

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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گئے۔ سوائے ایک بوڑھے کے کہ اس نے
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لایا اور کہنے لگا کہ میرے لیے بس اتنی کافی
ہے۔ عبد اللہ نے کہا کہ پھر میں نے اسے
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Sirajul Haq escapes suicide attack in Balochistan's Zhob

At least six people were injured on Friday when a suspected suicide bomber attacked Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Ameer Sirajul Haq's convoy in Balochistan's Zhob. JI chief remained unhurt in the attack, said police. In a tweet, the party said that Sirajul Haq was safe and that the attacker had been killed. "Sirajul Haq was present in the area to address a gathering," the party said. (Report on Page 8)



'Firmly opposed': China pulls out of G20 summit in Indian-occupied Kashmir

China on Friday opposed the G20 tourism summit being held in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying that it will not be a part of it. India is set to chair this year's G20 meeting and organised a number of meetings in the run-up to the summit in New Delhi in September. "China is firmly opposed to holding any kind of G20 meetings in disputed territory, and will not attend such meetings," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

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Federal Cabinet meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting on Friday.



Photo: PID

President phones families of martyrs of Muslim Bagh attack



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday telephoned the family members of those martyred in a terrorist attack in the Muslim Bagh area of Balochistan on May 12. The president paid tribute to the martyrs and saluted them for their services to the nation. He also sympathised with the family members of the

martyred and also got emotional during the conversation. The president phoned the family members of hawaltdars Abdul Raheem, Muhammad Irfan, Nadeem Iqbal, stenotypist Ghulam Fareed, and sanitary workers Sabir Masih and Shan Masih. He also had a telephonic conversation with family members of Lance Naik Faheem Mushtaq and sepoy Saeed Aslam and Talha Jami. "The martyrs are an asset for the nation. The nation will never forget their sacrifices," the president commented. He also lauded the services of the martyrs to the country and paid them tribute on behalf of the whole nation.

PM orders lowering eatables prices, transport fares to pass on impact of oil prices reduction

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to ensure that the impact of a reduction in petroleum prices was shifted to the masses in the form of decreased transport fares and prices of eatables. The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the Federal Cabinet, asked the Interior Ministry and the district administrations across the country to ensure the reduction in commodities' prices. Calling for strict action against the profiteers, he said the transport fares and eatables' prices should be reduced

in proportion to the 11 percent decrease in the petroleum prices announced by the government. Apprising the Federal Cabinet about his visit to Iran on Thursday, the prime minister said Pakistan desired to enhance cooperation with the neighbouring country in multiple sectors. He told the meeting that the two sides had agreed to improve the security along the 900-kilometer Pak-Iran border. Both sides had emphasised the joint efforts to counter cross-border terrorism, he added. He said the import of low-cost electricity from Iran would help uplift the remote areas of Balochistan. He said Iranian President

Ebrahim Raisi took a personal interest to ensure the completion of the much-delayed 100MW Gabd-Polan power transmission line within record time. The project would ensure the power supply to southern Balochistan, particularly Gwadar, he remarked. Similarly, he said, the Mand-Pishin border marketplace would create employment opportunities for the people on both sides of the border and usher in a new era of development. The prime minister also extended an invitation to President Raisi to visit Pakistan which he accepted. Briefing the cabinet members regarding the Road to Makkah project signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the prime minister said it would help facilitate the Hajj pilgrims. Under the project, he said, around 26,143 Hajj pilgrims would undergo the immigration process at the Islamabad

International Airport and would be exempted from the lengthy process at Saudi airports. The implementation of the project was initiated on Thursday and hopefully it would be extended to Lahore and Karachi airports by next year, he added. The cabinet also approved the establishment of an Insurance Tribunal in Rawalpindi. It would incur no additional expenses as the existing Accountability Court No. 4 would be converted into the Insurance Tribunal. It endorsed the decisions of the National Security Committee made in its meeting on May 16 and those of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases made on May 11.

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Punjab Police leave Zaman Park as negotiations with PTI end

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The four-member delegation of Punjab police has departed from Zaman Park residence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan after concluding talks with the former premier and his legal team over the search operation. According to details, the four-member delegation included Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Lahore Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haidar, DIG Operations Sadiq Dogar and SSP Operations Sohaib. The delegation held negotiations with Imran Khan and his legal team to mull over the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for a search operation at Zaman Park. However, there are no details about the talks so far. Spokesman correspondent at the site reported that the government team left the residence without answering the journalists' questions.

Condemnation not enough, Imran should accept responsibility for May 9 arson: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said that condemnation of the May 9 was not enough, Imran Khan should confess and accept its responsibility. Reacting to Imran Khan's statement she said Imran defamed the country when he was in power and defamed it with every action and movement even outside of power. The minister said he defamed the country by selling the watch gifted by Saudi Arabia and he also defamed the country by fabricating the cipher story. The information minister said that after leaving power, Imran Khan defamed the country by attacking national institutions and martyrs' memorials. The minister said that condemnation can neither hide the crime of May 9, nor the culprit. She said Imran should admit that he was the mastermind behind the open terror-



ism of May 9 and the desecration of martyrs' memorials planned by Imran. She advised Imran that he should confess that he planned to burn down hospitals, schools, mosques, ambulances and the Corps Commander's house. Imran Khan should hand over the terrorists hiding in "heaven of terrorism", Zaman Park to the law enforcement agencies. A person who instigated his followers to throw bombs, bullets and stones at the police cannot get away with just condemnation. Punishing those who attack the state is not a violation of human

rights anywhere in the world, she maintained. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that attacking hospitals, schools, patients, ambulances, and burning animals alive were violations of human rights, adding that punishing these savages was not a violation of human rights. She said that arresting daughters-in-law, daughters and sisters of political opponents in false cases by the fascist was a clear violation of human rights. Kidnapping Tayyaba Gul and keeping her in the Prime Minister House was also violation of human rights, she remarked. She said that imprisoning, shooting, kidnapping, breaking ribs and nose bones of journalists for telling the truth was also a violation of human rights. Recalling Imran's statement after Hazara killing, she said that it was a violation of human rights to tell the families of Hazara martyrs that "I will not be blacked by funerals".

Imran Khan again summoned in NCA £190m Scandal

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has once again summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in National Crime Agency £190m Scandal, also known as the Al-Qadir Trust Case. Sources told ARY News that the accountability bureau has summoned the former prime minister on May 23 at 10:00 am in Rawalpindi office. Meanwhile, a NAB team visited PTI Chairman Imran Khan's residence in Zaman Park Lahore and served a summons notice to the former premier in the Al-Qadir Trust Case. Earlier, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) summoned Imran Khan on May 18 in a 'personal capacity' in the Al-Qadir Trust case, which title has been changed to 'National Crime Agency £190m Scandal'. Sources claimed that the NAB instructed the former prime minister to bring the documents related to the case.

Eight Pakistanis dead, six injured in Makkah hotel fire: FO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office Friday said eight Pakistanis were dead and six others injured in an unfortunate fire incident in a hotel in Makkah. In response to media queries regarding casualties in the fire incident in a hotel in Makkah, the Foreign Office spokesperson said, "We have reports of 8 deaths and 6 injured Pakistanis in the incident. Our Mission in Jeddah is in contact with local authorities to provide relief to the victims and their families." Earlier, Civil defence spokesman Nayef al-Sha-



rif said no casualties were reported in the fire, which was sparked by a faulty air conditioning unit on the eighth floor of a hotel in the Azaziya district of Mecca. All 600 residents, most of whom had come from Turkey and Yemen for the hajj pilgrimage, were evacuated and have since returned to the hotel, Sharif said.

LHC overturns resignations of 70 PTI MNAs

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday overturned the resignations of 70 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf MNAs. The PTI MNAs, including Fawad Chaudhry, Hammad Azhar, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Mehmoood Qureshi, Parvaiz Khattak and others challenged the acceptance of their resignations as MNAs by NA speaker. Justice Shahid Karim while announcing the verdict on the pleas of the PTI lawmakers,

nullified the notifications of the Election Commission of Pakistan and the National Assembly Speaker Raja Parvaiz Ashraf regarding the acceptance of the resignations. While directing Fawad Chaudhry, Hammad Azhar, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Shafiqat Mahmood, Riaz Fatiyani and others to appear before the NA speaker to take back their resignations as MNAs, the LHC has asked Speaker Ashraf to make a decision after listening to the PTI members.

UAE Delegation

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of investors from UAE led by H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook al Makhtoum calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: PID

Chairman NDMA addresses at Midterm Review of Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction at UN Headquarters

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik led Pakistan's delegation and delivered remarks during the Midterm Review of Sendai Framework on disaster risk reduction at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Chairman NDMA acknowledged the need for conducting a realistic review of Sendai Framework and identifying measures to be taken in course corrections. He emphasized the importance of learning from successfully shared templates and making technical inputs for early warning



and climate projections available to all without boundaries. He underlined digital divide and capacity gaps that exist in different regions and econo-

mies, which present barriers to full implementation of DRR efforts.

Chairman NDMA presented Pakistan's proposal for

establishment of a dedicated Global DRR Fund under United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to finance global and regional initiatives separate from climate-focused financing windows. He noted that Pakistan remains fully committed to meeting Sendai Framework expectations, replicating successful templates in disaster risk reduction, and taking proactive measures to mitigate risks and build resilience to potential disasters.

Chairman NDMA commended global partners for their assistance during last year's devastating floods in Pakistan that impacted

millions of people and resulted in significant losses and damages. He mentioned the outstanding resolve demonstrated by the Government of Pakistan and military, particularly Pak Army, in leading rescue and relief operations during Floods 2022. He also highlighted Pakistan's commitment to assisting countries in distress, as demonstrated during this year's earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Lastly, Chairman NDMA reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enabling the success of SFDRR-driven balance recovery plan for the region and world.

Sirajul Haq escapes suicide attack in Balochistan's Zhob

News Desk

ZHOB: At least six people were injured on Friday when a suspected suicide bomber attacked Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Ameer Sirajul Haq's convoy in Balochistan's Zhob.

JI chief remained unhurt in the attack, said police.

In a tweet, the party said that Sirajul Haq was safe and that the attacker had been killed. "Sirajul Haq was present in the area to address a gathering," the party said.

Meanwhile, JI spokesperson Qaiser Sharif said a few vehicles had also been damaged in the attack.

He said that the party chief had reached Quetta earlier today to address a rally in Zhob, adding that a large number of people had gathered to welcome Haq as he entered Zhob.

"The suicide attacker was also part of the crowd," he added.

Upon getting information, a contingent of security forces also reached the area and cordoned it off to collect evidence.

Moreover, Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

Condemnations poured in after the suicide attack on the



JI Ameer.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the suicide attack on Sirajul Haq's convoy and ordered the Balochistan government to hold an investigation into all aspects and bring the responsible persons to justice.

He also prayed for early

recovery of the wounded persons and directed concerned officials to provide the best medical facilities to the victims.

The speaker and the deputy speaker of the National Assembly (NA) also condemned the suicide attack and prayed for the early recovery of the wounded persons.

Former president Asif Ali Zardari also condemned the suicide attack and demanded the immediate arrest of the planners behind the suicide attack.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Millat-e-Jafaria chief Sajid Naqvi, Punjab Govern-

nor and Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi also condemned the suicide attack.

Balochistan CM Abdul Qudus Bizenjo strongly condemned the attack and said that terrorists spread violence for their ulterior motives but the authorities will not let them succeed in their plans.

The Balochistan CM's spokesperson Babar Yousafzai said that he contacted Sirajul Haq and he is safe. "Emergency has been imposed in hospitals and foolproof security will be provided to the JI Ameer. We have not received any threat alert before the incident."

Officials, experts say deepened China-Central Asia cooperation on Belt and Road benefits region, world

Xinhua

XIAN: city of Xi'an, capital of north-west China's Shaanxi Province, has captured global attention as the two-day China-Central Asia Summit kicked off here Thursday.

The summit is expected to boost the already-burgeoning Belt and Road cooperation between China and Central Asia. Officials from Central Asian countries and global observers have said that deepened Belt and Road cooperation between the two sides will be a boon for the prosperity of both the region and the world.

Ten years into Belt and Road cooperation, China and Central Asian countries have made historic achievements. In 2022, trade volume hit a record high of 70.2 billion U.S. dollars, an over 100-fold increase since diplomatic ties were established about three decades ago. In the first two months of this year, trade between China and the



five Central Asian countries surged 22 percent year on year.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been very fruitful since it was first proposed by China in Kazakhstan, said Timur Kuvatov, director-general and editor-in-chief of Kazakhstan Today News Agency.

Reviving the visions and spirits embodied in the ancient Silk Road will promote international development and trade and economic ties, as well as

peaceful relations among countries, he said, adding that deeper Belt and Road cooperation has great significance for all the people living in the region and the whole world.

Over the past decade, promoted by the BRI, China and Uzbekistan have enjoyed expanding economic cooperation. "China is one of the most important partners of Uzbekistan," Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan Laziz Kudratov said at a

business forum held Wednesday ahead of the China-Central Asia Summit.

In 2022, bilateral trade grew 20 percent year on year, said the minister, hoping that the goal of 10 billion dollars in annual trade set by both heads of state could be achieved soon.

Noting that the China-Uzbekistan cooperation covers such areas as chemical, textile, and oil and gas industries, Kudratov said that tens of thousands of jobs have been created in Uzbekistan.

Kudratov said that by combining China's innovative technologies with Uzbekistan's resources, the two countries could improve energy efficiency and manufacture products with high-added value for export to other countries.

In the eyes of Lu Shanbing, dean of the Central Asia Institute of Northwest University, China and Central Asian countries' efforts to advance the BRI highlight their commitment to promoting globalization.

PTI workers arrested again despite securing bails



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: 23 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers have been arrested by police in Attock again despite securing bails.

23 PTI workers have been released from the district jail in Attock after securing bails. The PTI activists were arrested by police after they came out of the central gate of the jail. The political workers were sent back to the district jail by police.

Police said that the workers had been arrested from different areas of Rawalpindi who were recently released from jail on bails. Police added that the PTI workers were detained in jail under 16 MPO.

Earlier in the day, Punjab police claimed to have arrested six more

alleged terrorists attempting to flee from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence.

Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Saddique Kamyana said that six more "terrorists" were arrested fleeing ex-PM Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence, taking the total arrests to 14.

According to CCPO four of the alleged "terrorists" were involved in the attack on Askari Tower while two of them were among those who ransacked the Corps Commander House Lahore [Jinnah House].

The arrest comes a day after Punjab Caretaker Information Minister Amir Mir claimed that eight "terrorists" had been arrested while they were escaping from Zaman Park area.

Prices of life-saving medicines increased by 14pc

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Friday, with the approval of the federal government, announced up to 14 percent hike in the prices of life-saving medicines.

According to a notification by DRAP, 14 percent hike has been approved in the prices of life-saving drugs, whereas a 20pc hike was approved in the prices of all other medicines.

In its notification, the regulatory authority stated that the prices were being increased as a 'one-time dispensation' equal to the 70 percent increase in the consumer price index (CPI).

However, the notification said that the price increase would be considered the annual increase for the fiscal year 2023-24. "No increase under



this category shall be granted in next financial year," it said.

The DRAP's Policy Board will review the situation after three months i.e. in July 2023 and make its recommendations to the federal government for its consideration regarding price decrease, if the "Rupee appreciates in value".

The Economic Advisory Committee had already improved the price increase.

With rising fuel prices and a depreciating rupee, inflation has been record-high in recent months leading to an impact on all sectors of the economy.

ECP begins preparations for general elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has started preparations for the general elections 2023, ARY News reported on Friday, quoting sources.

As per details, the Election Commission has issued letters to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the Ministry of Housing and the Bureau of Statistics. The ministries have been urged to share the results of the seventh census held in the country by December 31, 2022.

Sources said that after the census, it is constitutionally mandatory to conduct new delimitations before the election as per new census results. After the delimitation, the voter lists

will be reviewed.

During a high-level session, the ECP officials expressed concerns over the shortage of funds that is hindering the organisation of local government (LG) elections in Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Islamabad.

The commission is also facing a shortage of funds for holding general elections. The ECP officials said that important constitutional and legal tasks for the said elections are being affected due to the funds shortage.

The ECP spokesperson said that the hurdles created for LG polls are also tantamount to the violation of the Supreme Court (SC) orders. The commission decided to apprise the Supreme Court's registrar regarding the situation.

NADRA's National Sex Offender Register is 'illegal': Law Ministry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law and Justice has declared the national sex offenders database of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) 'illegal and unilateral'.

The Ministry of Law and Justice issued a clarification regarding the NADRA's national sex offenders database. The spokesperson said in a statement that the sex offenders database of NADRA is illegal and is being used unilaterally without proper legal sanction.

The spokesperson said in accordance with Section 24 of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, the Ministry of Law and Justice, together with the special committee, was responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the National Sex Offender Register.

Sister city relationship between Murree and Chinese city of Dujiangyan



Spokesman Report

DUJIANGYAN: In order to further cement people-to-people exchanges and enhance practical cooperation, Pakistani city of Murree and the Chinese city of Dujiangyan signed a Letter of Intent, for establishment of sister city relationship.

The signing ceremony was held in the famous Lidui Park of Dujiangyan. Murree was represented by Ambassador Moin ul Haque, while Mayor Zhang Yadan, signed on behalf of Dujiangyan.

The Finance Office Dadu has started opening teachers salary IDs

✉ Azad Baloch

DADU: The Finance Office Dadu has started opening teachers salary IDs to provide salaries to 11 hundred and 46 new teachers recruited through IBA in Dadu district since 10 months. The process of releasing salaries to all teachers will start this month. Finance Officer Dadu's claim. Hassan Jan Changezi District Account Officer said that the work to release the salaries of newly recruited teachers is going on fast without any hindrance. Out of total 1146 teach-



ers, IDs of more than 400 teachers have been opened.

He said, all other IDs will be opened within a week and teachers will start getting salaries from this month. Some nefarious elements are shielding the new teachers to achieve their personal goals but will not fall for their blackmail.

He said that on 26 April 2023, FO 01 of new teachers started coming from the Education Department, after which we started opening the IDs of the teachers immediately.

Construction, development and stability of Pakistan a heavy responsibility: Dr Rana Altaf

✉ Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed has said that for the construction, development and stability of Pakistan, a heavy responsibility is placed on the youth. On the first day of the annual events, the principal of the college, Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao, was speaking on the first day of the annual events. He said that education, training and character building are of primary importance for success in practical life. Director of Students Affairs, Professor Syed Abbas Naqvi said that the students should acquire skills in modern contemporary sciences to face the challenges of today and for the integrity and stability of the country.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Siddiq Khan Qadri, Prof. Abdul Jabbar, Prof. Zahra Nazish, Prof. Muhammad Azam Khan, Prof. Syed Ahmar Hussain and Dr. Masood Ali Ansari besides Hafsa Naseer, Muhammad Zul Noreen, Muhammad Usman, Rehman Asghar and Anas Sheikh addressed the ceremony. 70 male and female students participated in Recitation and Naat. In Recitation, Muhammad Sohail, Muhammad Abu Bakr, and Hafiz Muhammad Mahroz Zulfikar

won first position, Hamdana second, Garman Khattak third and Saad Hasan won fourth position while Misbah Arooj won first position in Naat Khwani. Saad Farid got the second position and Shahrabano Hashmi got the third position.

While Ayesha Bilal and Mudassarah Mehmood were given encouragement prizes in various competitions, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Siddiq Khan Qadri, Prof. Dr. Abdul Jabbar, Dr. Masood Ali Ansari, Qari Muhammad Saeed Naqshbandi, Qari Muhammad Nauman Saifi and Osama Yusuf Qadri acted as judges.

On the first day of the annual student celebrations in Nishtar Medical University, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Princi-

pal Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao, Prof. Syed Abbas Naqvi, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Siddiq Khan Qadri, Prof. Abdul Jabbar, Prof. Zahra Nazish, Professor Muhammad Azam Khan, Professor Syed Ahmar Hussain and Dr. Masood Ali Ansari Khattak, Qari Muhammad Saeed Naqshbandi, Qari Muhammad Noman Saifi and Osama Yusuf Qadri, Hafsa Naseer, Muhammad Zul Noreen, Muhammad Usman, Rehman Asghar, Muhammad Sohail, Muhammad Abu Bakr, Hafiz Mohammad Mehroz Zulfikar, Hamdana, Anas Sheikh, Tammin Khattak, Saad Hussain, Musbah Arooj, Saad Farid, Shahrabano Hashmi, Ayesha Bilal, Mudassar Mahmood and other students are presenting the recitation of this Naat.

NDRMF to fund PKR 3,011,460,076/- for Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction of Flood Schemes in Sindh

✉ City Desk

ISLAMABAD : The National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) will fund Rupees Pak. Rs. 3,011,460,076/- (Pak. Rs. three billion eleven million four hundred sixty thousand seventy-six only) (hereinafter referred to as "Total Project Cost"), to Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh, for their Project Title: Building Resilience of Damaged Flood Mitigation Structures Along River Indus in Sindh Resilience and Adoptive Population in Disaster (RAPID). CEO NDRMF, Mr. Bilal Anwar and Mr. Abdullah Bhurgri, Project Director Flood Emergency and Reconstruction Projects Sindh Irrigation Department signed the contract. The said financial support will be extended to the respective entities as grant financing. Grant Implementation Agreement between NDRMF and Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh, were signed in this regard.

The Project is designed for Rehabilitation / Reconstruction of four schemes that received major damages/losses during the monsoon floods 2022 in districts Shaheed Benazirabad, Naushero Feroze, Sujawal and Matiari. and need rehabilitation on urgent basis as any flooding of similar nature may cause damages to life and property.

1. Stone Apron and Stone Pitching Along SM Bund from Mile 70/7 to 72/0 in Moro Bund Sub Division.
2. Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Stud/Apron along SM Bund at Mile 12/0 to 12/7 and Bakhri Loop Bund Mile 0/0 to 0/1 in Kandiaro Bund Sub Division
3. Rehabilitation, Raising and Strengthening of Spurs Along Surjani Complex Bund Sujawal of Pinyari Circle Hyderabad Kotri Barrage Region Hyderabad
4. Recouping of Stone Spurs Mile 142/3 and Stone Studs Mile 136/1 Along S.M Bund in Hala (Irrigation) Division

Hala With 578,000 targeted beneficiaries and protecting 127,476 Hectare of agriculture land against negative impacts of multiple natural disasters.

Sindh is one of the worst affected Province during Floods 2022. A total of 10 million people affected in 30 districts. The worst affected areas remained inundated for months due to absence of natural drainage pathways leaving behind a vast magnitude of damaged public infrastructure, agriculture land and houses of people, requiring extensive medium to long term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

The proposed interventions are in line with National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). The GoP had been working with number of development partners to identify opportunities and mechanism to enhance financial management of disaster risk. These initiatives resulted in establishment of multi donor NDRMF.

FBISE HSSC Annual Exams 2023 will start from today

✉ Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK : Rawalpindi Board of Intermediate and Secondary education (RBISE) will start Higher Secondary school Certificate (HSSC) annual exams 2023 on Saturday May 20 in 196 examination centres set up 33 in Attock, 40 in Chakwal, 26 in Jhelum, 47 in Rawalpindi district and 50 local centers. According to Chairman RBISE, Muhammad Adnan Khan, foolproof arrangements have been made for the HSSC annual exams.

Controller Examinations RBISE Prof. Sajid Mehmood Farooqi informed that the roll number slips of regular students had already been sent to the concerned institutions and those of the private students were uploaded on the board's website / http://www.biserawalpindi.edu.pk besides dispatched at the addresses mentioned in their admission forms. He informed that the board on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatha, had made best possible arrangements for the exams.

The date sheets of the exams, lists of the examiners and the examination centers and other officials had been sent to all the Deputy Commissioners of the division, District Police Officers and to the special branch. Apart from the board's office at Morgah near Attock Oil Refinery Rawalpindi, the students could also contact at phone number 051-5450917-18, Assistant Controller Inter Branch Rana Ilyas on cell phone 0333-5464775, focal person Inter Branch, Riasat Abbasi on 0332-8500846 and 051-5450920 in case of any problem, he added.

He said, 196 examination centres had been set up in the division, including 33 in Attock, 40 in Chakwal, 26 in Jhelum, 47 in Rawalpindi district and 50 local centers.

Latest Facial Recognition System Activated at Multan International Airport

✉ Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The latest facial recognition system has been activated at Multan International Airport

After Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, Multan is the fourth airport to get this system.

Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) provided training to FIA and CAA officials at Multan Airport.

This system will be very helpful for border management agencies. Border management agencies will be able to prevent illegal international movement with the help of this system.

Cooperation between PCAA and the Japanese government will continue for the continuous improvement of the security system at the country's airports

Businessmen calls for national consensus on political instability

✉ Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Anjuman Tajran Liaquat Road President Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that the entire business community expresses full solidarity with the Pakistan Army. And strongly condemns the attacks on military and private property. We demand Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, former President Asif Zardari and former Prime Minister Imran Khan to end the differences.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed stressed the need for national consensus among stakeholders to deal with the current political instability, saying that restoring public confidence, restoring economic activities and strengthening the democratic process are indispensable priorities. Support all efforts to achieve this much needed consensus. He urged Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, former President Asif Zardari and PTI Chairman Imran Khan to put aside all their differences in the larger national interest. He also expressed the belief that with the full support of the people, Pakistan forces will defeat all kinds of evil intentions against the country. He further said that as Pakistanis, every citizen has to be sincere with the country and only the country.

Expressing deep regret, he said that all political leaders lack nationalism and love for the country, so they should stop inciting and using the people for their own purposes contrary to the facts.

Youth Affairs, Health Dept arranged an HIV Awareness Seminar & Free Medical Camp



✉ Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Upper Ashfaq Khan, District Youth Affairs Department, Health Dept and Civil Administration arranged an HIV awareness seminar & free medical camp in Kotkai area, in which a large number of People attended.

On this occasion, District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir told the media that Dr. Humayun Mehsud and his team examined around 150 patients and among them were children, elderly, women and youth while they were provided free of cost medicines for (17) seventeen diseases.

Youth Officer Sardar Ali told the local people about HIV prevention measures during the HIV awareness campaign and said that HIV screening will be conducted in Upper South Waziristan in the coming days so that people can be exposed to this dangerous disease, so can be protected.

However, later Lieutenant Colonel Farooq Azam also visited the camp and he praised the performance of the health department and the administration including the youth affairs department.

That every person and department working on the ground for the residents of Waziristan should be encouraged so that they can play a leading role for the welfare of the local people in the future.

Municipality to award time scale promotions to 6 more employees after 10 years

✉ Bureau Report.

FAISALABAD: As many as 6 more employees of Municipal Corporation were given time scale promotion after completing the concerned 10 year period under the rules.

The Commissioner/Administrator Municipal Corporation Ms. Silwat Saeed distributed the appointment letters to Niab Qasids, sanitary workers, firemen those were promoted to the next scale after completing 10- years service in the same scale. Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Muhammad Zubair Wattoo and other officers of the Municipal Corporation were also present on this occasion.

The Commissioner congratulated the employees awaiting time scale promotion and said that after assuming charge as administrator, the municipal corporation was instructed to complete the work of time scale



promotions and the team under the supervision of the chief officer worked at a fast pace and gave rights to the employees without deprivation in

time. She said that those promoted in the next scale will also get financial benefit while the departmental steps are being

taken at a fast pace on the departmental promotion and the employees waiting for promotion will also hear the good news in the coming days.

She elaborated that the workers should continue the departmental services with the same spirit and joint efforts are indispensable in order to solve the problems of the city and make it ideal. This series of time scale and departmental promotions has started now which will remain continuing on a regular basis.

Earlier Administrator chaired meetings of different sections and reviewed the progress. She directed the officers for providing services to the people. Municipal Officers also gave the briefing.

Commissioner further said that, the rights of the employees must be given without any resistance because delay or negligence weakens the institutional frame work.

New Generation is Asset of country: Amir Khattak

✉ Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A delegation of students of Emerson University met Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak. On this occasion, Commissioner Amir Khattak while talking to the delegation said that the new generation is the asset of our country. We all have to play our positive role for the development of the country. The safety and survival of the dear country is the most important. May Allah Ta'ala keep Pakistan forever. Pakistan is facing environmental change. The young generation should plant their share of trees, cultivate them and encourage others to plant trees and prevent wastage of water.

He further said that Steps are being taken for the construction and development of the city, the improvement of infrastructure. The problems of the citizens will be solved on a priority basis. Sui Gas, PTCL Vasa have been assigned the task of rehabilitation after the construction of the road. He said that 100 water filtration plants are active in schools, 65 in Vasa and 56 in Corporation. Excellent arrangements are being made in all 50 parks of the city.

No one is allowed to keep goods



outside the shop limits. A waste management company has been tasked to clean the city. Arrangements are being made to beautify the entrances and exits of the city. Special efforts are being made to complete mega projects like Nishtar 2, Cardiology. Vasa is facing many problems. Trying to stabilize Vasa. Students asked questions to Commissioner Amir Khattak. Additional Commissioner Sarfraz Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner General Arshad Vito, Deputy Director Iram Salimi, Head of Department Aftab Khan Khakwani, Internship Coordinator Dr. Amara Umar Khakwani and other officers were also present.


 Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:27 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:59 pm
Maghrib	7:04 pm
Isha	8:42 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

PPP Lower SW district cabinet members took oath

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Pakistan People's Party Lower South Waziristan district cabinet members took oath, Pakistan People's Party workers participated in large numbers in the Oath ceremony. On this occasion district president and former National Assembly candidate Aman Ullah Wazir took oath from the cabinet, Pakistan People's Party formed the cabinet of Lower South Waziristan district with mutual consultation, In Bodies President Aman Ullah Wazir, Senior Vice President Humayun Akhtar, General Secretary Imran Mukhlis, Finance Secretary Abdul Rahim, Deputy Finance Secretary Tayyab Khan, Information Secretary Yasin Ahmadzai, Deputy Information Secretary Abdul Qadir, Social Media Incharge Muhammad Farooq, Liaison Secretary Hazrat Younis, Joint Secretary Pila Khan, Culture Secretary Bait Ullah including in cabinet members.

Cabinet members said, the constituted cabinet of Pakistan People's Party took a strong and passionate pledge to carry the ideology of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto from door to door.

However, they will always be ready for selfless protection of the region and will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice.

On the occasion of the oath taking ceremony, Pakistan People's Party workers garlanded each other and congratulated each other.

District President Aman Ullah Wazir and General Secretary Imran Mukhlis thanked all the workers and on next Friday, the swearing-in ceremony of Tehsil Wana and Tehsil Shikai will be held.

In which they decided to contact the workers of both the tehsils and requested them to participate in the swearing-in ceremony on Friday.

Green School Certification Programs Pilot Project successfully completed

News Desk

LAHORE : Lahore Biennale Foundation's (LBF) innovative initiative, the Green School Certification Program (GSCP), is proud to announce the successful completion of its pilot project. The program, which focuses on leveraging the power of art and education with a series of pedagogical and co-curricular activities, aims to equip teachers, schools, and students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the challenges posed by climate change and promote sustainable practices.

The certificate distribution ceremony for the project was held at the E-Library, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The ceremony celebrated the achievements of the pilot project and recognized the dedication and commitment of the teachers, students, and schools involved in the Green School Certification Program.

The Green School Certification Program aims to empower the next generation of eco-citizens by fostering long-

term sustainable practices at the grassroots level. The program includes teacher training workshops, the establishment of eco clubs in all participating schools, waste collection modules for recycling, and the promotion of eco-friendly practices within educational institutions.

Qudsia Rahim, Executive Director LBF and Author of the Green School Certification Program said, "With the successful implementation of the pilot project, LBF and our partners are committed to bringing the program to other schools city-wide and are also deeply committed to expanding the role of the program to colleges, offices and restaurants etc."

The certificate distribution ceremony was moderated by Lahore Biennale Foundation with certificates distributed among 430 participants (86 Teachers and AEOs and 320 Students). Speaking at the event, Chief Guest Justice (Rtd). Nasira Javaid Iqbal said, "This initiative, driven by the power of art, education, and collaboration, is an inspiring example of how we can address the challenges of climate



change and create a sustainable future for Pakistan. I commend all those involved in this project for their dedication and vision.

The Green School Certification Program brought together key partners including the Secretary of the Environ-

ment Protection Department, Government of Punjab, the District Education Authority Lahore, the School of Education at LUMS, WWF-Pakistan, and Lucky Core Industries (LCI).

The District Education Authority

Lahore has played a crucial role as the program's school liaison, facilitating the implementation of the GSCP among Assistant Education Officers (AEO) and teachers in selected public schools. The collaboration with partner organizations has allowed for continuous professional development workshops, such as the one held at the School of Education, LUMS, which introduced teachers and AEOs to innovative pedagogical techniques like Visible Thinking Routines (VTR). These techniques foster environmental awareness and sustainable attitudes among children through hands-on learning.

Indeed, the completion of this pilot project marks an important milestone for the GSCP. The program has developed scalable modules, including a resource manual for training teachers in delivering climate science information, 'Green Schools Policy Recommendations', and a checklist of localized sustainable solutions for schools. To receive the Green School Certification, all participating schools will need to complete the program.

Livelihood

RAWALPINDI: Vendors are waiting for customers along the Tipu Road to sell fruit and earn daily wages for the livelihood of their families.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

S&P Global Pakistan signs Memorandum of Understanding with Team Up

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The MoU aims to foster entrepreneurship and employment opportunities at National Incubation Center Islamabad

19th May, 2023, Islamabad: S&P Global has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Team up Pakistan. The initiative aims to establish a sustainable, and mutually beneficial collaboration to provide employment to the youth and help facilitate, train and upskill young and upcoming entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

Mujeeb Zahur, Managing Director at S&P Global said, "Partnership is a core pillar of our values and this MoU



is a great example of working collaboratively with communities we operate in. We are certain this partnership will lead to many joint initiatives that produce new synergies, add strategic insights for upskilling talent, and will ultimately foster economic growth and development in Pakistan. This is aligned

with our people-first strategy and vision to power markets around the world." Under the agreement, S&P Global Pakistan will facilitate and upskill entrepreneurs and students who are part of the Career Launch Pad program of Team Up. Team Up is located in the National Incubation Centre.

This Centre is powered by Jazz and Teamup under the umbrella of the Ministry of IT and Telecom nurturing and growing talent across Pakistan.

Zouhair Khaliq, Co-Founder of Teamup said, "I am thrilled to announce our collaboration with S&P Global as it is a powerful combination that will unlock the potential of entrepreneurship and innovation. With their shared vision and expertise, we will pave the way for a brighter future of economic growth and development."

This partnership is a testament to our commitment to nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs and provide them with the resources and support they need to succeed."

Pakistan Culture Week inaugurated at Dujiangyan, China

Spokesman Report

DUJIANGYAN : A "Pakistan Cultural Week in Sichuan" was inaugurated in Dujiangyan, a famous touristic city located in Sichuan province, China. Being held from May 18 to 24 2023, the event is part of series of activities planned for the ongoing Year of China-Pakistan Tourism Exchanges and 10th anniversary of the establishment of Belt and Road Anniversary. It has been jointly organized by Pakistan Consulate General Chengdu, Sichuan People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) and Municipal Government of Dujiangyan.

The cultural week was officially inaugurated by Ambassador Moin ul Haque along with Mr. Hong Liu, President of SIGA and Mr. Zhang Yadun, Mayor of Dujiangyan.

Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the time-tested nature of China-Pakistan



friendship, which has been a pride of generations of people of both countries. Underlining the importance of people-to-people and cultural exchanges, he briefed the audience about Pakistan's rich history, scenic beauty and cultural heritage and invited them to visit and explore Pakistan in the ongoing Year of Tourism Exchanges. A photo exhibition, cultural performances, display of Pakistani handicrafts, screening of Pakistani film and a lecture on Pakistani culture are part of the Cultural Week activities. A Letter of Intent to establish sister city relationship between Murree and Dujiangyan was

also signed.

The event is being held at iconic Lidui Park which is located next to the 2000 year old irrigation and water management system designated as UNESCO World Heritage site. The Cultural Week is estimated to attract 30,000 visitors every day.

Rally held at IIUI to express solidarity with Pakistan Army



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The students and Academic and non-academic employees of International Islamic university (IIU) on Friday took out a rally at new campus to express support for the armed forces.

The young students who participated in large numbers were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans in favour of the armed forces. They condemned rioters for ransacking the private, government and defense installations on May 9 last. The rally was also joined by the differently abled students of the university. They maintained that the rioters who attacked monuments of the martyrs of the forces, they did hurt the sentiments of the patriot Pakistanis. The participants paid tributes to the armed forces and said they stood by the army which had always defended the country.

A good number of the participants were carrying the national flags. They also raised slogans in support of the armed forces. The participants prayed for the homeland and said that armed forces are the pride of Pakistan and lifeline of the nation.

Charitable education drive in Balochistan

News Desk

KARACHI: After successfully serving the underprivileged communities in the whole of Sindh continuously for the past 29 years the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) is going to extend its charitable work for the first time to Balochistan.

For this purpose, the GCT has joined hands with Al-Khidmat Foundation Women Wing (AKFWW) to jointly establish a charitable school in Winder which is one of the backward towns of Balochistan.

Central President of Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan, Dr Hafiez ur Rehman, will be the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the school in Winder on May 21. The guests of honour who will attend the ceremony include GCT's Patron-in-chief, Sardar Yasin Malik, GCT CEO, Zahid Saeed, AKFWW Chairperson Naveeda Anees, trustees, and donors of both charities.

The GCT, which in the past 29 years has established 160-plus charitable schools with an enrollment of 30,500-plus students from deprived families, is going to launch its school education drive for the first time beyond Sindh.

This is the second school to be launched under the joint partnership of the two charities.

KalPay Co-Founders Make it to Forbes 30 under 30 Asia List 2023

City Desk

LAHORE : Forbes announced its 8th Annual "30 under 30 Asia" List featuring 30 notable honorees across 10 different categories: Co-founders of Pakistan's leading Shariah-aligned consumer financing startup—KalPay, Shershah Hassan and Waleed Amjad Islam, were selected for the prestigious list in the Finance and Venture Capital category.

These young entrepreneurs are making waves in major industry segments within the Asia-Pacific Region, including art & style, education, social impact, enterprise technology, and finance, etc.

While expanding in the e-commerce space, KalPay has also launched new verticals including KalPay Rasay and KalPay Taleem, offering its BNPL services on purchase of productive assets like smartphones and fee payments for education and skill development services. With a strong focus on creating a positive impact in the society, KalPay intends to make easy, hassle-free and Shariah-aligned credit accessible to the under-banked masses across Pakistan.

Through partnerships with Pakistan's largest tech enablers such as Careem, Foodpanda and renowned B2B financial lenders such as Muawin, KalPay is working towards creating a thriving ecosystem of financial inclusion for individuals and enterprises through capital financing.

Shershah Hassan, CEO of KalPay, stated "When we started working on the idea of KalPay, I could never have imagined the magnitude of impact that we would be able to create. With a long way to go still, we are glad to play our part in helping bring financial inclusion and awareness for the underbanked population of Pakistan."



Understanding China is the need of the hour

72nd Sino-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations anniversary celebrated

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

PESHAWAR :The Pakistan-China relations are exemplary and we should learn from the China's Leadership and Peoples dedication and devotion for their loving home land and their vital role in China's stand on international stage with pride. The recent past China's global positive role for peace and economic development is a guideline for us. This was stated by Justice (Retd.) Irshad Qaiser Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Human Rights, Archives & Libraries at a Cake cutting and Friendship Awards distribution ceremony organized by Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-Pakistan and China Study Centre (CSC) University of Peshawar jointly. This is high time to learn from China's experience in our fields of life and this learning will be greatly helpful for our social economic development and to counter the challenges we are facing. She mentioned that Today, while celebrating the 72 anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, we should think about what we have learned from China, As we know that Pakistan and China are very close neighbors connecting mountains rivers, and islands. A large number of Pakistani students are learning at various reputed Chinese Universities. They are bringing new knowledge in their respective fields and contributing to the social and economic prosperity of the countries. Today, we should understand the importance rather significance of these relations in the best interest of the homeland. Once again, I appreciate China



PESHAWAR: Pakistan 18th May, 2023: The Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and China Study Centre (CSC) University of Peshawar. Honorable Justice Retd Irshad Qaiser, Minister for Higher Education Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Human Rights and Archives was Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof. Dr. Muhammad (dress, Prof. Dr. Shahjahan, Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Farukh Saklain, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani and Dr. Kausar Takreem were prominent in the event.

Study Center, UoP, and Pakistan China Friendship Association, KP for working with dedication and devotion and for the promotion of higher education between the two countries.

The event was graced by apart from Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar, Mr. Ahmad Hassan Chairman Governor Inspection Team, Prof. Dr. Shah Jehan Vice Chancellor Iqra University, Mr. Furrusaqian Chairman KP Text Book Board, Dr. Zahid Anwar, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary-General PCFA and Prof. Dr. Kausar Takreem Coordinator CSC apart from large number of Friends of China various walks of life and UoP. Madam BaoZhong Counselor from the Embassy of People's Republic of China join the event as Key Note Speaker on video link from Embassy.

Prof. Dr. Kausar Takreem Coordinator CSC, said that China and Pakistan have a friendly relationship. Both countries supported each other through thick and



thin. She mentioned that CSC is thankful to both Federal and Provincial Governments, HEC, Vice Chancellor, UoP, and Chinese Embassy Islamabad for its wholehearted support to the CSC.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Secretary General PCFA KP, Pakistan in his speech said that Sino-Pakistan Relations have strengthened over time. Traditionally the relations with China are very old. Peshawar- Urumqi and Abbottabad-Kashgar are sisters cities since 1985 and 2007 respective-

ly. The relations between Pakistan and China today are at a high peak and we expect that both the countries will continue supporting each other and will work for the progress of the people. The vital role of CPC in promoting and strengthening through Political interaction all level also give new heights.

Madam Bao Zhang Political Counselor China Embassy, Islamabad thanked the organizers for arranging a seminar to celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner. She appreciated the efforts of the former Director

CSC Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar who has facilitated the establishment of the relationship between the two countries through the CCS UoP. She also extended her best wishes to the new coordinator China Study Center, UoP Prof. Dr. Kausar Takreem, and ensured her full support.

She said the world is undergoing some dramatic changes, the collective rise of China, Pakistan, and other developing countries has had a profound impact on the international landscape. Madam BaoZhong mentioned that during recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister & State Counsellor Mr. Qin Gang, the visiting Chinese Foreign Minister China advocates that all countries should stick to independence and follow the development paths suited to their national conditions and calls for mutual respect equality and win-win cooperation among countries. The Chinese Foreign Minister during recent visit stressed that relay baton of China-Pakistan friendship has been passed to younger genera-

tion. She said that the cooperation will continue with the CSC & PCFA in promoting government-to-government cooperation, business-to-business cooperation, people to people contact. She also said that the CSC doing tremendous efforts in strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and we expect more cooperation in this regard.

Dr. Shah Jehan Vice Chancellor, IQRA National University, Peshawar appreciated the peaceful rise of China in global politics. He highlighted that China gradually is becoming a global leader in the world. He also mentioned his visits to China and talked about his contribution to bringing close together Pakistan and China through Higher Education.

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar former Director CSC UoP highlighted that China-Pakistan relations are higher than the Himalayas, Deeper than the Indian Ocean, and sweeter than honey. We can learn from China's hard work, and planning. He said that the role of the CPC is very important in developing China. He said that President Xi Jinping has brought China to the global stage and is a successful country and we can learn a lot from China so far as higher education is concerned.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees Vice Chancellor, UoP welcomed the chief guest and other respected participants to the seminar. He highlighted the importance of Pakistan-China relations. He said that the leadership of both countries is committed to taking this relationship forward. China and Pakistan relations have developed an outstanding model for relations. Pakistan and China relations are based on a solid foundation. Pakistan-China cooperation

increases with time in all fields including the knowledge industry.

She said that it is a great pleasure to attend the 72nd anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. This is high time to learn from China's experience in our fields of life and this learning will be greatly helpful for our social economic development and to counter the challenges we are facing. Today, while celebrating the 72 anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, we should think about what we have learned from China, As we know that Pakistan and China are very close neighbors connecting mountains rivers, and islands. A large number of Pakistani students are learning at various reputed Chinese Universities. They are bringing new knowledge in their respective fields and contributing to the social and economic prosperity of the countries.

Today, we should understand the importance rather significance of these relations in the best interest of the homeland. Once again, I appreciate China Study Center, UoP, and Pakistan China Friendship Association, KP for working with dedication and devotion and for the promotion of higher education between the two countries. I am confident that they will further play their wider roles in strengthening these relations between the two countries. Thank you very much and long live Pakistan-China relationships. Later on Prof. Dr. Kausar Takreem extend vote of thanks all the distinguished guests and participants. Friendship Awards were distributed among leading Friend of China from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. (Email: syeed.gilani@gmail.com)

Grand Rotana Resort & Spa: A Complete Holiday Destination

Munaza Kazmi

Tranquility, Entertaining, Peaceor Fun! what are you looking for this holiday season? What if this all comes together at one place! On the tranquil shores of Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt a truly exciting seafront location, with private beach of 450 meters, a spectacular pool surrounded by a lush tropical landscape with over 2000 palm trees, beautiful lawns packed with flowers of several kinds and color making the air as a flowery mist, Grand as its name Grand Rotana Resort and Spa luxury beachfront resort is today's Family first choice. With a

distance of just 8 km from Sharm El Sheikh International airport, as well as with easy access to the major tourist attractions makes Rotana a much more convenient as well.

The Resort offers 526 luxurious hotel rooms, suites and Club Rotana Executive hotel rooms and suites. Moreover, there're 9 Royal villas of 4&5 bedrooms with private gardens and swimming pools, hence once can enjoy the luxury in absolute isolation. Although, all rooms and suites feature a private balcony or terrace overlooking the shining Tiran Island on the Red Sea or the Resort's own magnificent gardens. Let's say a beautiful morning you woke up to witness

the Sun came bathing from the Red Sea or an evening enjoying a cup of tea while finding the sun hiding behind the gigantic palm trees.

However, all hotel rooms & suites have a bright interior with natural wood finishes and comfortable contemporary furnishings. Designed for maximum comfort and privacy, most hotel rooms feature sofas, secluded terraces, or balconies with garden view of the beautiful landscape, in addition to free high-speed internet access.

Moreover, there's free Wi-Fi in public areas, lobby, food & beverage outlets, and recreation areas, hence you can connect with your family and friends where ever you

are. For dining and entertainment, in the resort you can find 10 restaurants, bars and cafes serving the delicious food with big smiles. Let's say;

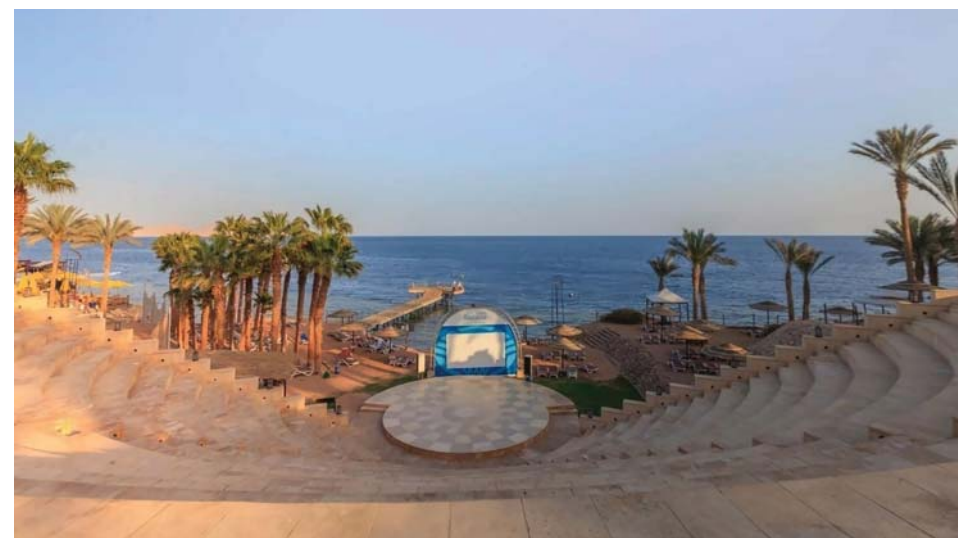
The giant RAMSES is an all-day restaurant, where you will find yourself enjoying lavish buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner with attractive views of hotel and sea. Flavors including local, Mediterranean, and Far east.

Feeling like something Italian, try MEZZALUNA ITALIAN RESTAURANT, and savor your tongue with cheesy flavors of Milan along the fresh mist from the Red Sea.

Who can forget the conquest of spices, that lead to the Europe conquer the Mughal Empire, however Indian spice have its own flavor which no one can match or if tried once can never be forgotten, possibility this would be the reason of Rotana's signature restaurant Silk Road, where Eastern flavors create absolute magic. It focusses 3 live kitchens featuring in Indian, Chinese and Thai.

Then comes C-LIDO perfectly setting in one of hotels lawn in the close proximity of beach overlooking the spectacular views of Tiran Island. It's a cool place to serve yourself with fresh cocktails and delightful snacks.

On the beachfront is THE PALMS BAR & GRILL serving BBQ, seafood "Catch of the day" mixed grill which is their specialty, crispy salads, and exotic cock-



tails throughout the day.

Grand Rotana Resort & Spa has a stunning pool, traversed with the giant palm trees, while kids are enjoying water activities, you can soak in sun or take a relaxing water therapy in the nearby Infinity Pool with refreshing drink or appetizers from the AQUARIUS POOL BAR.

Or you can try DUKE'S ENGLISH PUB right next to the pool with its solid old wood furnishing, presenting contemporary International cuisine.

Well you are in Egypt, so let's travel in the time and experience the Ancient Egypt! Come with me to relish the ISIS LOUNGE, carefully designed with ancient décor, fabrics and furniture, exhibiting their local culture infused with the spellbinding aromas of the past. A cup of

coffee in this enchanted lounge is a must go.

SKY LOUNGE lusters during late hours, normally till midnight, it's an outdoor magical majlis offering a wide selection of shishas, Arabic teas and flavored vodkas, complemented by Oriental mezza and hot snacks. Moreover, the friendly hotel entertainers perform something unusual every night to cheer up their beloved guest. During my stay, I thrilled watching the fire show, magical performances, live music and the Egyptian famous Belly dance.

When one has several delicious options at every hour of the day, our mind rans towards calculating the Carb intake. The Bodylines Wellness & Fitness Centre at Grand Rotana Resort & Spa features state-of-the-art fitness

equipment and their award-winning Zen the Spa, offers you tranquility and pure relaxation to balance your mind, body, and soul.

Moreover, for recreation there's The Scorpion Dive Center for diving and snorkeling, there is a completely different world underneath our feet, floating colors and kind. Or you can play tennis, while the kids get distracted in the Kids Club or very often there's some sort of game or activity arranged in the wallyball area, in addition to the live performance. Or the calming beach is always a best option.

There's much to engage oneself, from relaxing to playing to dancing, however my favorite was to sit by the sea by watching the moon slowly melting in the dark Red sea.

Depression

Aliza Arshad

Depression is a common mental health condition that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and changes in how you think, sleep, eat and act. There are several different types. Depression is treatable — usually with talk therapy, medication or both. Seeking medical help as soon as you have symptoms is essential.

Pakistan is home to over 220 million people, ranking fifth in the list of countries by population, as well as fifth in the list of countries with a young population. According to the UN Population Fund Report, around 63 percent of the population in Pakistan comprises youth aged 15 to

33 years. Yet, despite the data and numbers available, mental health issues and their management is a subject few are ready to acknowledge and address.

Pakistan has one of the highest rates of mental ill health in the world; according to one estimate, around 50 million people in Pakistan suffer from mental disabilities, which manifest in many shades and hues namely depression, substance abuse, alcoholism, post traumatic disorder, eating disorders, manic depressive psychosis, schizophrenia. At the same time, Pakistan has a staggeringly low number of psychiatrists and psychologists. According to a paper published in Lancet Psychiatry in 2020, there are fewer than 500 psychiatrists in the country for this population size.

What is depression?

Depression is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest in things and activities you once enjoyed. It can also cause difficulty with thinking, memory, eating and sleeping.

There are several types of depressive disorders. Clinical depression, or major depressive disorder, is often just called "depression." It's the most severe type of depression.

Without treatment, depression can get worse and last longer. In severe cases, it can lead to self-harm or death by suicide. The good news is that treatments can be very effective in improving symptoms.

What are the symptoms of depression?

The symptoms of depression can vary slightly depending on

the type and can range from mild to severe. In general, symptoms include:

Feeling very sad, hopeless or worried. Children and adolescents with depression may be irritable rather than sad.

Not enjoying things that used to bring joy.

Being easily irritated or frustrated.

Eating too much or too little, which may result in weight gain or weight loss.

Trouble sleeping (insomnia) or sleeping too much (hypersomnia).

Having low energy or fatigue.

Having a difficult time concentrating, making decisions or remembering things.

Experiencing physical issues like headache, stomachache or sexual dysfunction.

Having thoughts of self-harm or suicide.

Who does depression affect?

Depression can affect anyone — including children and adults. Women and people assigned female at birth are more likely to have depression than men and people assigned male at birth.

Having certain risk factors makes it more likely that you may develop depression. For example, the following conditions are associated with higher rates of depression:

Neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

Stroke.

Multiple sclerosis.

Seizure disorders.

Cancer.

Macular degeneration.

Chronic pain.

What causes depression?

Researchers don't know the exact cause of depression. They think that several factors contribute to its development, including:

Brain chemistry:

Genetics:

Stressful life events:

Medical conditions:

Medication:

How is depression diagnosed? Healthcare providers diagnose depression based on a thorough understanding of your symptoms, medical history and mental health history. They may diagnose you with a specific type of depression, such as seasonal affective disorder or postpartum depression, based on the context of your symptoms.

How is depression treated?

Depression is one of the most treatable mental health condi-

tions. Approximately 80% to 90% of people with depression who seek treatment eventually respond well to treatment.

Treatment options include:

Psychotherapy:

Medication:

Complementary medicine:

Brain stimulation therapy.

There are also things you can do at home to help improve depression symptoms, including:

Getting regular exercise.

Getting quality sleep (not too little or too much).

Eating a healthy diet.

Avoiding alcohol, which is a depressant.

Spending time with people you care about.

Author is student of 1st Year BS Psychology Group in Riphah University

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,599.18	41,442.07
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,628.78	41,354.33
Index Value	Change
2,633,146,565	+157.11
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	19 May, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,756.87	+14.57
Percentage	Time
+0.19%	19 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,466.55	-69.36
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	19 May, 1:06 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
30,808.35	+234.42
Percentage	Time
+0.77%	19 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.5	194.5
Bahrain Dinar	777.88	785.88
Canadian Dollar	214	216.2
China Yuan	42.07	42.47
Danish Krone	42.7	43.1
Euro	318	321
Hong Kong Dollar	37.31	37.66
Indian Rupee	3.56	3.67
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	952.27	961.27
Malaysian Ringgit	65.03	65.63
New Zealand \$	182.07	184.07
Norwegians Krone	27.57	27.87
Omani Riyal	760.2	768.2
Qatari Riyal	80.35	81.05
Saudi Riyal	78.5	79.3
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	28.25	28.55
Swiss Franc	326.82	329.32
Thai Bhat	8.66	8.81
U.A.E Dirham	80.5	81.4
UK Pound Sterling	366	369
US Dollar	297.5	300

Nadeem Khan nominated as member of ICAP ASB

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Group Chief Financial Officer (GCFO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, Nadeem Khan has been nominated as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) on its prestigious Accounting Standards Board (ASB). The ASB is responsible for overseeing the adoption, development, and implementation of accounting standards in the country, as well as providing guidance and recommending the adoption of new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Nadeem Khan is one of the three prominent business and industry leaders nominated to serve on the board, which includes prominent professionals from private and public sector. He has been appointed for a 4 year term. Nadeem Khan is a widely recognized business leader with nearly 3 decades of professional experience in key decision-making positions.

Pakistan should attract Chinese industrialists: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said China's share in the global market of ready-made garments is decreasing due to rising business costs and tensions with Western countries.

Rising wages in China, Ukraine policy and tensions with the US are affecting its exports which is an opportunity to other countries, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that taking advantage of the situation, India and Bangladesh are not only increasing their capacity and exports,

but also encouraging Chinese industrialists to relocate to their countries.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan should also take advantage of this opportunity and provide business facilities to Chinese industrialists so that the economic situation can improve and people can get employment.

He said that Pakistani exporters should also focus on trade with Japan, the fourth largest importer of garments in the world.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that the size of the global apparel market is 1.7 trillion dollars, in which China's share is continuously decreasing and Bangladesh is benefiting the most from this, which has more business than China, Vietnam and Indonesia in the American market.



India is taking the second position which is setting up readymade garments units on a large scale in various states while cheap loans are also being given to the private sector to increase the volume of exports which will also increase employment.

India wants to increase the exports of this sector to 30 billion dollars in a few years, while Pakistan's exports are continuously falling due to rising costs, the whole country is mired in political turmoil and the environment is not conducive for economic reforms.

In the current situation, domestic and foreign businessmen are fleeing the country instead of investing because they think that political and economic stability is difficult in the near future.

Women's empowerment is Govt's number one priority: SM Tanveer

T Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) hosted a reception in honour of SM Tanveer, Minister of Industries and Commerce, Government of Punjab, which was heavily participated by leaders of the business community, women entrepreneurs and government officials.

Speaking at the occasion, SM Tanveer said that women empowerment is at the top of the government's agenda without which the dream of national development cannot be achieved.

He said that IWCCI is one of the most effective women's chambers in the country which is playing a laudable role to empower women through entrepreneurship and that the government will extend all possible help towards this noble cause.

Providing business skills training is a basic step toward empowering women entrepreneurs, but to truly achieve transformative change, training programs need to address constraints facing women, he added.

He said that women are also stepping into the manufacturing sector and assured that women will get space in the industrial zones.

Speaking at the occasion, Shahzad Ali



Malik, Chairman of United Business Group and others said that women empowerment is a challenge in Pakistan but it's necessary to improve the economic landscape in the country.

They urged the government to simplify policies and provide an enabling environment for small businesses run by women.

Founder President IWCCI Samina Fazil said that current women's economic empowerment interventions are not enough to overcome all obstacles facing

female entrepreneurs.

Men and women entrepreneurs face inherently different constraints including psychological and cultural factors. Female entrepreneurs are often lacking in access to financial and human capital which impedes business growth, she added.

Samina Fazil said that the success of female entrepreneurs depends on their personal traits and entrepreneurial skills, and how institutions and stakeholders support them.

Punjab's Industries Minister to take Regional CCIs on board for industrial estate

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: S.M. Tanveer, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Punjab said that Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Chakwal Chambers of Commerce and Industry would be taken on board to set up a new industrial estate in the region to promote industrialization and provide employment opportunities to the youth. He said that the Punjab government has already identified four sites for setting up a new industrial estate in the region on the demand of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, so the three Chambers should soon reach a consensus on site to execute this important project. He said this while addressing a reception organized by Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kallar Kahar.

Bilal Afzal, Punjab's Excise and Communications Minister said that 10 km Bhawan Road has been completed in Chakwal district while Kallar Kahar Chowah Saidan Shah Road will be completed soon. He said that Chakwal-Tala Gang road and other roads of the district would also be rehabilitated.

Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and



Industry President Waqar Bakhtawari said that Neela Dulla location in Chakwal is the most suitable place for setting up a new industrial estate as this place provides easy access to investors of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and other surrounding areas. So, the establishment of new industrial estate at this location should be given serious consideration.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG, said that the establishment of Chakwal district was the first major event in its history and after that the construction of Morway, Kallar Kahar and Bal Kassar interchange have created

a revolution in the history of the district.

Qazi Akbar, group leader of Chakwal CCI and Vice President FPCCI, said that there is a need to build a gymkhana club in Chakwal for the convenience of the citizens, for which the support of the Punjab government is urgently needed.

UBG leaders Atta Aamir Bajwa, Malik Manzoor and Rauf Mukhtar also addressed the event. Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Umar Sami, Vice President Ahmed Farooqi, Khawaja Arif, Khurram Kamran, Shahzad Sadiq, Malik Ghulam Murtaza and others were also present in the event.

SECP remains committed to fostering a respectful work environment



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The SECP arranged an awareness session on "Creating a Respectful Work Environment" conducted by Ms. Maliha Husain, Executive Director at MEHERGARH (A Centre for Learning). The session was attended by all staff members, who were given a detailed overview of the subject, the sensitivities involved as well as applicable laws.

Ms. Husain emphasised the need to encourage open communication within the organization, especially on topics such as sexual harassment, since awareness is the

key to create a safe and inclusive workplace. She coached the attendees on the need to be empathetic and respectful to all, irrespective of age, race, gender or religion. Ms. Maliha also shed light on the applicable laws and guided the attendees on how to approach authorities with regards to those laws.

SECP, as an equal opportunity employer, remains dedicated to the cause of women's empowerment. As a result of policy intervention in recent years, female representation at senior level has increased to 23% in 2023, while 51% of new recruits in 2022 were female.

Islamic World Economic Forum being held in Kazan



Spokesman Report

KAZAN, RUSSIA: Today on the sidelines of Russia-Islamic World Economic Forum being held in Kazan, Syed Naveed Qamar Pakistan's Minister of Commerce witnessed the signing of the Protocol relating to Customs cooperation between Ministry of Commerce Pakistan and Federal Customs Services of Russian Federation.

The Protocol covers Administrative Cooperation and Information Exchange under the unified Tariff Pref-

erences of Eurasian Economic Union. The landmark Protocol is another important step in building the legal framework required for developing commercial relations between Pakistan and Russia. It would besides ensuring easy flow of goods also afford significant discount in customs duties for Pakistani products entering Russian market.

The Minister of Commerce is visiting Kazan to represent Pakistan at the 14th Russia-Islamic World Economic Forum held in Kazan 17-19 May 2023.

Basmati rice exporters to raise awareness on pesticide management: PBHF

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Basmati Heritage Foundation (PBHF), a consortium of Basmati rice exporters, arranged seminars to create awareness amongst the growers and other stakeholders of the rice value chain for improving productivity and food safety through the usage of certified seeds and judicious application of pesticides.

The seminars held at Narowal and Mandi Bahauddin were attended by the farmers, exporters and representatives of Ebro Foods (an international grain company) and Eurofins providing testing, certification and other facilities to exporters.

Juan Parious Soto Commercial Director of Ebro Foods speaking on this occasion said that better crop productivity for higher volumes through certified seeds & monitoring of pesticides residue was very important since Import Tolerances (IT) were being revised periodically by the European Union (EU), USA & Gulf countries.

Antonio Hernandez Chairman of Ebro Foods (Ebro, Herba & Tilda) told the audience that being the world's largest importer of basmati rice he was ambitious to double the

Basmati rice import. Tariq Mahmood Focal Person of Ebro Foods & CEO of GRS added that Compliant Exportable Basmati rice means purity, quality, traceability & food safety.

Dr Alexander Zahm MD Eurofins Germany along with Dr Werner Nadder Former MD Eurofins shared the comparison of export dynamics of Basmati rice between India & Pakistan including rapid alerts generated for pesticides & aflatoxin.

Sh. Adnan Aslam Co-convenor of PBHF and Executive Director of MAP Rice welcomed the foreign guests for visiting Pakistan & shared a snapshot of the rice sector, particularly basmati rice. He apprised the participants regarding the potential of exports by boosting rice productivity while keep ensuring food safety.

Imran Sheikh & Raja Arslan Khan National Coordinators of PBHF moderated both seminars & explained the context of the visit of international buyers. He underlined the usage of certified seed & responsible use of pesticides to meet import tolerance standards.

REAP Senior Vice Chairman Haseeb Khan and MC member Ali Narang shared their insights for increasing the share of basmati rice exports in the global market through new seeds and pesticide stewardship.



Sameer Ullah Naem Former Chairman Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan threw light on the importance of agriculture and advised the policymakers to devise farmer-centric policies for transforming the agriculture sector. He said that we need to focus on producing more food including rice per unit of land. Address the water & agrochemicals in the challenging scenario of the scarcity of above with added climate change & multiple risk factors, he

emphasized.

Dr. Anjum Ali Buttar DG Agri. Ext. briefed about the insights & outcomes of the PM Emergency Rice Productivity project for promoting mechanization, & certified seeds.

Dr Ihsan ul Haq, Dr Amir Mumtaz & Dr Farrukh Mehboob Program Leaders of IPM, Post-Harvest & Ecotoxicology respectively from the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) sensitized the participants on the

safe & responsible use of agrochemicals in rice production for ensuring food safety & quality.

Shahid Tarer Convener (PBHF) & MD Galaxy Rice explained about the vision of PBHF in bringing together all supply chain actors for better integration of forward & backward basmati rice value chain through solution-oriented strategies to address underlying challenges of the rice sector. He briefed the participants about the role of PBHF in establishing the National Chapter of SRP in Pakistan.

Javed Iqbal & Dr Irfanullah Warraich Divisional Directors Agri. Ext Gujranwala & Gujrat addressed farmers on good agriculture practices for obtaining better yields & income. He appreciated the PBHF for implanting SRP standards & digitization of traceability from farm to fork.

Rana Faqir Ahmed DG of Pest Warning & Quality Control sensitized farmers on the importance of the right application timing based on pest ETL (Economic threshold level) & PHI (Pre-harvest interval) to keep rice grains free from pesticide residues. Dr Hiz Jamali from Asian Development Bank & Dr Kashif Salik from Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) also participated.

Pakistan wheelchair-bound cricket team's training camp for Asia Cup from Monday

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The training camp of the Pakistan Wheelchair-bound cricket team for preparation for the Wheelchair Cricket Asia Cup will commence at Baghe-Jinnah Lahore Gymkhana.

Pakistan is hosting the Asia Cup in July at the neutral venue of Nepal, President of Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council (PWCC) Rookhsana Rajpoot said on Friday.

"We were all set to host the event in Pakistan but due to some issues, we have decided to shift it to Nepal," Rookhsana told APP.

She said that every effort would be made to make the event a real success, commencing on July 11.

"Preparations to stage the event are underway. We hope fans will enjoy excit-



ing contests during the event," she added. The matches will be played at the two grounds in Kathmandu.

According to Rookhsana, Pakistan's outfit consisted of a bunch of highly talented players, who were capable

of winning the event. "Our players are in good shape. They have been working really hard for quite some time. I'm sure they will emerge victorious in the event," she added.

Teams from Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan will participate in the Asia Cup.

"We will also host the Afghanistan wheelchair cricket-bound team in June for a series, to be held in Islamabad.

"The Afghanistan team will play three T20Is and two ODIs against Pakistan. "It will be a watershed moment as it will be for the first time in history that an international wheelchair cricket team will visit Pakistan for a series," Rookhsana added.

She said it would also be for the first time in the history of wheelchair cricket that an international one-day match would take place between the two teams.

Abdul Razzaq picks Faheem Ashraf over Wasim Jr for World Cup

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq picked Faheem Ashraf over Mohammad Wasim Jr for the upcoming ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 in India.

With this year's extravaganza just a few months away, former all-rounder Abdul Razzaq came up with a suggestion regarding the all-rounder spot for Pakistan.

While speaking to a local TV channel, Abdul Razzaq was asked to pick between Faheem Ashraf and Mohammad Wasim Jr as to who should be selected to represent the country in this year's world cup.

The legendary all-rounder threw his weight behind Faheem Ashraf, citing the latter's experience.

"If we judge experi-



ence-wise, then Faheem Ashraf should go for World Cup," said Razzaq.

Meanwhile, Abdul Razzaq also questioned Wasim Jr's selection and development in the national team as the former all-rounder believes that the latter was promoted to the international circuit without sufficient exposure in the domestic structure.

"If we talk about Mohammad Wasim Jr, we brought him from Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa. I think he was selected for the Pakistan team too early," Abdul Razzaq said.

"Wasim Jr should have played more domestic cricket and bowled longer spells over there before getting selected. Now, he plays few matches for Pakistan and then sits out in the rest of the matches. You can never groom a player like that," he added.

However, Pakistan's

participation in the upcoming World Cup has been in jeopardy after the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) refused to travel to Pakistan for Asia Cup on political grounds and has since been pushing to shift the tournament to a neutral venue.

The BCCI maintained its stance of not touring Pakistan for the Asia Cup, while the PCB was adamant that if they do not, then Pakistan might not travel to India for the World Cup in October-November.

As per the latest development, however, the BCCI has reportedly accepted PCB's hybrid model which meant that Pakistan will host the first four matches of the tournament while India's group stage matches and Super 4s matches will be contested on a neutral venue.

Jim Brown: End of an era as NFL legend passes away at 87

Jim Brown, the legendary Cleveland Browns running back and civil rights icon, has passed away at the age of 87. His family confirmed the news, saying that he died peacefully at his home in Los Angeles.

Brown was a revered figure in the NFL, recognised as one of the greatest football players in history. He spent his entire career with the Cleveland Browns, leading the league in rushing for eight seasons and accumulating impressive career stats. Brown's impact extended beyond the football field; he was actively involved in civil rights initiatives and social causes.

During his time with the Browns, Brown achieved numerous milestones and accolades. He was named the greatest football player ever by the Sporting News in 2002. He consistently performed at a high level, earning Pro Bowl selections every season and leading Cleveland to the NFL championship game three times, winning the title in 1964. Known for his exceptional rushing abilities, Brown recorded over 1,000 yards in seven seasons.



Wapda win Gold in National Games Women's hockey



Sports Desk

QUETTA: In the 34th National Games, WAPDA won the final of women's hockey and won the gold medal, Army won the silver and bronze medals in Quetta.

The chief guest of this final played between the army teams was Farah Azeem Shah, spokesperson of the Balochistan government, who was introduced to the players of both teams.

The final started at a high speed. After the final one-on-one competition, they won the gold medal by winning three goals to zero. Army won the second place with the silver medal, while Higher Education won the bronze medal and won the third position.

Afterwards, Farah Azeem Shah distributed awards, medals and prizes.

Zaman Khan joins Derbyshire for Vitality Blast



A Sports

NOTTINGHAM: Pakistan pace prodigy Zaman Khan has joined Derbyshire County Cricket Club for the upcoming Vitality Blast 2023, scheduled to commence on May 20.

According to the club, Zaman Khan has joined the squad and is upbeat about working under former Pakistan men's cricket team director Mickey Arthur; terming it a dream scenario.

Zaman signed a deal with Derbyshire for this summer's Vitality Blast, which begins with his side taking on Lancashire in the curtain-raiser on Saturday.

He also expressed his excitement about working under Arthur, who had a successful tenure as Pakistan's head coach from 2016-19.

"Playing in England is something I've wanted to experience and to do it working with Mickey Arthur at Derbyshire is a dream scenario," said Zaman Khan in a statement released by his club.

"Derbyshire have been impressive in T20 cricket over the last few years, so I'm looking forward to playing with this squad and seeing if we can challenge again this summer."

Zaman, famous for his pinpoint yorkers and exceptional death bowling, has played 49 T20s in his blooming career so far, picking up 59 wickets at an average of 23.35 and with best figures of 4-16.

His consistent performances in the franchise leagues powered him to make his international debut for Pakistan during the three-match away series against Afghanistan in March.

The right-arm pacer has thus far represented Pakistan in six T20Is and picked up four wickets, maintaining a miserly economy rate of 6.66.

Zaman Khan has been enjoying a trophy-laden franchise league career as he has thus far won two Pakistan Super League (PSL) titles with Lahore Qalandars. He also lifted the silverware in the recent edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) with Jaffna Kings.

Newcastle secure vital victory to boost Champions League hopes

Newcastle United took a significant step towards securing Champions League qualification with a commanding 4-1 victory over Brighton & Hove Albion at St James' Park.

Callum Wilson played a pivotal role in the triumph, scoring a late goal and assisting Bruno Guimaraes. The win propelled Newcastle to third place in the Premier League standings, placing them within touching distance of European football's elite competition.

Kieran Trippier showcased his dead-ball expertise, delivering crosses that led to a Deniz Undav own-goal and a Dan Burn header, securing a comfortable 2-0 lead for the Magpies at halftime.

Lamela heads Sevilla past Juventus into Europa League final

Sports Desk

SEVILLE: Erik Lamela propelled Europa League specialists Sevilla into the final once again with a 2-1 victory over Juventus on Thursday, sealing a 3-2 aggregate triumph in a gripping clash.

Lamela headed home in extra-time to complete an impressive comeback for the record six-time winners of the competition, who will face Jose Mourinho's Roma in Budapest on May 31 after they edged past Bayer Leverkusen.

Dusan Vlahovic fired visitors Juventus ahead in the second half, two minutes after coming on as a substitute, but Suso smashed home from outside the area to take the game to extra-time.

Lamela connected perfectly with Bryan Gil's cross in the 95th minute to delight the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan, and Sevilla held on to reach the final for the

first time since 2020.

"A lot of things went through my head, good moments, bad moments. It was a unique moment," Lamela told Movistar.

"Now we are a step away, it's a great opportunity. It's a night I will remember forever; it's something incredible to play here, in front of all these fans."

Juventus failed to set up an all-Italian final against Roma, but Italy still has with one representative in each of the three European finals.

Inter Milan reached the Champions League showdown against Manchester City by seeing off rivals AC Milan on Tuesday, while on Thursday Fiorentina beat Basel to reach the Conference League final where they will face West Ham.

Defeat is concerning for Juventus, who are second in Serie A but braced for a potential points deduction which could knock them out of the top four.



Winning the Europa League would have been an alternative route to Champions League qualification.

Massimiliano Allegri's side, without the injured Paul Pogba, were significantly better than in the first leg but fell short.

"You have to put them in the back of the net when you have the chances," Allegri said.

"The boys played a good

game, but it was a European semi-final, we had to give a little more."

He said his young Juventus side paid the price for their lack of experience compared to Sevilla.

"It's a team that lacks experience at international level, these are physical matches, which require a lot," he added.

Sevilla, who dominated in

Daniil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas race on to Italian Open semis

Sports Desk

ROME: Third seed Daniil Medvedev and 2022 finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas powered into the Italian Open semi-finals on Thursday with comfortable straight-set wins.

Daniil Medvedev continued his clay breakthrough as he reached the final four 6-2, 6-2 over Yannick Hanfmann.

Greek Tsitsipas, the 2022 finalist, subdued Croat Borna Coric 6-3, 6-4 on a day when the French Open field was blown wide open by the withdrawal of Rafael Nadal.

The iconic 14-time champion, 36, cast a huge shadow over his future in the game, confessing that he did not know when he would be fit from a hip injury which has kept him off court since January.

Medvedev, the 2021 US Open champion, has made big improvements in his clay game here after freely admitting he's never been comfortable on the dirt.

He has shattered that stereotype with his steady progress at the Foro Italico, reaching his seventh semi-final of the season. Medvedev dominated number 101 German qualifier Hanfmann after settling in following breaks of serve in the opening three games in their Italian Open quarter-final.

After going down a break in the second set, the 31-year-old Hanfmann complained to his coaching box that he had no legs left as he played on prior to losing serve for the fifth time in the match.

But he struck back briefly with a break of the seed to hold on for 2-4 before dropping serve again as Medvedev moved into winning

position, closing it out on a second match point.

"All of the courts are pretty different here, it was not easy to adapt for both of us," Medvedev said.

"But I managed to adapt better. I'm really happy about it. A win is a win. Not counting the serve, I played well, returned well, moved well.

"I'm looking forward to the next round." Prior to this edition, Daniil Medvedev had never won a match in Italian Open and had little confidence in his game on the clay. He is now into the final four after four victories and the loss of just one set.

"Against Hanfmann I wanted to put as many balls into the court as possible. He plays very aggressive. I played deep to try and make him miss — and maybe he was

not playing his best match.

"He was struggling more than me. I'm glad I was able to neutralise his game."

Medvedev also increased his lead in 'four match wins as he claimed his 37th of the season.

Stefanos Tsitsipas was meanwhile dominant against Coric after losing to the Croat in three of five matches, including here in 2018 and in last summer's Cincinnati final.

Stefanos Tsitsipas secured the opening set with a break and took a 2-1 lead in the second. But two double-faults contributed as he dropped serve for 4-4 only to break straight back and serve out victory a game later.

"These night sessions are becoming very fun," the fifth seed said.

"This is clay and things can escalate very quickly," he said of



his stutter near the end. "I managed my shotmaking at the important moments and was able to retrieve (the momentum) at the end.

"I felt the energy point by point." Tsitsipas and Medvedev have played 12 times to date with the latter leading 7-4.

"He's playing well and I'm also feeling good on court. I hope he brings out the best in me — good preparation and off we go," said Tsitsipas.