for mountaineering and amazing achievements to her credit, she has reinforced the notion that our women are capable of achieving anything. Heartiest congratulations to her and best wishes for her future plans."



Naila shared her sentiments on this big achievement saying, "There is no better feeling than being on top of the mountain, holding the flag of your country, and making the whole nation proud." She spoke about her experience how she is super ecstatic to have accomplished another long-awaited milestone that was residing on her bucket list for a long time. She also thanked BARD Foundation for their generous support which has helped her to turn her dreams into reality without having to worry about any financial hindrances.

"Naila's boundless enthusiasm has always inspired us. She stands as a shining example and serves as a gateway for all the women who work diligently to achieve their dreams." BARD Foundation takes immense pride in its longstanding association with Naila. Each of her achievements fills us with profound pride and joy. As she continues to scale new horizons, she has our constant support every step of the way," says the Managing Director of BARD Foundation Mehreen Dawood.

BARD Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.

President Alpine Club of Pakistan Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq congratulated Ms. Naila Kiani, Nadia Azad and Sajid Ali Sadpara on their success. He prayed for their safe return to base camp.

The Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan and founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed also congratulated to all of team and said "Naila's boundless enthusiasm has always inspired us. She stands as a shining example and serves as a gateway for all the women who work diligently to achieve their dreams."

The Torch Relay of National Games completed its journey across Pakistan

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Torch Relay of National Games, Quetta 2023 completed its journey across Pakistan and was handed over to Mr. Ishaq Jamali, Provincial Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Balochistan by the Akhuwat's students and Dr. Amjad Saqib founder and Executive Director of Akhuwat Foundation, in a ceremony held at Akhuwat College University Kasur.



The event which students of Akhuwat College University organized and hosted, was graced by Mr. Tayyab Ikram, President International Hockey Federation (FIH) as the Guest of Honor. Mr. Tayyab Ikram who is globally known for his dynamic vision for athletes and youth empowerment had a very motivating interaction with the young students, Dr. Amjad Saqib, Olympians, and officials of the Pakistan Olympic Association.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tayyab Ikram emphasized that youngsters are our most precious asset. They are entitled to have access to the best education and sporting facilities. We have to recognize that we must provide them with the best developmental facilities to enable them to reach their potential for a dynamic and progres-

sive society. Mr. Ishaq Jamali reiterated the commitment of Govt. of Balochistan to utilize the spirit of sports and the National Games to showcase hospitality and peace.

The people of Balochistan are all set to host National Games as the Balochi students along with their fellows from across the regions and provinces of Pakistan celebrated the message of friendship, harmony, peace, compassion, and equity carried through the Torch of National Games.

NOC Pakistan is grateful to Mr. Tayyab Ikram, President FIH for motivating us with his presence. We are truly thankful to students, faculty and Dr. Amjad Saqib for hosting the Torch at Akhuwat College University.

No better option than him, Amir backs Babar for World Cup captaincy

Sports Desk



LAHORE: Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Amir has come out in support of Babar Azam, saying the star batter should be officially named as Pakistan's captain for the upcoming ICC ODI World Cup, scheduled later this year.

Left-arm pacer Amir emphasized that Pakistan had no better option than the right-hander to lead the team at the mega event.

Babar, who has been Pakistan's regular captain in every format since 2019, is awaiting any official announcement from the Pakistan Cricket Board pertaining to his retention as the national team's skipper for the showpiece event in India.

Amir, however, has regretted this unnecessary delay in confirming Pakistan's captain for the World Cup since he believes that no player fits the job other than Babar at this point.

"It's high time that the board should announce (team captain) with only three to four months left in the World Cup," he said in an interview on his official Youtube channel.

"There is no reason to change the captain at this point. It doesn't make any sense. So, it's better to officially name Babar Azam (as Pakistan captain) just like PCB announced the head coach."

"The amount of experience that he has as a captain, there is no better option than him," he maintained.

He went on to say that the official announcement would give Babar clarity of mind after he could sit with the management and help them with the team selection.

It must be noted that the 28-year-old has so far led Pakistan in 115 international matches across formats since 2019 when he was given the rein for the first time.

He has a formidable record as an ODI captain as he secured 17 wins out of 26 matches, maintaining a 66 per cent win ratio.

Sajid Sadpara marks history by conquering Everest without oxygen



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sajid Ali Sadpara created history for Pakistan as he became the first mountaineer from the country to scale the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, without the help of high-altitude porters and supplemental oxygen.

Sadpara, son of the late legendary climber Muhammad Ali Sadpara, summited the 8848-metre peak situated in Nepal on Sunday in Alpine style – the type of ascent, where climbers are not supported by local porters from base camp to the summit.

It was his fifth such summit as he has already ascended K2 (8,611m), Gasherbrum-I (8,080m) and Gasherbrum-II (8,035m), in Pakistan and Manaslu (8,163m) in Nepal without supplemental oxygen.

Sadpara aims to climb all 14 eight-thousander mountains without supplemental oxygen.

His father Ali Sadpara lost his life along with Iceland's John Snorri and Chile's Juan Pablo Mohrta while attempting to summit the K2 during the winter season in 2021.

Int'l Tennis players need support: Qudsia Raja

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: International Tennis Umpire Qudsia Raja on Sunday said that there was no shortage of talent in the country, but concrete steps were needed to support players from the grassroots level to come into the game.

She while talking to APP said, "There is immense tennis talent in the country but the game of tennis is a very expensive game. The tennis racket and ball are beyond the reach of the common player, so it is difficult to attract players to this game."

She said, "The private sector, relevant departments, institutions, etc. need to come forward for the development of tennis."

"Departments will have to form their own teams and then the government and private sector will join hands in the development of this sport and organize tournaments from the grassroots to higher level. This way good quality players will come to the fore."

To a question, Qudousia Raja replied Pakistan has won many medals at the international level in the game of tennis.

"Not only as a normal player, but special wheelchair players have also won medals in the world championships."

She was of the view that many tournaments should be organized in educational institutions to bring out the immense talent of tennis and to improve the game in the country.

Schedule revealed for Pakistan's Test tour of Australia



News Desk

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia on Sunday revealed the series schedule for the Pakistan men's team Test tour to Australia later this year.

The three-game Test series begins on December 14 and runs across the next year with the final Test scheduled in the first week of January.

The opening Test will be staged in Perth between December 14 and 18 before the two sides return after Christmas with the Boxing Day Test (December 26-30) at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The tour concludes with the third Test in Sydney from January 3 to January 7, 2024.

It must be noted here that three Tests against Pakistan will be Australia's first home series of the new World Test Championship cycle (2023-25).

Australia are the finalist of the current WTC cycle and are set to play India at the Oval, London from June 7 to 11 for Test supremacy.

AFC Asian Cup

QATAR: General view of Sports journalist and presenter John Dykes with General Secretary of the AFC Windsor John and the draw conductors Tim Cahill, Hassan Al Haydos, Park Ji-sung, Server Djeparov, Yoshimi Yamashita, Sun Wen, Maymol Rocky and General Secretary of the AFC Windsor John on the stage during the draw of AFC Asian Cup at Katara Opera House, Doha.



Berlin Special Olympics: German Consulate hosts reception for Pakistan's special athletes

Sports Desk

KARACHI: A grand ceremony was held at the German Consulate in honour of the Special Olympics Pakistan team participating in the Special Olympics World Games, Berlin, 2023 to be played from June 17 to 25.

According to details, seven and a half thousand special players will participate in this mega event. Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Sohail Rajput, Consul Generals and diplomats of various countries and others participated in the event.

Special Olympics Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani said that special people are an important segment of society, the purpose of participating in the Games is to prove that the special children of Pakistan are no less than any other in the world. They will win hearts, thanks to their good morals and attitude, the nation should encourage these special children, she said, adding the Sindh government has given full support and cooperation in making participation in the games possible, she said.

In this regard, Special Olympics Pakistan is thankful to Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah for providing full support and help to Special Olympics Pakistan, Ronak added.

The Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Sohail Rajput said that despite mental or physical problems, special players are not less than anyone in ability and talent, they need to be given confidence and courage, the Sindh government has its responsibility in this regard and will continue to support these special athletes to help them win laurels for the country he added.

The Sindh Govt is trying to pay attention to these special athletes and leaving no stone unturned to support them, he said.

The event was addressed by the famous artist Sarwat Gilani, the brand ambassador of Special Olympics Pakistan, Yasmin Haider and others. Pakistan's 138-member squad which will participate in as many as 11 sports of the Olympic Games, will leave for Germany on June 12.

The 87 players include 54 boys and 33 girls, while coaches comprise 17 men and 13 women.



It may be recalled here that Berlin Special Olympics World Games is the largest INCLUSIVE sporting event in the world

which promises to be a celebration of talent, perseverance, and determination. This will be our 11th International event where

the Special Olympics Pakistan delegation will get a chance to showcase their talent, grit, and perseverance.