



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
اسمیں نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے عبد اللہ بن ابی اوفی سے پوچھا رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے خریدی رضی اللہ عنہا کو بیات دی تھی؟ انہوں نے فرمایا کہ ہاں، جنت میں موتیوں کے ایک گھل کی بیات دی تھی، جہاں نہ کوئی شورو غل ہو گا اور نہ ٹھن ہو گی۔  
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3819)  
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## Bilawal links negotiations with PTI until apology for Jinnah House torching

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday stated that any talks or negotiations with PTI will not take place unless the party tenders an apology for the torching of Jinnah House in Lahore. Speaking in the NA, he stated that the recent events..... (Details on Page 8)



## Dar announces cut in petrol, diesel prices

Following a decline in the price of crude oil internationally, the federal government announced a reduction in the price of petrol by Rs12 per litre to Rs270 per litre. Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance and Revenue, announced the cut during a televised speech. These new prices will be in effect from 12am tonight and remain effective for two weeks. According to the minister, the government "tries to give relief to the masses during every fortnightly review" by slashing petroleum product (POL) tariffs by up to Rs30 per litre.

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## Violating Section 144

ISLAMABAD: A large number of the people are participating in the protest of Pakistan's ruling alliance (PDM) outside Supreme Court, against the judiciary's alleged undue facilitation to former prime minister Imran Khan.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## 'Leave baseless allegations & join investigation for corruption': PM tells Imran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday asked former prime minister Imran Khan to cooperate for investigation into his corruption instead of levelling baseless allegations.

Responding to a tweet of Imran Khan, the prime minister said wrote on his Twitter handle, "Leave the baseless allegations, join the investigation and be held accountable for your corruption. And that's all."

Sharing the pictures of the 6th Road Metro Bus Station of Rawalpindi which



was completely burnt and destroyed by the PTI protestors, PM Shehbaz said in another tweet that how the multi-years' development journey (initiated by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif) was turned into a scene of destruction on May 9.

# Army vows action against perpetrators behind attacks on military installations

NA Khan

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army has vowed action against perpetrators who attacked military installations in 'politically motivated and instigated incidents' in the past few days, ISPR.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir presided over Special Corps Commanders Conference (CCC) held at the General Headquarters (GHQ) today.

The participants paid rich tribute to the Shuhada, who have laid their lives in defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism.

The forum acknowledged the successful counter-terrorism and intelligence-based operations in the country by security forces, especially valiant response given by the troops in the Muslim Bagh attack, and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices made by the brave sons of the soil.

The forum was briefed in



detail about the prevailing internal and external security environment. The forum took comprehensive stock of the law and order situation in the past few days that was created to achieve vested political interests.

The forum was briefed that a well-coordinated arson plan involving desecration of Shuhada pictures and monuments, burning down of historical buildings and vandalism of military installations was executed to malign the institution and provoke it

towards giving an impulsive reaction, a press release said.

The Commanders condemned, in the strongest possible sense, these politically motivated and instigated incidents against military installations and public/private properties. The Commanders also communicated the anguish and sentiments of the rank and file of the Pakistan Army on these unfortunate and unacceptable incidents.

Based on the irrefutable

evidence collected so far, the armed forces are well aware of the planners, instigators, abettors and perpetrators of these attacks and attempts to create distortions in this regard are absolutely futile, it read.

The Forum expressed the firm resolve that those involved in these heinous crimes against the military installations and personal/ equipment will be brought to justice through trials under relevant laws of Pakistan including Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act. The Forum resolved that restraint will no longer be exercised against perpetrators, spoilers and violators who attack military installations and setups under any circumstances.

The Commanders also showed concern over externally sponsored and internally facilitated, orchestrated propaganda warfare, unleashed against the Pakistan Army leadership, meant to create fissures between

the armed forces and the people of Pakistan, and within the rank and file of the armed forces.

"The vicious propaganda of such inimical forces will be defeated with the support of the people of Pakistan, who have always stood with the Armed Forces during all odds." The forum stressed the need for strict implementation of relevant laws to penalize the violators of social media rules and regulations.

The forum emphasized the need for national consensus amongst all stakeholders to address ongoing political instability as a priority so as to restore public confidence, reinvigorate economic activity and strengthen the democratic process. The forum also resolved to support all such efforts to reach this much-needed consensus.

The forum resolved that the Pakistan Army with the full support of the people of Pakistan, will defeat all nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan.

## PDM leadership reaches Islamabad's Red Zone

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The leadership of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Monday reached Islamabad's Red Zone to participate in the alliance's sit-in against the judiciary.

Earlier in the day, the workers of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) entered Islamabad's red zone despite the imposition of Section 144 in the federal capital.

According to the details, a large number of PDM workers entered the Islamabad's red zone by foot as well as in Trucks and vehicles. The capital police failed to stop the PDM workers to enter the red zone.

In a recent development, the workers started to set up the stage for protest meanwhile, the PDM's management committee meeting is underway to discuss and make a strategy for the protest.

Due to the protest the internet services and social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Youtube are likely to get suspended



across the country.

In a tweet, PTI leader Iftakhar Durrani stated that despite section 144 in place, the PDM protestors entered the Red Zone in Islamabad without facing any blockades, shelling or firing.

He added that it is now evident that the imposition of section 144 was only to stop the peaceful protest of PTI. He said that this double standard of the law is tantamount to severely harming the writ of the state.

The rallies of the coalition government parties including Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) on their way to participate in the protest.

According to sources, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is currently holding consultations regarding its participation in the upcoming sit-in. The party's leaders have reportedly 'advised' its chairman, Bilawal Bhutto, against participating in the sit-in.

Sources revealed that PPP's leadership has been advised against participating in the sit-in, and

instead, the party's delegation is expected to represent the party in the protest.

Sources said that the PDM and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has 'agreed' to stage a sit-in at Islamabad's D-Chowk.

The matters between the PDM and the federal government were settled and as per the agreement, the PDM workers were barred from protesting outside the SC, sources added.

Earlier, the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) president Maulana Fazlur Rehman announced that PDM will continue sit-in outside the Supreme Court of Pakistan until the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Ata Bandial resigns from his office.

It is pertinent to mention here that on May 12, PDM leadership sought the local district administration's permission to hold a sit-in outside Supreme Court premises, following the PTI chief Imran Khan release orders.

## NA passes motion to form committee for reference against CJP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) on Monday passed a resolution for the committee's formation to file a reference against the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

The motion was presented in the NA session after suspending the routine business of the house. The fiery session of the lower house of the Parliament is underway in which the majority of the members are of the view that the Parliament should 'assert' its powers.

Addressing the house earlier in the day, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif emphasized that the parliament should send a strong message to defend its territory.

## Masses rejected 'mastermind of terrorists', enemies of Pakistan: Marriyum



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday called Imran Khan a "mastermind of terrorists and enemy of the country" who had been rejected by the masses.

The people were not ready to be a part of terrorism and anti-state activities carried out by Imran Khan, the minister said in a news statement while reacting to remarks made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman.

"Since terrorists, armed groups and gangsters have been arrested according to the law then whom you are asking to be ready," she said while referring to the recent statement of Imran Khan.

Those who had desecrated the memorials of martyrs had also been arrested, she said while asking Imran Khan to whom he called to be ready.

She said the terrorists who attacked sensitive government buildings had already been arrested.

Those who set mosques, schools, ambulances and livestock on fire had also been in police custody, she added.

Marriyum said Imran Khan would not be allowed to reignite the fire he ignited earlier while sitting at his Zaman Park residence comfortably.

## Polls Date: CJP says implementation of constitution is his duty

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) on Monday served notices to the federal and provincial governments in the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) review plea against its verdict of holding elections in Punjab on May 14, the deadline which expired, yesterday.

The Supreme Court - in its April 4 order - declared the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to postpone elections to the Punjab Assembly till October 8 "unconstitutional" and fixed May 14 as a new date.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial is hearing the ECP's plea on May 15. Justice Ejazul Ahsan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar are the other members of the bench.

At the outset of the hearing, CJP Bandial said ECP has raised 'good' points in its review petition.

Earlier, ECP told about the problems of funds and security but now it has challenged the ambit of the Supreme Court.

The points raised by ECP were not raised earlier. We want to hear ECP on the admissibility of the plea, the CJP remarked.

PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali

Zafar in his arguments before the SC said new points cannot be raised in the review petition. Objecting Zafar, ECP's counsel Sharjeel Swati said new points can be raised in the review petition as the ambit is not narrow.

Commenting on the current law and order situation, CJP said they want peace in Pakistan. Constitution is the base of democracy.

The country's institutions and assets are being set on fire, who will ensure enforcement of the law and order in the country? CJP asked.

The top judge observed that people kept on violating Section 144 in Islamabad and entered Red Zone with the 'facilitation' of the federal government. Despite 'tough' times, we are performing our duties, the CJP added.

CJP Umar Ata Bandial asked the government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to resume talks again. "There are 'mature political parties' on both sides."

CJP Bandial reiterated his resolve to ensure the implementation of the constitution. Later, the Supreme Court while issuing notices to the federal, and provincial governments and the ECP adjourned further hearing on the case till next Tuesday.



## Protest

ISLAMABAD: A view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Photo: Online

## Maryam Nawaz Alleges CJP Misinterpreted Article 63A, Misused Suo Motu Powers

NA Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz has once again launched criticism against the Supreme Court (SC) and the Chief Justice of Pakistan, saying that the CJP 'rewrote the Constitution for arbitrary decisions, misinterpreted Article 63A and misused suo motu

powers'. While addressing Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) sit-in in Islamabad, Maryam Nawaz took aim at the Supreme Court (SC) and the CJP. She said that they will not criticise those judges who always follow the Constitution and the law.

She added that they will criticise those who illegally facilitated 'former premier

and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan. She alleged that the Supreme Court (SC) should have strengthened the democracy but it clashed with the Parliament and a top judge allegedly remarked that he is happy after witnessing an accused in Rs60 billion corruption case instead of imposing strict penalties. Maryam Nawaz said that

parliament is the mother institution which makes the law and CJP is not authorised to stop the institution.

She added that the doctrine of necessity destroyed the country. "Some judges had taken oaths under PCO here but why the doctrine of necessity was not adopted for the nationals?"

The PML-N chief organiser said that PDM parties

respect the Constitution, judiciary and law. She said that the real nationals are present at Shahrah-e-Dastoor and they respect the Constitution of Pakistan.

She alleged that the chief justice rewrote the Constitution for arbitrary decisions, misinterpreted Article 63A and misused the suo motu powers besides turning the top court into a one-man show.

## SC adjourns hearing of ECP's plea seeking review of Punjab election order

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) plea seeking review of its April 4 order of holding the Punjab Assembly elections on May 14 till Tuesday (May 23).

A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, the chief justice said the ECP had raised a question regarding the court's jurisdiction. The Commis-



sion had earlier contended before the court that it would conduct elections once funds were issued but now it had opened a Pandora box, he added.

He asked whether the ECP could raise points in the

review petition which were not raised before.

Barrister Ali Zafar, counsel for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said the scope of a review petition was limited. May 14 had passed and the Constitution had been violat-

ed, while the caretaker governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were unconstitutional, he added.

The chief justice said the court wanted to hear the ECP's arguments on the maintainability of the petition.

He asked Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan why negotiations were not being held between the government and the PTI. He was the first person to suggest talks between the two opposing sides regarding holding elections in the country, he added.

The CJP asked the AGP why the government could not restart negotiations with the PTI.

At this, Ali Zafar said two members of the PTI's negotiating team had been arrested.

The AGP said the government had taken the matter of holding negotiations seriously, but the PTI had ended the talks.

The chief justice said the Constitution guaranteed political rights, while the court did not want to indulge in political matters.

He said the bench hoped that negotiations would start again and a solution would be reached and asked the AGP to inform his clients in that regard. The court expected from both the parties that the political environment would improve, he added.

## SBP, MoFA jointly conducted training program for ASEAN member states



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), a subsidiary of State Bank of Pakistan, in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a 5-day training program on 'Digital Payments Landscape and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets' for ASEAN Member states.

The program was held on May 8-12, 2023, which was attended by 24 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat and

Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The training program was part of efforts to improve Pakistan's status on ASEAN platform from Sectoral Dialogue Partner to Full Dialogue Partner.

The program, designed for the personnel of central banks of ASEAN member states, provided an orientation of Digital Payment Systems infrastructure and its constituent components in Pakistan.

In addition, deliberations were made about the critical role of SBP in democratization of digital financial services.

## PTI's Fayazul Hasan Chohan arrested in Rawalpindi

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former provincial minister Fayazul Hasan Chohan has been arrested. As per details, PTI leader Fayazul Hasan Chohan was arrested when he was going to press club from Liaquat Bagh main gate.

Fayazul Hasan Chohan said despite being on Interim bail, police is conducting raid on his house and arrested his brother in law who is heart patient. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) earlier claimed that Senator Saifullah Niazi has been arrested in Islamabad amid a crackdown against party leaders and workers.

Taking to Twitter, the PTI stated the Islamabad police arrested the leader and have moved him to an undisclosed location now.

## Debt Service Suspension Agreement with Korea signed



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government on Monday signed a Debt Service Suspension Agreement with Republic of Korea amounting to deferment of payment of loans worth \$19.911 million, under the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) framework.

This amount, initially had to be repaid between July and December 2021, will now be repaid over a period of six years (including one-year grace period) in semi-annual installments, said a press release issued by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Due to the support extended by the development partners of Pakistan, the G-20 DSSI has provided the fiscal space which was necessary to deal with urgent health and economic needs of the country.

The total amount of debt, that is to be suspended under the DSSI framework, covering the period of repayment from May 2020 to December 2021, stands at \$3,686 million.

Pakistan has already concluded and signed 104 agreements with 21 bilateral creditors for the deferment of its debt repayments under the G-20 DSSI, amounting to \$3,633 million.

## Bilawal links negotiations with PTI until apology for Jinnah House torching

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday stated that any talks or negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will not take place unless the party tenders an apology for the torching of Jinnah House in Lahore.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he stated that the recent events, including the torching of the Corps Commander House and the attack on Radio Pakistan and GHQ and others, are unparalleled in the history of Pakistan.

He believed that these incidents will be remembered in history for a long time to come.

He urged the institutions to work within their constitutional ambit so that the government could concen-

trate on resolving the issues of the poor people.

In 1986, he said over three million people gave a warm welcome to former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, despite former President General Zia ul Haq being in power in Islamabad at the time. Benazir Bhutto did not use the occasion to incite violence against Zia-ul-Haq. The PPP has faced various incidents over the years but has refrained to resort to acts of violence.

Imran Khan has been accused of involvement in the putting opposition leaders, including PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz and PPP leader Faryal Talpur behind bars.

Despite Talpur's illness, doctors were pressured to hand her over to Imran Khan, who then allegedly changed the hospital's medical superintendent and put Talpur in jail.

## Ambassador of Kazakhstan calls on Chairman FBR



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin Monday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad and discussed matters of mutual interest pertaining to cooperation in Customs.

According to the FBR statement issued here, the meeting also discussed the matters of trade facilitation and regional connectivity.

Mutual satisfaction was expressed

over the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement in

Customs matters, which is in final stages of execution.

Asim Ahmad assured that maximum facilitation will be extended to Kazakhstani businessmen intending to invest in Pakistan.

During the meeting, it was agreed that both countries would continue to explore more avenues to further enhance cooperation in various areas of mutual concern.

## NAB amendment bill passed by joint sitting of parliament

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Amendment Bill 2023 has been passed by the joint sitting of the parliament, whereas, the amendments recommended by the opposition were rejected.

The joint sitting of the parliament was held under the chair of the National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf today. During the session, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Senator Mushtaq Ahmed presented the draft amendments to the NAB bill, which were rejected.

Speaking on the floor, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed said that some people are still unaccountable and the scope of accountability must cover

all persons indiscriminately.

The senator added that it would be a legal violation to directly appoint the NAB chairman. The appointment of the NAB chairman should be made after the consultation of the prime minister and the opposition leader.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) lawmaker Naveed Qamar said that the passed amendments cannot be debated anymore, otherwise, it would set a new example.

Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the parliament has never made any interference in the affairs of other institutions but continuous interference is being made in parliamentary affairs.

## Police raid Lal Haveli to Arrest Sheikh Rasheed

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Heavy contingents of police and elite commandos have raided Lal Haveli - the residence and headquarters of Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed.

The police team kept asking house servants about the whereabouts of Sheikh Rasheed and Sheikh Rashid Shafiq who were not present at the house. Later, the police teams also entered Rasheed's ancestral house in Sarafa Bazaar. Rasheed said in a statement that police and law enforcers reached Lal Haveli to arrest him and Rashid Shafiq. He said that they do peaceful politics and always stay away from the politics of hatred.

The AML chief reiterated his support for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former provincial minister Fayazul Hasan Chohan has been arrested. Chohan was arrested

when he was going to press club from Liaquat Bagh main gate.

He said despite being on interim bail, police is conducting raid on his house and arrested his brother in law who is heart patient.

It is pertinent to mention here that the police have launched a crackdown against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers following the violent protests held after the arrest of party chairman Imran Khan in Al-Qadir Trust Case.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers are agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.



# 10 lakh industrialists and highly educated skilled youth left the country. Khawaja Suliman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Central Chairman of Traders Pakistan Central Organization Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, Central Vice Chairman Sheikh Akram Hakeem, Central Senior Vice President Haji Babar Ali Qureshi, South Punjab President Sheikh Javed Akhtar, Multan District President Syed Jafar Ali Shah, Multan President Khalid Mehmood Qureshi, South Punjab, Punjab President Zeeshan Zafar, Multan General Secretary Mirzana Naeem Baig, Multan District Chair-

man Hafiz Imran Sajjad Qureshi, Gilgashat leader Sheikh Ashraf Tanvir Qureshi have said that all political parties should fix their qiblah for God's sake at the critical crossroads of the country's history. The attack on the government institutions is very sad. The whole nation and the business community stand with the law enforcement agencies for the establishment of peace and order.

The business community is playing its role as usual for the development and prosperity of the country, but we do not understand the priori-

ties of the rulers. The working people are being affected, flour is 170 rupees per kg, pulses are more than 500 per kg, now vegetables are also becoming beyond the purchasing power of the people, meat has become a distant thing, but the rulers do not listen to the cries of the oppressed people. Our economy is ruined, IMF and no other friendly country is ready to trust us, due to poor planning of the rulers, we are on the brink of collapse, he added.

That the situation has worsened to such an extent that in the last few years, more than 10 lakh industrialists

and highly educated skilled youth have left the country in frustration. Problems after problems have left more than 22 million poor people of the country suffering from severe problems.

Because of which today not only the common class but also the commercial and industrial sectors have been affected, he demanded that the government should play a serious and responsible role in stabilizing the country's economy and solving the problems faced by the business community. So that the anxiety found in them ends

## MQM-P convener criticizes ruling PDM for holding sit-in

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui criticised the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) sit-in against Supreme Court (SC).

While addressing a press conference, MQM Pakistan Convener Khalid Maqbool lashed out at the current system of Pakistan and said it's a shame to call it a democratic system.

He claimed that MQM is not a party of landlords. The politics in Pakistan has become a market now where senators are bought openly as high as Rs 740 million but MQM-P has not been involved in that and educated senators are representing the party in the senate.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui maintained that Pakistan needs a strong democratic system. He said that he was elected as MNA four times but he never committed corruption of even Rs 10.

In a tweet, PTI leader Iftikhar Durrani stated that despite section 144 in place, the PDM protesters entered the Red Zone in Islamabad without facing any blockades, shelling or firing.

He added that it is now evident that the imposition of section 144 was only to stop the peaceful protest of PTI. He said that this double standard of the law is tantamount to severely harming the writ of the state.

## Billed bottled/mineral water brands unsafe for drinking in 21 cities

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicize the results for awareness of public health. For the 1st quarter of year 2023 (January to March), 174 samples of Mineral/Bottled water brands were collected from 21 cities. Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 24 brands were unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination. Ten brands (Natural Pure Life, Indus, Barsay, Pure Life, Aqua Sharav, Al Saeed Water Life, Blue Plus, Natural Punjab, Vivo Water, Best Natural) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium, one brand (Imperial Water) was found unsafe due to presence of high level of TDS than the permissible limit, while, three brands (Imperial Water, Smart Water and Natural Punjab) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of Potassium than the permissible limit, nine brands (Aqua Pack, Perfect Taste, Douro, Salsabeel, K&S, Al mena, Al shalal, Crystal water and Heavenly) were found contaminated with bacteria and thus were unsafe for drinking purpose. Two brands (Noble & Arfa) were found contaminated with high level of Arsenic whereas one brand (Eagles blue) was found contaminated with Nitrate. General public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of water quality of bottled water brands they consume.



## Security forces set up a free medical & eye camp in collaboration with the (PICO)

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Security Forces along with collaboration of Pakistan Institute of Community Ophthalmology has conducted a free Medical and Eye Camp in Shakai tehsil of District Lower South Waziristan.

The camp will continue for six days in which eye specialists and paramedical staff will participate and serve the patients free of cost.

So far 70 male and 20 females have been treated in the free medical and eye camp.

The locals have appreciated the initiative of Security Forces and considered it an excellent help for those who cannot afford the heavy expenditures of medical Checkups and medicines.

On the other hand, tribal elders and locals said that the services of the security forces are commendable, and have done and are doing their best to solve public problems in every difficult time.

They added that the security forces not only express satisfaction with such positive activities of the authorities, but also take pride in the services of the forces.



## Full proof security

LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan arrives to High Court in full proof security, for his hearing, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Criminals involved in attacks on sensitive installations will not be spared: IG Punjab

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that criminals involved in attacks on sensitive installations, public and private properties, police teams, did not deserve any sympathy. These miscreants were being identified and traced out through available CCTV footages and video recordings. A spokesman of police told on Monday that all the elements involved in the vandalism and spoilage of peace would be brought under the law and punishments would be meted out to them. The operations of police teams were continued to arrest the miscreants involved in attacks, vandalism, violence and arson on buildings of public and private institutions in



Punjab. In this regard, the police teams have arrested more than 3,186

person said here on Sunday that more than 157 police officers and officials were injured in the violent actions of miscreants across Punjab, whereas, 95 vehicles of Punjab police were damaged and set on fire. According to the details, 27 vehicles of Lahore Police, 19 vehicles of Rawalpindi, 21 of Faisalabad, nine of Mianwali, four vehicles of Multan police, five of Sialkot, three of Gujranwala, a vehicle in Attock, one vehicle of Toba Tek Singh, two vehicles of Jhang police and three vehicles of police constabulary were damaged and set on fire.

Likewise, 13 privately owned vehicles were also damaged by the miscreants. Moreover, 22 government buildings including police stations and offices were also severely damaged, police spokesman added.

miscreants from different districts across province. The police spokes-

## Facing wheat and flour smuggling, officials announce check posts at all exit points

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Food Department thwarted various attempts of wheat flour smuggling along with recovery of 15,762.375 tonnes of commodity during a crackdown launched at different food check posts along the inter districts Attock, Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Chakwal. According to a district administration spokesman, 198 FIRs had been lodged in different police stations against wheat and flour smugglers.

He informed that Secretary Food, Zaman Wattoo accompanied by Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatha here the other day met with a delegation of the Flour Mills Association.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema, Deputy Director Food Mehr Ghulam Abbas and other officers concerned were also present. The Secretary Food was informed that the administration had finalized all arrangements and set up 14 check posts at all exit points to check wheat and flour smuggling. He was further informed that the flour recovered from the impounded trucks would be



supplied to the citizens at controlled rates through trucking points to be set up at various places.

The citizens would be supplied a 10 kg wheat flour bag at a controlled rate of Rs 1150. Zaman Wattoo, on the occasion, said that fair-price shops would also be set up outside flour mills to facilitate the citizens and provide them relief.

He further said that more permits would be issued to the flour mills and their quota would also be enhanced.

The commissioner said that strict action was being taken to control wheat smuggling, adding, the administration was implementing a zero-tolerance policy against wheat and flour smuggling. He said that 480 wheat smuggling bids were foiled since March 25 and over 11515.675 metric tonnes of wheat was recovered from the vehicles impounded during different operations.

197 flour-loaded trucks were also intercepted during the period while the

administration seized 4246.700 metric tonnes flour, Chatha said.

He informed that 198 FIRs were registered in different police stations against wheat and flour smugglers during this season. He said that all the exit points of the Rawalpindi division were being monitored round the clock to control wheat smuggling as the administration had set up 14 check posts at exit points of the four districts of the division to check wheat smuggling.

The administration, in collaboration with police and special branch, was carrying out operations and a special monitoring system had also been developed particularly at exit points of the Rawalpindi division to control wheat smuggling. The check posts were set up at exit points of Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal districts, the spokesman said and informed, the district administration in collaboration with the police and the food department managed to control wheat smuggling and impounded dozens of trucks in the last month, besides recovering huge quantity of wheat and flour being illegally shipped out of the division, he added.

## Ufone 4G and Pakistan Polio Programme join hands for Polio eradication in Pakistan

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Ufone 4G, a Pakistani Telecommunication company has embarked on a shared initiative with the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) in Pakistan to raise awareness amongst the citizens regarding the importance of polio eradication through vaccination. In pursuit of this mission, Ufone 4G has launched an extensive SMS broadcast across the districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), South KPK, Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Islamabad, ensuring that the message reaches far across Pakistan.

Ufone 4G is employing a well-executed strategy to engage its subscriber base through this SMS broadcast campaign thereby exemplifying a firm dedication to promoting transformative change in society. The vaccination drive by the Polio Programme is scheduled to commence on May 15, 2023. This initiative reflects Ufone 4G's commitment to go above and beyond not just as a telecom service provider but also by promoting social welfare and making a positive impact by tailoring its initiatives to meet community needs.

Speaking about the initiative, Syed Atif Raza, Chief Marketing Officer, Ufone 4G, said, "Being a Pakistani and a socially responsible company, Ufone 4G through its collaboration with the Polio Programme

strives to ensure that every child receives essential polio vaccination in the country. Through our joint campaigns, community outreach programs and widespread network, we aim to disseminate our message throughout Pakistan. Our objective is to create awareness and foster a sense of urgency regarding the importance of polio vaccination. Furthermore, by working hand in hand with the Polio Programme, we endeavor to eliminate polio and safeguard the health, well-being and the future of children in our society."

Also sharing his thoughts, Dr. Shahzad Baig, the National Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) said, "The Polio Programme is glad to partner with Ufone 4G in our fight against polio. Together, we'll use Ufone's 4G network to spread our message in every corner of the country. By pooling our resources and expertise, we're committed to leaving no stone unturned in our quest for a polio-free future for every child in Pakistan."

With a deep commitment to the well-being of individuals, Ufone 4G endeavors to be a shining example of unwavering determination and bring a positive change in the lives of people of Pakistan.





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:31 am  
Zohr ..... 12:04 pm  
Asr ..... 4:58 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:01 pm  
Isha ..... 8:38 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway 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  
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

**AIOU to close admissions on May 18**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced May 18 as the last date of new admissions for the second phase of semester spring 2023, however, whereas the continuing students can enroll themselves till May 25 without late fee charges. According to the Director Admissions, Syed Zia ul Hussain Naqvi, the date of admissions will not be extended anymore, so the students are advised to avail this opportunity to take admissions by May 18, otherwise they will have to wait for the next semester.

It is pertinent to mention here that the AIOU has offered Associate Degree (BA/BCom), BS, B.Ed and Post Graduate Diploma programs in the second phase. Admission forms and prospectus of all these programs are available on the university website www.aiou.edu.pk.

Moreover, according to the examination department, in the short period of four months from January to April 2023, the university issued 45,515 degrees, certificates and diplomas and verified 22,761 certificates and degrees.

**Prime Minister says development projects in Rawlakot to be completed on priority basis**

Abdul Majeed Tahir

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq has said that development projects in Rawlakot will be completed on priority basis. In a telephonic conversation with Member Legislative Assembly from Rawlakot, Sardar Hasan Ibrahim, the Prime Minister said that immediate supply of necessary machinery including the equipment used for CT scan to Rawlakot CMH will be ensured. He said that the provision of funds would also be ensured for the construction of District Headquarters Hospital.

He said that the release of funds by the federal government would be helpful to speed up work on development schemes and other projects. Meanwhile, a representative delegation of local government from Rawalakot called on Prime Minister



Chaudhry Anwar Haq. The representative delegation, on the occasion, informed the Prime Minister about the problems being faced by the urban government. During the meeting the causes of the

flour crisis in the area was also discussed. Speaking on the occasion the prime minister said that providing basic facilities to the people was his government's top priority. Whatever problems will be

solved by taking all the stakeholders on board", he said.

He assured the delegation of immediate supply of fire brigade vehicle. The PM said that strict instructions have

been issued to all the concerned authorities regarding anti-narcotics. "If any government official is found involved in it (narcotics), strict action will be taken against him", the PM said. The Prime Minister said that special instructions have been issued to the health department to ensure that no medical store sells medicines without a doctor's prescription. The representative delegation comprised of Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation Rawlakot Muhammad Nisar Qazi, Spokesman Municipal Corporation Sardar Shahid Khurshid, Councilor Sardar Rashid Afraz, Councilor Sardar Aftab Arif, Councilor Khawaja Sajjad Hussain, Councilor Sardar Farooq Hayat, Councilor Mufti Mahfooz and others. Ex-Chairman PDA/Ex-Administrator Municipal Corporation Rawlakot Sardar Arshad Niazi was also present in the meeting.

**Censes 2023**

RAWALPINDI: Worker of local administration are taking data of citizen during Censes 2023 as 15 May is the last day of censes.



Photo: Online

**Sardar Attique strongly condemned the Israeli attacks on Gaza**

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan strongly condemned the Israeli attacks on Gaza and said that the international community should play its important role to stop the Israeli attacks in Gaza and

is targeting innocent people which we strongly condemn in the strongest terms. If the seriousness of the situation in Occupied Kashmir and Palestine is not resolved immediately, it may have serious consequences. He said that 26 Palestinians were martyred in three days. And more than 80 are injured. These barbaric attacks cannot weaken the determination of the people of Palestine. He said that the Indian army also wants to distort the population ratio in Occupied Kashmir in the



manner of Israel in order to deprive the Kashmiris of their right to self-determination and Success will be their destiny. He said that India has seized the All Party Hurriyat Conference head office in Srinagar, Jamaat-e-Islami and many properties and lands owned by its leaders, workers and other citizens throughout the occupied territory. So that they can be target-

ed for their role in the ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination. The Hindu Tova Modi government has recently prepared a list of more than 190 properties that will be confiscated in the future. They said that due to the brutal policy of the Modi government, Kashmiris are being displaced. They are continuously destroying the homes of Kashmiris.

In Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, killing of Kashmiris and destruction of people's property has become normal in fake encounters. India has used all its resources and every barbaric tactic to suppress the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir, but despite this, they are still the freedom spirit of Kashmiris. Failed to suppress.

He said that the international community should take notice of the brutal actions of the Modi government in occupied Jammu and Kashmir he added.

**International Conference on Academic Studies in Business and Economics Coping with Dynamic World**

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), The Women University Multan (WUM) organized conference session on "Business and Economics: Coping with dynamic world" in collaboration with MNS University of Agriculture Multan (MNSUAM) at Women University Multan.

The conference started with welcome address by Prof. Dr. Saadia Irshad, Director Institute of Management Sciences. Mark Drew, from University of South Australia was the guest speaker who shared his thoughtful insights on challenges and opportunities of ever-changing world. Prof. Dr. Rehana Kauser HOD, department of Commerce, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, Prof. Dr. Hasan Bucha, Director, Institute of Management Sciences, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan and Dr. Ayesha Shaukat, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Islamia University of Bahawalpur were key note speakers.

They discussed the emerging needs of business education and ways of working in this digital era. Faculty and research scholars from different universities presented their research work on conference theme. Conference ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig, Dean of faculty, MNS University of Agriculture Multan.

**Country Director of UNESCO Pakistan visited School Education Secretariat South Punjab**



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Country Director of UNESCO Pakistan along with a delegation visited School Education Secretariat South Punjab, met Secretary School Education South Punjab Rana Saleem Ahmad Khan, construction of state of the art labs in schools of transgender in Multan and Bahawalpur. The signing of the memorandum of understanding for support in trans education project, according to the details, Mr. Youssef Fillali Mikanesi, the country director of the United Nations subsidiary UNESCO in Pakistan, along with the administrative and finance officer of UNESCO Islamabad, Daon Thi Dung, ) and Communication Specialist Anam Mansoori along with a delegation visited School Education Secretariat South Punjab in Multan yesterday.

On this occasion, construction of state-of-the-art labs equipped with modern facilities for the students of transgender schools established under the auspices of the Department of School Education South Punjab in Multan and Bahawalpur and to improve access to quality education and technical training for transgenders. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Country Director of UNESCO Pakistan, Mr. Yusuf Falali McNeese, and the Secretary, School Education, South Punjab, Rana Salim Ahmad Khan. Additional Secretaries Syeda Sarosh Fatima Shirazi, Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi, Deputy Secretaries Khawaja Mazharul Haq, Saifullah Khan, Section Officer Hina Chaudhry and other officers participated in the signing ceremony of the MoU.

**International Oil Prices Drop Petrol Price must be dropped by PKR. 18 per Liter :Irfan Sheikh**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI :Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has strongly demanded that the government must immediately pass on the decrease in the international oil prices to the businesses and the general public. It is pertinent to note that past few weeks have seen international oil prices drop steadily in the wake of lower than expected demand from U.S. and China; along with more countries opting for Russian oil, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh maintained that international oil prices are hovering around \$73 per barrel and they may even drop to \$70 in a matter of few days – as per industry estimates; demand markers and trend analysis. He highlighted the fact that last time petrol prices were fixed, international crude oil prices were in the range of \$78 – 80 per barrel.

Mr. Sheikh pointed out that the drop in oil prices is more than 5 percent and this creates the space for the government to reduce the petrol price by at least PKR. 18 per liter. He also demanded that government should revise its policy on fixing petroleum prices by passing on the reduction in oil prices immediately as it does in the case of an increase.

**ISSI, Balkan Studies Centre sign cooperation protocol**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : In a virtual ceremony on Monday, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Balkan Studies Centre (BSC) of the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) concluded a cooperation protocol.

Signed by Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Rector of IUS Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yildirim, this is the first Cooperation Protocol of its kind between the think tanks of Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Dr. Shakaib Rafique, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Pakistan in Sarajevo, was also present on the occasion.

Director of ISSI's Center for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), Dr. Neelum Nigar, briefed the IUS participants about the working of the institute and its outreach program with various think tanks and research and educational institutions around the world.

Welcoming the signing of the Cooperation Protocol, Director General ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated



that it will help establish a long-term institutional relationship between ISSI and BSC and enable the two sides to fruitfully collaborate in producing quality research and fostering policy dialogue on issues of common interest.

Rector IUS Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yildirim, in his remarks, highlighted the scope of

work of BSC, appreciated all those who had facilitated the present initiative, and stated that BSC looked forward to a fruitful partnership and joint activities within the framework of the Cooperation Protocol. He also alluded to the close, cordial ties between Bosnia & Herzegovina and Pakistan.

Dr. Shakaib Rafique, speaking on the occasion, congratulated the two Institutes on signing the Cooperation Protocol, stressing that it was the first of its kind between think tanks of Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina and would lead to more progress in the future



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# New strengthen will solve Peace and Global Economy among the Nations

Everything changes with time. Although change is something that sometimes creates difficulties for us. But it is also true that through change we find new ways for ourselves, for our nation. In the light of new experiences we can improve the country's conditions. So we should not ignore the variation with both positive and negative significance. Changing global powers in the world is part of history. History is a witness that after the Second World War, the power traditions of Great Britain and France ended and the power traditions of the United States and the Soviet Union began. Today, various countries of the world are trying to increase their power. The economic powers of China, Russia, America, Japan, European Union, Great Britain and other countries have increased. It does not mean that a country has the right to interact with the world just because its power is more than another country. Rather, it means that these countries have more responsibilities and should work positively with their fellow countries. Similarly, in a changing world, the traditional traditions of world powers also have an impact.

tries and especially the Islamic world suffered a lot because those countries were caught in its clutches. In addition to their financial and economic conditions, they also had to bear the effects of anti-Islamism.

The sentiments of Muslims have been hurt due to the profane sketches of Muhammad. Due to which the Muslim world is deeply concerned. In spite of the fact that in the light of the resolution of Pakistan and OIC, the United Nations last year recognized Islamophobia as a crime on March 15, "International Day". Dedicated to "International Day to Combat Islamophobia". General Secretary of the United Nations emphasized that steps should be taken to end the hatred against Muslims at the international level. One can see, many resolutions were passed for Kashmir and Palestine, but even after years have passed, they have not been implemented. Since international organizations are supported by global powers, they are not implemented.

Therefore, now the developing countries need to increase their ties with such global power along with the relations with the western countries that avoid interference in the internal affairs of small countries and restore cooperation and friendly relations with the countries. Economic and political importance of China

is increasing day by day. Since China's relations with other countries are actually based on international economic and political relations. China is one of the largest exporters and importers in the world, as a result of which it establishes trade relations with other countries. Regardless of who is to be pleased or offended, the survival of the countries is only through their own improvement and bright future decisions. If we look at the neighboring country, India is maintaining its good relations with the three countries of America, China and Russia in its foreign policies. While these three countries are not close to each other. In foreign policies, relations should be friendly and better with all countries, not only that the country should be put at the mercy of a single

one. Pakistan is an Islamic sovereign state. China has always played a prominent role in building relations with Pakistan. CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) which is the backbone for the development and construction of Pakistan. This project was implemented during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in April 2015. The friendship between China and Pakistan is very strong and its stability is important for both countries. There are examples of projects in commercial, economic and political cooperation between the

two countries over the years. China has made Pakistan a part of its "Belt and Road Initiative" project, under which large-scale infrastructure project work is going on between China and Pakistan from Gwadar Port to Jubal Port.

At the present time, developing countries towards BRICS indicates that the world wants to get rid of the dollar and wants to use an alternative currency for global trade. The politics of the countries of the world is now taking a turn. Because the dollar has made the countries of the world its slaves due to its wrong policies. The organization called BRICS was initially an organization of four countries that came into being on June 16, 2009. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa also joined it in 2010. Currently, 19 more countries of the world have requested to join the group. Five of the Arab countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran and Argentina, which is the first Latin American country to join the group and trade, and preferring the Yuan for trade. As countries around the world want to move away from the dollar and end American financial dominance, this change will allow countries to develop an alternative route for global trade. Argentina and Brazil have also agreed to trade in Yuan with China. China's currency has replaced the US dollar in Russia. The Yuan will be the currency used for cross-border trade. In the coming time more countries of the world will strengthen this group for peace and stability of their economy.



Javed Ullah Raja

## HR violations rise dramatically in Indian-administered J&K

Human rights violations have risen dramatically in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir since 2019 when the government of India revoked the special status of the region," warned a UN Independent Expert, one week before a G20 meeting to be held in Srinagar.

"By holding a G20 meeting of the working group on tourism on 22-24 May," warned Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, "the government of India is seeking to normalize what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portraying it as an international "seal of approval, despite what Volker Türk, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, told the U.N. Human Rights Council a few weeks ago about worrying human rights situation in the Kashmir region.

The Special Rapporteur issued a statement on Monday describing the massive rights violations including torture, extrajudicial killings, denial of political participation rights of Kashmiri Muslims and minorities, following the suspension of democratic rights and local elections due to direct rule from New Delhi on 6 August 2019.

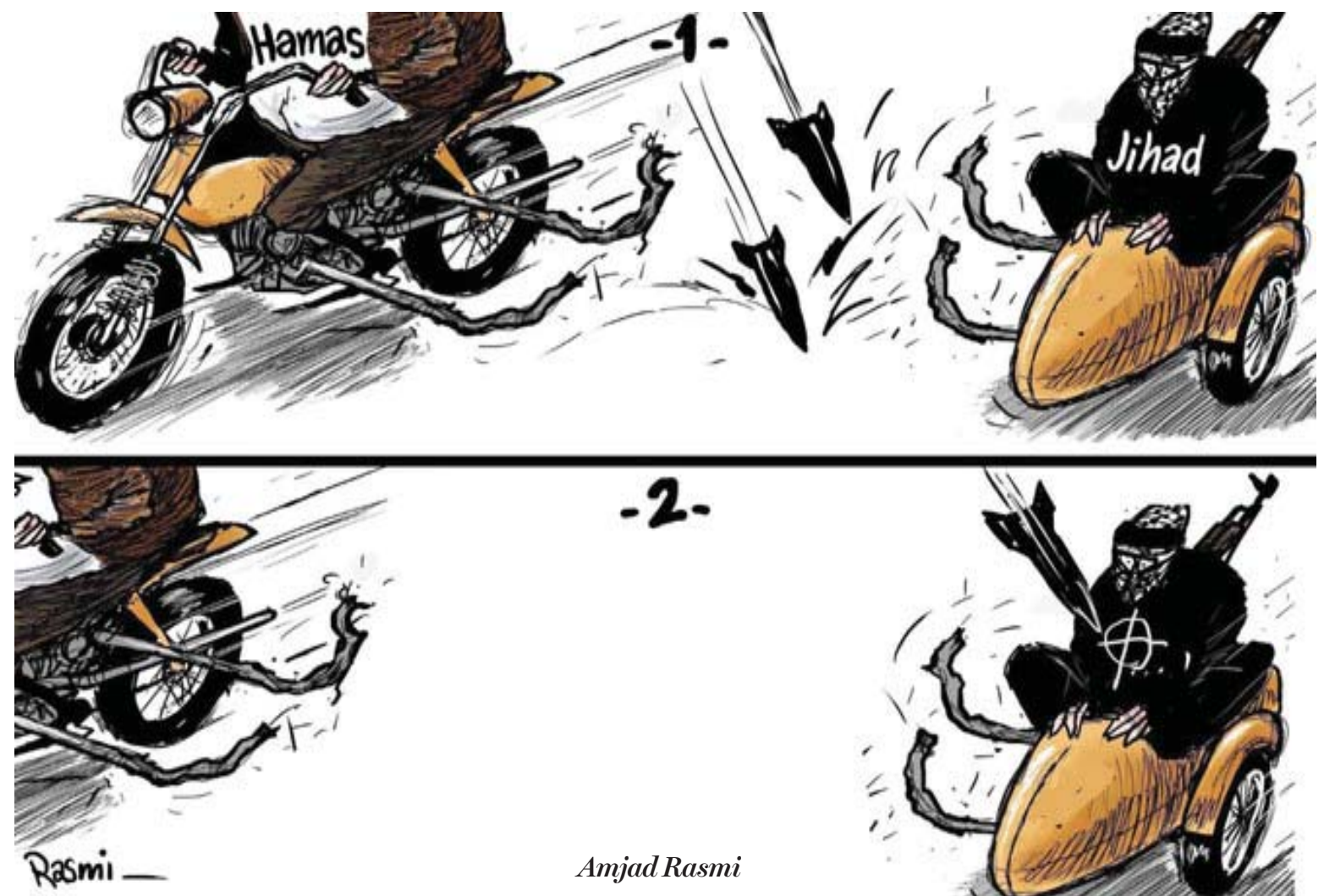
"The situation there has – if anything – become much worse since myself and fellow UN independent experts transmitted a communication to the Government of India in 2021. We then expressed our grave concerns that the loss of political autonomy and the implementation of the new Domicile Rules and other legislation could alter the demographic composition of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, may result in political disenfranchisement, and significantly reduce the degree of political participation and representation of the Kashmiri and other minorities previously exercised in the former state, undermining their linguistic, cultural and religious rights", he said. "On all counts this seems to be occurring on the ground, in a repressive and sometimes brutal environment of suppression of even basic rights".

The Independent Expert noted that there have been reports of significant numbers of Hindus from outside the region moving into Kashmir. Dramatic demographic changes are underway in Jammu and Kashmir to overwhelm native Kashmiris in their own land.

According to de Varennes, the G20 is unwittingly providing a veneer of support to a facade of normalcy at a time when massive human rights violations, illegal and arbitrary arrests, political persecutions, restrictions and even suppression of free media and human rights defenders continue to escalate. "International human rights obligations and the UN Declaration of Human Rights should still be upheld by organisations such as the G20", he added, concluding that "the situation in Jammu and Kashmir should be decried and condemned, not pushed under the rug and ignored with the holding of this meeting".

Special Rapporteurs are part of what is known as the Special Procedures experts of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures experts, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the

Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.



Amjad Rasmi

## Unforgivable offense of attacking GHQ-II

One more reason why countries need an army is for social mobility. In many countries, the armed forces have historically played a role in allowing people to move up from lower societal classes and are a key institution for poorer people to move up in society. The army is generally an institution almost anyone can join. Armies pride themselves in taking people and giving them the skills and expertise needed to rise up. Armies are meritocratic institutions – meaning the best people should rise to the top regardless of their background or social status. This means the military in many countries are places where people who may have had a harder start in life can excel. Being senior in the military often comes with a degree of social prestige. Soldiers, and especially high-ranking army officers, are seen as highly valued in many societies. As people can join the armed forces from almost any background, this means the military provides an opportunity for people to make something of themselves and rise up the traditional hierarchies of a society.

Pakistan Army is successfully tackling with all the above mentioned tasks and doing much more than their predefined job. The General Headquarters (GHQ) is the headquarters of the Pakistan Army and is located within the garrison complex of Rawalpindi, adjacent to the Joint Staff Headquarters. Following Rawalpindi's capture by the British East India company, 53rd Regiment of the company army took quarters in the newly captured city. The decision to man a permanent military cantonment in the city was made in 1851 by the Marquess of Dalhousie. The city saw its first tele-

graph office in the early 1850s. The city's Garrison Church was built shortly after in 1854, and is the site where Robert Milman, Bishop of Calcutta, was buried following his death in Rawalpindi in 1876. It was established on 14 August 1947 in the headquarters of the former Northern Command of the British Indian Army. General Headquarters is the command center of land forces of Pakistan. In GHQ, there are ten branches commanded by Lt Gen ranked officer, and forty directorates commanded by a Maj Gen ranked officer. The branches and directorate in GHQ are: General Staff, (GS) branch, Logistic Staff, (LS) branch, Arms branch, Adjutant General

ambulance, unloaded the patients and destroyed it. According to a recent press release from ISPR, May 9 will be remembered as a dark chapter. Chairman PTI was taken into legal custody yesterday from the Islamabad High Court following the NAB laws. Immediately after his arrest, there were organized attacks on Army properties and installations and anti-army slogans were raised. On the one hand, these evil elements vigorously stir up public sentiments to fulfill their limited and selfish goals and on the other hand, they do not get tired of highlighting the importance of the army for the country while throwing dust in the eyes of the

people. What the eternal enemy of the country could not do for seventy-five years, this group, wearing a political cloak, in the lust for power, has done. The army showed extreme patience, tolerance and restraint and without caring about its own reputation worked with extreme patience and tolerance in the wider interest of the country. Army should give its immediate response which can be used for its nefarious political purposes. Army's mature response thwarted this conspiracy. We are well aware that behind this are the orders, directives and directives of some evil leadership of the party. There was and is complete pre-planning.

ISPR further said that facilitators, planners and political activists involved in these operations have been identified and strict action will be taken against them as per the law and all these evil elements will now be responsible for the consequences.

Any further attack on the army, including all law enforcement agencies, military and state installations and properties will be severely retaliated against by the very group that wants to push Pakistan into a civil war and has repeatedly attacked them. These nefarious ambitions have also been openly expressed by this evil group. No one can be allowed to incite people and take the law into their hands.

Readers, this is very clear message from ISPR and should be taken seriously by PTI leadership. India media is also showing immense pleasure to show the footages of the incidents in which few people are attacking on their own army and public & civil properties so it's again a question mark that are you taking instructions and facilitations from our enemy? Their actions are taking them quickly to the status of a banned and terrorist party. I find no words to condemn such malicious attempts. We will have to re-define the standards and draw a border line between patriotism and betrayal. The mob is allegedly directed and motivated by Imran Khan and leadership of PTI. Viral videos and audios of their leadership clearly show that by how they have been instructing the workers to destroy public and armed forces properties. They have been continuously blaming and defaming Pak Army and its officers.

Recently Army Chief has also assured that all planners and actors of the incident of May 9 will be brought to the court of justice and no more attacks on military assets will be tolerated. Riot attacks on GHQ and public properties are unacceptable and all culprits should be strictly punished by setting an example so that no one even dares to think about such nefarious attempts in future.

Concluded

## Section-144 & Peace Vs Vortex-I

A person may be dealt with for contempt when they do not comply with an order made by, or an undertaking given to, the court.

Non-compliance with court orders threatens the rule of law and undermines public confidence in our legal system, which requires respect for the authority of the court.

Regarding Pakistan, it is internationally recognised that, every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States.

We have many policies, strategies, and plans to manage the system but is there no policy to nip the evil in the bud?

You need the power but the power of love which binds oneself to obey. Let's recall this statement: "drive the nail right, may mean 'do the work properly. It means someone is asking the others to do a work or job correctly. The competent authorities in the statement might not be doing the work given to them rightly, so the speaker used this idiomatic expression to ask them to do the work rightly.

Section-144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) empowers district administration to issue orders in public

interest that may place a ban on an activity for a specific period of time. Such a ban is enforced by the police who register cases under section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code for violations of the ban. Section 188 carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison or fine or both. But this section could be implemented in the perspectives of the betterment of humanity betterment but it can never be implemented as an action which is often observed as an "order" phenomena?

Here the mind moves to the direction of perplexity! whether an "order" is significant or the rule of law is important?

Institutional weakness may adopt and implement "Order" phenomena in place of law unlawfully.

Still the nation is in dilemma to distinguish such terminology being used from decades and this phenomena awarded like the prizes.

It must remain active and also alive in our minds that when someone used the methodology "By hook or by crook" such Societal System declined & we can draw many pictures from the history of the world.

Hence the protest for the sack of the fundamental rights reserves the rights to the citizens to elect someone as per their conscience, needs and necessities.

Concentrate over the Internal and external conditions which are very clear in the Constitution of Pakistan.

To be continued



Abdul Basit Alvi



MA Rashid



# Second International Forum on Poverty Reduction to be held in Tashkent

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Experts will consider the best methods of eradicating poverty and the results of Uzbekistan's achievements, including their effectiveness, in order to further expansion of the acquired experience to developing countries.

On May 18, 2023, the Hilton Tashkent City Hotel will host the 2nd International Forum "Implementing Best Practices in Poverty Reduction".

This year, the Forum is organized by the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) together with the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Forum is organized with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan and

the United Nations Children's Fund.

About 200 delegates are expected to take part in the 2nd International Forum on Poverty Reduction, which will be held in our country, including experts from the global initiative to combat poverty J-PAL, UN, UNDP, ILO, World Bank, UNICEF, ADB, AFD, GIZ, GGGI, etc.

Of great importance will be the participation of Abhijit Banerjee, Alfred Nobel Prize winner, co-founder of the global initiative to combat poverty J-PAL as well as James Foster, Professor of Economics at George Washington University, who studies the economics of welfare and the measurement of poverty and Sabina Alkire, director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. The Forum will be attended by



Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank Shixin Chen, Vice-President of the World Bank for Europe and Central Asia Anna Bjerde, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan Consuelo Vidal Brus, Head of the UNICEF Office in Uzbekistan Munir Mammadzade, Head of the World

Bank in Uzbekistan Marco Mantovani, Director-General of the International Poverty Reduction Center in China Liu Junwen, Vice Director of the National Rural Revitalization Administration of China Jiang Tianbao.

In addition, representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as the diplomatic corps are expected to participate.

The purpose of the 2nd International Forum will be to study the world's best practices and methods of poverty reduction, to form priority areas for future joint research in the coming years with a special emphasis on an integrated and comprehensive approach to resolving multidimensional poverty, social protection and targeting, improving the quality of training programmes in the labor market through the development of human capital, supporting the growth of small enterprises, expanding access to a high-quality education.

The participants will review the methods and results of Uzbekistan's achievements in the implementation of measures to combat poverty, including their effectiveness, in order to further expansion of the acquired experience in developing countries.

Within the framework of the Forum, it is planned to sign a number of cooperation documents and adopt a joint Communiqué, including the signing of a joint Action Programme between the Center for Economic Research and Reforms and the J-PAL.

## High Commissioner Janjua lauds diaspora's role in strengthening ties between Pak, Canada



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua has lauded the Pakistani diaspora in Canada for their role and contribution in strengthening cultural and trade ties between the two countries.

He attended a community's fun gala of Pakistani diaspora in Ottawa. The event was arranged by Friends Cafe Club of Canada at a local community center and attended by a large number of Pakistanis and Canadians of Pakistani origin living in and around the

Canadian capital, a press release on Monday said.

The high commissioner lauded the organisers for arranging the event and providing the community with an opportunity to celebrate their culture, food and dress under one platform.

On the occasion, he also mingled

with the guests and participants.

Earlier, Friends Cafe Club Canada's Secretary General Bilal Riaz welcomed the guests and thanked them for their participation in the fun-packed event.

Various cultural activities, quiz and skits were also performed by participants on the occasion.

## College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan to build regional centre for postgraduate medical services in Gilgit-Baltistan

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) is working in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) for the last one year with the support of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) specially brought vision of Barrister Muhammad Khalid khurshid khan, Chief Minister GB in the health sector. Prof. Khalid Masud Gondal, President CPSP, Prof. Mohammad Shoaib Shafi, Senior Vice President and all Councils were taken special interest to promote the Post Graduate medical facilities and academic and educational activities in GB which would be great source of encouragement and inspiration for the people of



GB. In this result Chief Minister GB had given 2x kanal land for regional Centre GB, CPSP had constructed a building of regional centre with the help of Pak Army within 08 month.

The inauguration ceremony of CPSP Regional Centre GB was held on 1st May 2023. In this ceremony the honourable

Chief Minister Barrister Muhammad Khalid khurshid Khan grace the occasion as a chief guest in the presence of President CPSP Prof. Khalid Masud Gondal, Prof. Mohammad Shoaib Shafi, Senior Vice President and respected Councils, Chief Minister GB said that this regional Centre will serve as a gateway for the upcoming doctors so they can get their specialization with in the vicinity of GB and can facilitate their services here, Chief Minister GB also announced to allocate 10x kanal land in SKARDU for the construction of CPSP regional Centre. And also signed MOU in between Government of GB & CPSP for that land during the inauguration ceremony.

In this ceremony Prof. Khalid Masud Gondal, President CPSP also expressed his feeling that this is a memorable day for CPSP and as well people of GB in medical field. He said that this centre will facilitate its doctors so that they can get their Training in own home and the convalescent will get better treatment at their door steps. Prof. Mohammad Shoaib Shafi also thank to Chief Minister for given land in SKARDU and said that Insha'Allah we will construct international standard level auditorium, halls, class rooms where we will arrange International conferences, workshops and examinations. Formal earth breaking ceremony of 10 Kanal land was done by CPSP-team at Skardu.

## Del Electronics and Haier Pakistan were both found to have violated Section 4

ISLAMABAD: On 11 March 2022, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) passed an order holding that RPM arrangements, including those that limit discounts, fix the price, and/or set a minimum or maximum price floor or ceiling, fall under the purview of Section 4(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010 (the Act), constitute a fixation of the selling price of a good or service, and should be regarded as anti-competitive because they harm both intra-brand and inter-brand competition. Del Electronics and Haier Pakistan were both found to have violated Section 4 of the Act by imposing pricing and other restrictions through RPM (resale price maintenance) agreements, and any agreements or arrangements that these firms had in place were deemed null and void.

The matter concerned a CCP's enquiry into the price control circulars released by Del Electronics (Private) Limited and Haier Pakistan (Private) Limited. Four Haier Pakistan circulars dealt with the implementation of a fixed price list for products and the levying of fines against select dealers for disregarding the fixed price lists. Regarding Del Electronics, two circulars that were similar to one another were discovered, in which dealers were fined for selling appliances for less than the amounts set by Del Electronics.

Del Electronics later challenged the CCP's order in the Competition Appellate Tribunal under Section 42 of the Act, and it was admitted for a regular hearing. The Tribunal directed Del Electronics to pay refunds of the penalty amounts/sanctions to its dealers under the CCP's order after hearing the parties.

The electrical company, Del Electronics, has informed the Tribunal that, out of 451 dealers, Del Electronics has issued refunds of penalty amounts/sanctions to 143 dealers totalling Rs. 8,134,000/- following the orders of the Tribunal and CCP. Del Electronics added that because the remaining dealers (a total of 308) could not be found or tracked down, penalties and sanctions had not yet been returned to them. Del Electronics stated that, as a backup plan, it was prepared and willing to pay CCP the balance of the penalty, which comes to Rs. 16,105,500.

CCP bench in its order cautioned all retailers, suppliers, manufacturers, dealers or any other undertaking as RPM agreements are 'by object' anti-competitive in nature and a violation of Section 4(2)(a) of the Act. The bench considered the same to be a serious violation of competition law. Any party wishing to implement the same has been required to notify such agreements/arrangements and first seek clearance from CCP through exemption under Section 5 of the Act addressing the efficiencies specified under Section 9 of the Act. In the absence of such exemption, such agreements/arrangements are void.

RPM, in whatever form, be it maximum or minimum price floors or discount restrictions, are all forms of price-fixing under Section 4(2)(a) of the Act, i.e., a fixation of the selling price of a product/good and are treated as by object anti-competitive. In America, several States still prohibit RPM arrangements, and other jurisdictions reviewed including the UK, Australia, EU, India, and China, RPM arrangements/practices have been heavily penalized and are considered to be serious violations of competition law.



## Bid evaluation of \$100million Chinese-aid project allegedly being rigged

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a setback to the execution of a US\$100-million grant for repairing sections of Pakistan's N5 highway, a bidding process scandal has emerged, casting a shadow over the long-standing friendship between China and Pakistan.

The project, funded by the Chinese government, aimed to address damages caused by floods and held significant importance for both nations.

However, significant delays were experienced in the bid evaluation process. The bid opening of the aforesaid project was on December 22, 2022, but it was not until May 5, 2023, that the Pakistan National Highway Authority (NHA) released the bid evaluation report. Informed sources indicate that the delay was a result of alleged violations by the CPMC, as they intervened in the bid evaluation process, manipulating the bid evaluation report.

According to the sources, Mr. Wang Shuming, the representative of CPMC, repeatedly approached the NHA office during the bid

evaluation process. He allegedly used inappropriate language, offending NHA staff members, as NHA did not score the three bidders as desired by CPMC, indicating their intent to intervene and manipulate the bid evaluation process and results thereof. In addition, offensive expressions were observed in official letters from CPMC addressed to NHA.

In letters from CPMC, some expressions were seen as offensive to NHA. In one letter, the CPMC wrote: "The Chinese side is shocked at your work attitude and your behavior of violating the Implementation Agreement. Chinese side also doubts about the ability of Pakistani side in bidding, as well as your compliance, impartiality, and integrity in the bidding process. In light of this, Chinese side expressly requests CPMC to immediately stop NHA violation of Implementation Agreement and Chinese side do not expect to see Pakistani side go further and further down the road that is contrary to the intention of the Chinese side in initiating this project."

Under the continuous inter-

ventions by CPMC, NHA finally completed the technical bid evaluation report (TBER) on Feb. 21, 2023, spending two months, in compliance with the Implementation Agreement and Pakistan PPPA Rules and submitted to CPMC. According to the report, CSEEC ranked No. 1 with score of 97.5, Yunnan Sunny 92 and CRBC 78.

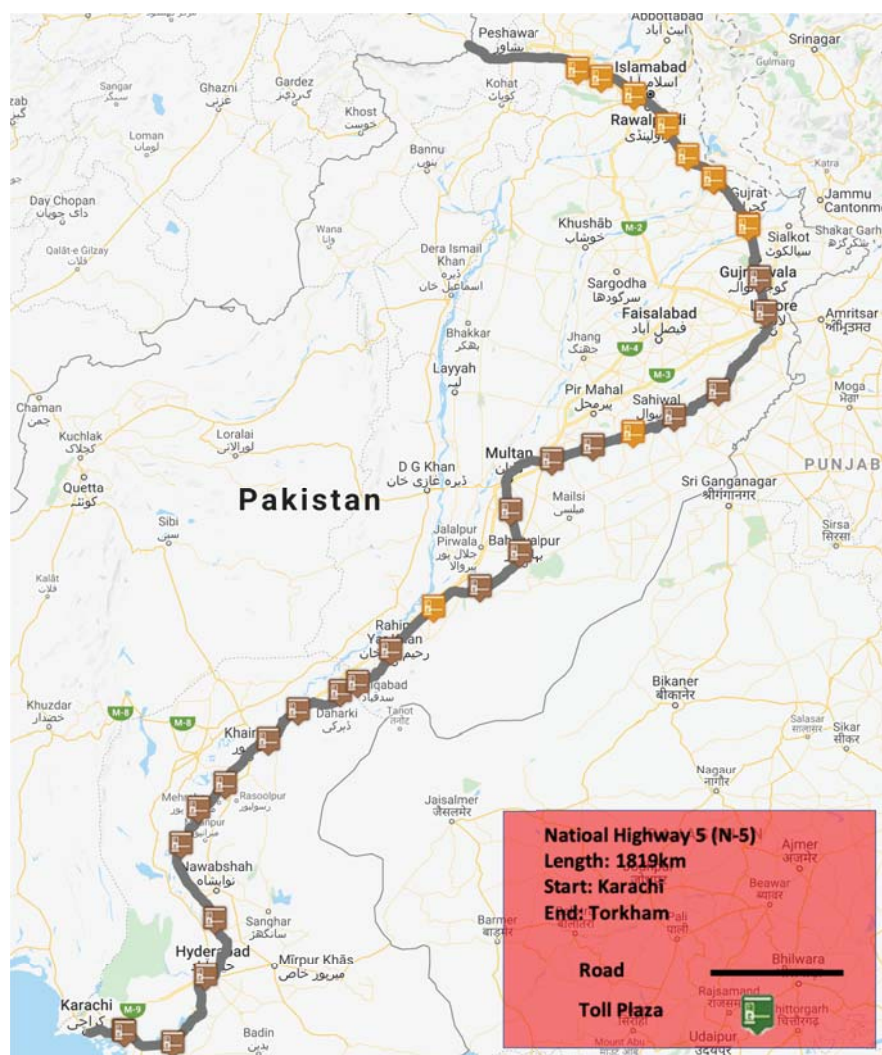
Just because NHA did not issue the TBER as per the intent of CPMC, CPMC delayed on confirmation of the TBER, subsequently impacting the project progress.

Due to non-confirmation on TBER for long time by CPMC and its threat of canceling this China-aid Project on behalf of the Chinese government, Pakistan NHA was forced to revise and release the TBER on NHA's website on May 5, 2023 and further disqualified the bidder CSEEC with the highest score with the lame excuse that there is some issue with Schedule-E of CSEEC's Technical Bid, completely violating the PPPA rule and the project Implementation Agreement between Chinese side and Pakistan side. Through a series

of lobbying, threats, and delays, CPMC brutally intervened, and finally achieved the goal of manipulating the bid evaluation results.

The reason of the disqualification of the bidder with the highest score was non provision of Schedule-E as per the format given in the approved bidding documents. However, the NHA bid evaluation committee had, previously, repeatedly responded and confirmed that there is no problem with CSEEC's Schedule-E. NHA responded in one letter, "The Committee after detailed deliberation considered these deficiencies as non material deviation and considered the bidder as eligible."

Due to the misconducts done by the CPMC, the project was delayed for the implementation. The CPMC's behavior of maliciously manipulating the bid evaluation process for its self-interest is not only a disregard to the NHA, but also a disrespect for the local residents and Pak-China friendship, casting a shadow on this China-aid project that symbolizes the friendship between the two countries.





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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,718.42	41,487.58	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,716.25	41,310.19	
Index Value	Change	
2,884,368,331	+230.84	
Percentage	Time	
+0.56%	15 May, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,777.70	+23.08	
Percentage	Time	
+0.30%	15 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,341.84	+41.22	
Percentage	Time	
+0.12%	15 May, 1:03 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
29,626.34	+238.04	
Percentage	Time	
+0.81%	15 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.5	194.5
Bahrain Dinar	769.97	777.97
Canadian Dollar	214	216.2
China Yuan	41.76	42.16
Euro	318	321
Japanese Yen	2.2	2.25
Kuwaiti Dinar	944.81	953.81
Malaysian Ringgit	64.94	65.54
New Zealand \$	183.93	185.93
Norwegian Krone	27.55	27.85
Omani Riyal	752.33	760.33
Qatari Riyal	79.54	80.24
Saudi Riyal	78	78.8
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	28.29	28.59
Swiss Franc	324.91	327.41
UK Pound Sterling	365	368
US Dollar	293	297

# CDA Board Members assure to start development works in markets

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry leading a delegation held a meeting with CDA Board Members and discussed with them the matters of starting development work in markets in Islamabad. CDA Member Planning & Design Waseem Hayat Bajwa presided over the meeting. CDA Member Finance Syed Mazhar Hussain Shah, Member Engineering Syed Munawar Shah, Member Environment Captain (Retd) Anwaar Haq, Deputy Director General Enforcement Shah Jahan, Director Municipal Administration Yasir Farhad and Head Finance Mian Tariq Latif were present in the meeting.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI lauded Noorul Amin Mengal, Chairman, CDA for focusing on the development works in markets under the instructions of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. He said that markets need many development works including construction of parking lots, carpeting of roads, replacement of old sewage & drainage systems, repair of footpaths, filtration plants and construction of public toilets and that the CDA in consultation with ICCI and the concerned market associations, will address these issues. He said that in the first phase, the development works should be started in F-6 Markaz, F-7 Markaz, G-9 Markaz, Alpara Market, Melody Market, Blue Area,



F-10 Markaz and I-8 Markaz and this process should be gradually extended to other markets. He assured that ICCI and Market Associations will cooperate with CDA in this regard.

Addressing the delegation, CDA Member Planning & Design Waseem Hayat Bajwa said that development works will be started in the markets as proposed by the ICCI. He said that each market should nominate a focal person for CDA to finalize the development works. Khalid Iqbal Malik, former President ICCI,

said that the approach of the current Chairman CDA is very positive as has indicated to resolve many long-standing demands of the business community during recent visit to ICCI.

Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi former President ICCI said that CDA had constructed an underground parking lot in Jinnah Super Market with huge funds, but due to lack of lights, it has not been made functional as yet.

Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi President Super Market, Asad Aziz President and Abdul

Rahman Siddiqui Secretary General Jinnah Super Market, Ahmed Khan President F-10 Markaz, Raja Hasan Akhtar President Blue Area, Zahid Qureshi Secretary General I-8 Markaz, Akhtar Abbasi Secretary General Aabpara Market, Rana Zafar Secretary General G-9 Markaz, Khalid Chaudhry, former SVP ICCI and others were in ICCI delegation and they gave useful suggestions to the CDA Board Members about the development works in their respective markets.

# PMI's sustainability strategy takes centre stage in 2022 Integrated Annual Report

**Bureau Report**

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

"As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic and the global climate crisis, PMI remains committed to deliv-

ering a smoke-free future and driving positive impact in society and the environment," said Jacek Olczak, Chief Executive Officer of PMI. "Our latest Integrated Report highlights our progress toward our ambitious goals, particularly in expanding the availability of our smoke-free products, investing in product and operational sustainability, and promoting diversity and inclusion within our company. We remain laser-focused on advancing our ESG agenda and driving progress on the most pressing issues facing our business and the world at large."

On the social side of PMI's operations, it expanded access to structured lifelong learning offers among its employees, published a strengthened commitment to human rights,



PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

and completed its sixth and seventh human rights impact assessments, in Brazil and Malaysia. PMI's efforts to prevent youth access to its products remained strong, with 91% of total shipment

volume covered by youth access prevention programs in indirect retail channels.

In terms of environmental impact, PMI continued to decarbonize its direct

operations and validated its science-based targets for net zero GHG emissions across its value chain by 2040.

PMI conducted seven human rights impact assessments since 2018 in the high-

est-risk countries where it operates, and 40.7% of management positions are now held by women, exceeding PMI's 2022 target of 40%. PMI has made significant progress in its efforts to purchase leaf at no risk of net deforestation of managed natural forests and no conversion of natural ecosystems, with 55% of its leaf purchased at no risk during 2022. PMI received a Triple A Score from CDP for climate, forest, and water security for the third consecutive year.

On the operational impact side, during 2022, PMI achieved a 30% reduction

in absolute GHG emissions in the tobacco supply chain versus the 2019 baseline. PMI aspires to reduce its absolute GHG emissions in the tobacco supply chain by 50%, by 2030. The company continued to reduce water intensity and achieved a decline of 47% versus 2018, at a ratio of 2.5 cubic meters per million cigarettes (down from 4.7 in 2018).

With a robust ESG framework in place, PMI has set ambitious targets and is taking concrete steps to achieve them. For more information please visit PMI's website (www.pmi.com).

# FFC delegate presented FFC's ESG Journey at joint session of SECP & ICAP

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited nominee was invited as guest speaker in the joint session organized by Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) on Capacity building and Sustainability disclosures & reporting at Lahore. The session was attended by diverse stakeholders comprising of representation from regulators, companies, multilateral institutions, professional bodies, capital market institutions and business forums.

Syed Imran Rizvi, being member of FFC-ESG Task force & Steering Committee, represented FFC.

He apprised the house about FFC's ESG journey while appreciating the



efforts of SECP, PSX & PIGG in leading the ESG drive and creating awareness among various segments

of corporate sector. The Chairman SECP presented him with the SECP memento.

# PSW extends coverage to dry ports in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) has extended the scope of its operations to all dry ports (except Quetta) with effect from May 3, 2023, a move that will further facilitate the country's cross-border trade operations.

With the new development, goods and commodities clearance of commercial consignments classified under Chapters 1 to 50 of the Pakistan Customs Tariff has been completely switched to PSW, allowing clearance of imported consignments via submission of a Single Declaration (SD). The Single Declaration is a core feature of the PSW system which enables parties involved in international trade to lodge standardized information and documents at a single-entry point to meet the regulatory requirements of multiple government agencies simultaneously. Currently PSW facilitates the clearance of imported items regulated by the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), Animal Quarantine Department (AQD), Feder-

al Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSD&RD), and Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) through the electronic issuance of import permits, release orders, and export certificates.

As the leading public sector entity responsible for the digital transfor-



mation of cross-border trade and the notified operator of the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) system, this development is a significant milestone in improving the ease of doing business through the streamlining and digitalization of clearance processes.

The CEO of Pakistan Single Window Syed Aftab Haider commented on the

initiative, saying "The extension of PSW's digitalization initiative to up-country dry ports is the latest in our steady effort to enable an increasingly seamless clearance process and improve trade facilitation in the country. As partners of the traders' community, we believe that availing this new hassle-free, cost-effective, and harmonized system will expedite trade processes significantly." He assured traders that the services of PSW at dry ports are easy to leverage and encourage reaching out to PSW via designated channels for information and ready assistance.

To stay effective, stakeholders must embrace digital platforms and services that make it easier for stakeholders to work together to promote the efficiency of the overall ecosystem. PSW views the dry ports as intricate partner networks that include terminal operators, trucking and logistics companies, clearing agents, freight forwarders etc. and fully supports the modernization of the customs and regulatory processes implemented at the dry ports.

# Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Malaysia to accelerate green transition, digital transformation

**Spokesman Report**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Malaysia (C4IR Malaysia) was officially launched today by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, and the President of the World Economic Forum, Borge Brende.

C4IR Malaysia will play a crucial role in driving the advancement of the digital economy in Malaysia, with a focus on supporting the country's energy transition and digital transformation. The centre will serve as a public-private platform, bringing together leaders from government, business, civil society, academia and other sectors to advance new partnerships and initiatives that can unlock the value of technology for Malaysia's economy and society. The centre is hosted by MyDIGI-

TAL, a national initiative aimed at transforming Malaysia into a digitally driven, high-income nation and a regional leader.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in Malaysia's journey to becoming a global leader in technology governance and innovation. C4IR Malaysia is the first centre in the Asia-Pacific region as part of the World Economic Forum's global C4IR Network. With this launch, Malaysia has now joined a community of 18 centres, where new and innovative approaches to technology governance, adoption and scaling are being developed and implemented at the national, regional and international levels.

Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, said: "Malaysia is honored to be part of the global network of Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution with the

first Centre for 4IR in Southeast Asia. This is a testament to the critical value of Malaysia's efforts to become an advanced, digitally-driven, high-income nation and a regional digital economy leader fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and collaborations between stakeholders. The Malaysia Centre for 4IR will further strengthen Malaysia's human-centered policy towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution and contribute towards our target of entering the Top 20 in the Global Innovation Index. We are confident that a resilience-oriented approach will also improve the nation's People's Wellbeing Index score and enhance productivity to create inclusive, balanced, responsible and sustainable economic growth."

Addressing the leaders at the launch, Borge Brende, Presi-

dent, World Economic Forum said: "Malaysia's leadership in the region and commitment to driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution is commendable. Through the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Malaysia, we are excited to work together with the government, business and civil society leaders to unlock the value of technology for the benefit of all Malaysians. This partnership will not only drive transformation but also help build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for Malaysia and the region."

Following the official launch, C4IR Malaysia hosted two roundtable discussions to address its thematic priorities, inviting leaders from business, government and other sectors to share key priorities and opportunities for the energy transition and digital transformation. These insights will serve as the



foundation for C4IR Malaysia's core initiatives, informing its strategic planning and programme development.

Fabian Bigar, CEO of MyDIGITAL and Head of Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Malaysia said, "MyDIGITAL team is proud to be entrusted

with the responsibility of making Centre for 4IR Malaysia a success in achieving its goals. The establishment of the Centre for 4IR Malaysia aligns with and further fortifies our initiatives to catalyse homegrown technology development by enhancing collaborative opportunities among stakehold-

ers to unlock value in 4IR technologies, with a focus on supporting the country's energy transition and digital transformation."

From adoption to transformation to regional leadership, C4IR Malaysia is a critical establishment that will help drive the country's transition to an advanced digital economy. By joining the global ecosystem of technology governance innovators and leaders, C4IR Malaysia is poised to contribute significantly to Malaysia's economic and social development in the years to come.

The World Economic Forum's global C4IR Network is a platform for multistakeholder collaboration, bringing together the public and private sectors to maximize technological benefits to society while minimizing the risks associated with 4IR technologies.



# Higher Education Commission's girl's hockey team qualified for the semi-finals after six years

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) reached the semi-finals of the National Games girl's hockey competition after six years. The hockey competition of the 34th National Games in Quetta is underway at the Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Hockey Stadium.

The team achieved this feat by defeating the team of Sindh province. HEC Director of Sports Javed Ali Memon has congratulated the team for reaching the final four and expressed his determination that the hockey team will continue its excellent performance, will continue in the finals and reach the finals as well, Javed Ali Memon congratulated the head coach & manager former international player



Mubashir Mukhtar and coach Suman Khan and appreciated their perfor-

mance, HEC team is in group (A) In his first match, he had to face failure at the hands of strong rival and national champion Pakistan Wapda, but against Sindh, HEC won by presenting a good game. Team captain Mariam Hussain played an important role in the victory of his team by scoring a wonderful goal. The semi-final of HEC will be against Pakistan Army.

The HEC team consists of Ayesha Mehek, Aqsa Javed, Ziaj Mir, Tabaraka Tariq, Humaira Rafi, Maryam Hanif (captain), Maryam Hussain, Saira Murad, Areba Sarwar, Bushra Liaquat, Areeba Yaqoob, Sidra tul Mantha, Sadaf Rafiq, Maleeha, Fatima Zehra, Saba Riaz, Yamuna Fatima, Sundus Siddiqui and Rukhsar are included.

# DG, SBP directs coaches to prepare Punjab contingent professionally for National Games

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The training camps of different Punjab teams were continued on the directions of Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail for the upcoming 34th National Games scheduled to be staged at Quetta from May 22, 2023.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement on Monday said that dozens of taekwondo and squash players participated in camp training at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall and Punjab Squash Complex respectively under the supervision of qualified coaches. "The rowing athletes had strenuous physical exercises at Punjab University Gymnasium Hall to build their stamina ahead of the National Games sports extravaganza". Director General Sports



Punjab Dr Asif Tufail directed the coaches and trainers of Punjab contingent to prepare their respective squads fully for the grand National Games event.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail further said that expert coaches and trainers are training their respective squads profes-

sionally keeping in view the significance of 34th National Games. "The top athletes from across the country are participating in 34th National Games and that's why Punjab coaches need to impart professional training to their male and female athletes," he added.

It may be noted here that

Punjab sports contingents will participate in Gymnastic, Baseball, Taekwondo, Cycling, Rugby, Tennis, Basketball, Bodybuilding, Judo, Karate, Squash, Archery, Athletics, Wrestling, Wushu, Tug of War, Table Tennis and Weightlifting events during National Games.

# Final spots locked in as Super League comes to completion

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD :Bangladesh's narrow victory over Ireland in Chelmsford on Sunday has seen the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League come to a completion, with New Zealand crowned the overall winners of the inaugural competition.

The Super League was used as the main qualifying competition for this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and the top eight teams at the end of the cycle managed to earn their places at this year's 50-over showcase.

New Zealand booked their place and finished on top of the standings courtesy of their 16 victories from 24 matches while reigning World Cup champions England were second with 15 wins from the same amount of games, the ICC said in a press release.

Bangladesh rose to third and narrowly in front of fourth-placed India due to their 2-0 series triumph over Ireland, with their four-run victory over the European side on Sunday the final game of the Super League cycle.

Skipper Tamim Iqbal top-scored for Bangladesh with a stylish 69 at the top of the order and a four-wicket haul from pacer

Mustafizur Rahman saw Ireland fall narrowly short from pulling off a series-levelling victory.

Ireland already knew their World Cup fate prior to Sunday's clash, with Andy Balbirnie's side finishing outside the top eight places on the Super league standings and forced into the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe during June and July to try and earn a spot at this year's main event.

Pakistan (fifth), Australia (sixth), Afghanistan (seventh) and South Africa (eighth) were the other teams to qualify directly for the World Cup on the back of the Super League, leaving West Indies, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and the Netherlands as teams joining Ireland in the Qualifier tournament that commences next month.

# Pakistan to field 10 cyclists in Asian Road Cycling Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A 10-member Pakistan cycling team will feature in the Asian Road Cycling Championship, set to be held in Thailand, next month, Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) said on Monday.

"The training camp for preparation of our cyclists for the Championship has commenced today (Monday) in Karachi in collaboration with Pakistan Sports Board. The camp will continue till the end of the first week of June," Syed Azhar Ali Shah, the president of PCF told to media.

The 42nd edition of the big-ticket event will be held along with the 29th Asian



Junior Road Cycling Championships and 11th Asian Para Road Cycling Championships.

"A total of 15 cyclists are attending the camp. They were selected purely on merit, especially based on their performance in the National Road Championship that was held in Peshawar in February," he said.

Azhar said that the federation wanted to send all the 15 cyclists for the continental event but due to scarcity of funds, it believed it would hardly manage to field six men and four women cyclists in that. "Participation of our athletes is very necessary for the champion-

# Hamza, Shahzaib half-centuries give Pakistan U19 80-run win

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Half-centuries from Hamza Nawaz and Shahzaib Khan and three-fifties by Ali Asfand and Arafat Minhas helped Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by 80 runs in the fifth one-day at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Bangladesh on Monday.

The win ended the five-match series by 4-1 in tourists' favour.

Chasing 245 to win, Bangladesh were dismissed for 164 in the 37th over. Bangladesh's Mohammad Shihab James (56, 79b, 9x4s) and captain Ahrar Amin (53, 58b, 8x4s,



1x6) struck half-centuries in the losing cause, according to information made available

here by Pakistan Cricket Board. For Pakistan, left-arm spinners Ali and Arafat took three

wickets apiece and Sajjad Ali bagged two wickets.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Pakistan managed to score 244 for eight in 50 overs. Player of the match Hamza top-scored with a 76-ball 72, hitting six fours and three sixes. Opening batter Shahzaib, who was named player of the tournament (264 runs, 1x100, 2x50s), scored 67 off 93 deliveries, smashing eight fours and one six.

Azan Awais (41, 61b, 5x4s) and Arafat (40, 42b, 5x4s, 1x6) were other notable contributors with the bat.

For Bangladesh, Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby took four wick-

The two teams will compete in a solitary T20 match at the same venue on 17 May.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by 80 runs  
Pakistan U19 244-8, 50 overs (Hamza Nawaz 72, Shahzaib Khan 67, Azan Awais 41, Arafat Minhas 40; Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby 4-42, Akanto Sheikh 2-47)

Bangladesh U19 164 all out, 36.3 overs (Shihab James 56, Ahrar Amin 53; Arafat Minhas 3-20, Ali Asfand 3-24, Sajjid Ali 2-34)

Player of the match - Hamza Nawaz (Pakistan U19)

Player of the tournament - Shahzaib Khan (Pakistan U19)

# Team of Uzbekistan topped the medal table of the 2023 IBA World Boxing Championships

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 2023 IBA World Boxing Championships were held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 30 April to 14 May 2023. Athletes from all five continents took part in the championship and competed for medals in 13 weight categories.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Uzbekistan	5	2	2	9
2	Kazakhstan	4	1	0	5
3	Russia	2	0	4	6
4	Cuba	1	3	2	6
5	France	1	1	1	3
6	Georgia	0	1	2	3
7	Azerbaijan	0	1	1	2
	Brazil	0	1	1	2
	Mongolia	0	1	1	2
10	China	0	1	0	1
	Italy	0	1	0	1
12	India	0	0	3	3
	Spain	0	0	3	3
14	Armenia	0	0	2	2
15	Jordan	0	0	1	1
	Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
	Mexico	0	0	1	1
	Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Totals (18 teams)		13	13	26	52

All 13 newly crowned boxers were honored on the stage of IBA Men's World Boxing Championships in Tashkent.

Team of Uzbekistan topped the medal table with 5 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. Second place went to Kazakhstan with 4 gold and 1 silver, and Russia finished third with 2 gold and 4 bronze medals.

Uzbekistan received the Best Team award. The Best Boxer was declared Hasanboy Dusmatov from Uzbekistan. The best referee and judge is from Afghanistan Tamim Sultani.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Humo Arena sports complex in Tashkent and watched the World Boxing Championships.

The winners are awarded \$200,000 USD, while silver medalists are to receive \$100,000 USD and each bronze medalist gets \$50,000 USD. The overall prize fund of the World Championships is \$5.2 million USD. The athletes in second place were awarded a special trophy "Will to Win" named after Soviet boxer Andrei Borzenko.

# Racer Enaam Ahmed gets another Top 10 in American Racing Championship

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: British Pakistani motor racing sports star Enaam Ahmed is now only 27 points shy of being in the top three of American Racing Championship.

Taking part in Indianapolis Motor Speedway here for Round 3 of Indy NXT by Firestone Championship, the official development series of

Indy car racing, Enaam Ahmed picked up more points in what's known as America's top level of motor racing competition.

Enaam Ahmed, representing Pakistan in global racing arena, finished in 10th position. His American teammate Jagger Jones finished in 14th position.

"We are a new team and I am a new driver. We lack the experience the other teams have who have been doing this series for 20 years. We have only done it for 2 months," explained Enaam on challenges of being a rookie in a very competitive environment.

The 35-lap race was all green, meaning no safety car or yellow flag periods. Enaam was able to move up from his starting position with his aggressive overtaking, he overtook two cars as well as the championship leader Daniel Frost to get into the Top 10 which enabled him to gain more points to fight for the championship win.

"Another Top 10 for us is solid in only our second race. We are making progress but until we are winning we are not happy. We will keep pushing hard to learn for the next race," said Enaam.

He said: "I am now only 27 points shy of being in the top three. The next Indy NXT by Firestone event is a doubleheader June 3-4 at the Detroit Grand Prix street circuit and I am preparing for that with full energy to go all or nothing."

# Egypt's Mostafa Mohamed fined for refusing to wear Rainbow jersey

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Egyptian striker Mostafa Mohamed was fined by his club Nantes for refusing to play at the weekend in a protest against an anti-homophobia campaign in France's Ligue 1.

According to the details, Mohamed was fined and excluded from the team sheet in Nantes' match against Toulouse in the French League after the striker refused to don his team's jersey, whose numbers were painted as the rainbow in support of LGBT rights.

Besides the players' jerseys, armbands worn by captains and officials were also rainbow-coloured as the Ligue 1 recorded a protest campaign against homophobia.

According to the sources, Mostafa Mohamed's refusal would only result in financial loss, however, the Egyptian forward will not be suspended from his side's next Ligue 1 fixtures.

Mostafa Mohamed, a 25-year-old Muslim, took to his Twitter and explained his decision not to play and urged that his personal beliefs must be respected as well.

"I respect all differences. I respect all beliefs and all convictions. This respect extends to others but my personal beliefs must be respected as well," he wrote on Twitter.

"Given my roots, my culture, the importance of my convictions and beliefs, it was not possible for me to participate in this campaign. I hope my decision will be respected."

Nantes managed to hold 13th-placed Toulouse for a goalless draw to move one point behind Auxerre, just above the relegation zone.