



### Bilawal condemns attack on Balochistan check-post

Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has condemned an attack on a check-post of the security forces in Balochistan Saturday. He expressed his grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of three soldiers in the attack. The PPP Chairman condoled with the bereaved family members and said that his heart went out to them.



### Govt forms Justice Isa-led commission to probe leaked audio calls

The federal government has formed a three-member inquiry commission to investigate the leaked audios allegedly involving the judiciary and former chief justices and a judge, saying the conversations had raised apprehensions over impartiality of judges. The three-member commission is headed by SC Justice Qazi Faez Isa while BHC Chief Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq are its members.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Solidarity with Pak Army

QUETTA: Workers of Pakistan Peoples Party hold rally at Jinnah Post to show solidarity with Pak Army.



Photo: Online

## PM expresses grief over death of 8 Pakistani pilgrims in Makkah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed his grief and sorrow over death of eight Pakistani pilgrims who lost their lives in a hotel blaze in Makkah Mukarrama.

The prime minister expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and offered condolences, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also prayed for the high ranks of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude.

The prime minister directed the Ministry of Religious Affairs to look after the health of injured pilgrims and provide all possible facilities to the bereaved families.



According to the Foreign Office, eight Pakistanis were dead and six others injured in an unfortunate fire incident in a hotel in Makkah.

In response to media queries, the Foreign Office spokesperson on Friday said in a press release that they had reports of 8 deaths and 6 injured Pakistanis in the incident.

Pakistan Mission in Jeddah was in contact with local authorities to provide relief to the victims and their families.

## Events held across globe in support of Pakistan's armed forces

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Events were held in different countries across the world including Germany, Turkiye, Russia, Norway, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Netherlands, Britain and Africa to express solidarity with armed forces of Pakistan.

People gathered at public places to hold rallies and speak in support of the armed forces and to condemn the incidents of May 9, according to information received here from different countries on Saturday.

Pakistanis gathered outside embassy of Pakistan in Tajikistan to express solidarity with the armed forces while an event was held at a local restaurant in Azerbaijan to show support for them. Events were also organized in Africa and participants vowed to continue efforts for the stability of Pakistan.

People gathered at different places in Germany to convey their support for the Pakistan army. They strongly condemned the recent ghastly attacks on installations of Pakistan army. Besides various events, in Germany's city Berlin a social media campaign was launched to convey

support to valiant forces of Pakistan.

A seminar was held in the brotherly country of Turkiye to show unity with the armed forces. A large number of students attended a seminar and severely condemned the incidents of May 9. They were of the view that the armed forces were a fortified wall against the enemies of Pakistan.

In London, the capital of Britain, religious leaders conveyed their message in support of unity and integrity of Pakistan. Qazi Abdul Aziz Chishti, Central Secretary Jamaat Ahle Sunnat conveyed the message for stability of Pakistan to the community members, which was also later published in the newspapers.

The leaders said Pakistan army was a shield against the terrorists and expressing solidarity with the army was part of their faith.

In the Netherlands, the overseas Pakistanis held a rally and passionately raised slogans in support of the armed forces. In Russia, a similar procession was held and the participants vociferously condemned the attack on armed forces and shouted slogans in their favour. They demanded strong action against those who conspired and caused damage to the

# Legal process to try May 9 rioters under military law incepted, says COAS

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Saturday said that the legal process of trial against planners, instigators, abettors and perpetrators involved in the May 9 mayhem commenced under Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act as per existing and established legal procedures derived from the Constitution.

The army chief's statement came as he visited Jinnah House and an army installation in Lahore, which were blatantly attacked and vandalised by "politically motivated" rioters, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The COAS was also given a briefing on events of May 9.

Addressing the garrison officers and soldiers at Corps Headquarters, Gen Munir emphasised that any action aimed at widening a



gulf between people and the military was against the state.

"Army draws its strength from people and any effort to create wedge between the Army and

the people of Pakistan is an act against the State which is neither tolerable nor condonable under any circumstances," the army chief said.

"Hostile and inimical forces and their abettors have been trying hard to create confusion through fake news and propaganda but all such designs of the

enemy will be defeated with the support of the nation, InshAllah," he added.

Later, COAS also visited Services Hospital Lahore and inquired about the well-being of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ali Nasir Rizvi who was injured by "political miscreants" during the May 9 incident.

Gen Munir also visited Qurban Lines and met with police officials.

The COAS paid homage to the martyrs of police, appreciated the professionalism and restraint exercised by them during the May 9 riots, and assured the army's full support to the law enforcement agencies for their capacity enhancement, intelligence sharing, and training.

The COAS laid a floral wreath at Martyrs' Monument and paid rich tribute to the Shuhada who sacrificed their lives for the motherland, read the statement.

## Imran uploaded an AI generated picture of woman on Twitter to mislead people: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Saturday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan generated an image of a woman by artificial intelligence (AI) and shared it on his Twitter handle and ridiculed the security personnel by claiming his female supporters were being targeted by law enforcement agencies.

Addressing a press conference here, she said that in fact no such incident occurred and his lie was exposed by a television channel from France.

"On May 19 in a tweet, Imran Khan uploaded pictures of Rangers and police in front of a woman's picture created by artificial intelligence," she said adding Imran Khan and his party tried to give a wrong impression that his party's female supporters were victimized by law enforcement agencies but the French TV channel revealed the truth.



It categorically stated that no fundamental rights of anyone were violated during the crackdown on May 9 arsonists, she added.

On the contrary, she said human rights of school children, patients in hospitals and general public were trampled by the PTI goons who attacked sensitive installations and public property on the behest of Imran Khan.

She said that the entire nation was dismayed over the attacks that Imran Khan had planned to avoid the cases of foreign

funding, theft of Tosha Khana gifted and paternity issue of his daughter. The minister said that even the enemy could not do in 75 years' history what Imran Khan did on May 9. Marriyum Aurangzeb said for the first time in the history of Pakistan, the uniform was mocked and the memorials of the martyrs were desecrated which caused jubilation in the neighboring country.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said Imran Khan was the mastermind behind the May 9 arson attacks and his so-called condemnation of the tragic incidents would not absolve him of responsibility.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan's dirty antics and tricks were continuing on a daily basis, she added.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said for the first time, Imran Khan had realized what were the consequences of plying with the law.

"Imran Khan had been planning such terrorist activities for the past 14 months when he was thrown out of power through

## Imran Khan agrees to appear before NAB on May 23



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan agreed to appear before National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in National Crime Agency £190m Scandal.

As per details, the PTI chief has sent his written answer to the National Accountability Bureau in which he stated that he cannot become part of NAB investigations on May 22.

He agreed on appearing before NAB on May 23 and demanded that to send a copy of the NAB

### Says ready for 'minus-one formula' if it benefits Pakistan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Saturday asserted that he was ready for a 'minus-one formula' if it "benefits the country".

"Tell me how does Pakistan benefit from minus one? I will be willing to remove myself from the field in broader interest of the country," the former premier said while addressing the party workers and supporters.

Imran Khan reiterated that only way to get the country out of the 'quagmire' is immediate and trans-

parent elections. He also noted that he would never leave the country as he doesn't have "properties outside this country".

Earlier in the day, PTI Chairman Imran Khan pointed out "flaws" in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of a three-member judicial commission, constituted by the federal government to investigate the audio leaks.

"The federal government has formed an inquiry commission under Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017 to investigate into the issue of audio leaks," the former premier wrote on Twitter.

inquiry report to him or his lawyer.

Earlier, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) changed the title of the Al-Qadir Trust case to

National Crime Agency £190m Scandal, and summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan.



## PM visit to PKLI

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting a patient during his visit to Pakistan Kidney and liver Institute.



Photo: APP

# First Hajj flight to take off from Karachi at wee hours on Sunday: Talha

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Saturday informed that the first Hajj flight would take off from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi at 0450 hours on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here, he said almost 175,000 people would proceed for spiritual journey to perform Hajj rites this year on both government and private schemes.

The minister further informed that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony had refunded

Rs55,000 as 'Qurbani amount' to both regular and sponsorship scheme pilgrims in their bank accounts.

He explained that earlier it was decided that the ministry would arrange Qurbani (sacrifice) for the pilgrims but due to delay in the decision, the majority of pilgrims had arranged this sacred rite on their own.

Talha advised the pilgrims of both regular and sponsorship schemes to collect Rs55,000 from their respective banks before their departure for Hajj as the same would not be reimbursed to them in Saudi Arabia.

He said the Saudi government-run Qurbani booths



would be available near government residences, providing a hassle-free process for purchasing the coupons. "In the event of any issues or difficulties in acquiring the Qurbani amount, the complaint could be lodged with the accounts officer of the ministry directly at 0519208552," he added. The minister said this year

more than 26,000 pilgrims would benefit from the 'Road to Makkah' project from the Islamabad International Airport, a notable increase from the 16,000 pilgrims served last year.

He said this efficient facility aimed at streamlining the immigration and customs procedures for the intending pilgrims departing from the federal capital, enabling them to swiftly embark on their spiritual journey.

He explained that the initiative would expedite the processing of pilgrims at the Saudi airport in order to minimize wait times, allowing them to proceed directly to their designated buses upon arrival.

# French Embassy to enhance educational opportunities for Pak youth in France: Ambassador

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey on Saturday said that the French Embassy would enhance educational opportunities for Pakistani youth in France by providing more scholarships and strengthening the Campus France Pakistan office.

Addressing the French Alumni Day in Islamabad, he said that the mission of the Campus France Pakistan office is to promote studies in France and help students find the establishment corresponding to their project among the vast offer of higher education in France, including many taught in English.



The role of alumni is essential because they are the best ambassadors of higher education in France and an aspiring source to explain educational and living experiences in France to their Pakistanis.

He stressed that the French Alumni Pakistan was a Pakistani platform who have attended French universities and can inspire the younger generation to choose those prestigious institutions to build

a successful career. He said that the relationship between Pakistan and France in higher education dates back to the early 1960s, adding that the number of Pakistani students recently decreased. Still, the

French Embassy is determined to reverse this situation with the support of the Pakistani authorities.

The Ambassador said the French government and universities fund 30 scholarships for Pakistani students annually. In European countries, too, dozens of students get scholarships each year, he said. Only last year, 170 students got scholarships to study in Europe; 40 started their Masters's degrees in France. More than 250 Pakistani students and researchers choose France annually for a semester exchange, an internship, a short course, a full master/Ph.D. degree, professional training, or a research study.

# CTD Punjab arrests 7 alleged terrorists of Banned outfits TTP and Daish

## Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested 7 alleged terrorists of banned outfits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 52 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 52 suspected persons were interrogated and 7 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. The arrested terrorists include 5 members of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Salman, Malik Asrar Ahmed, Abdul Khaliq, Ikramullah and Najibullah, 2 members of Daesh, Sher Zaman and Sher Muhammad, he added.

The spokesman said that explosives 1010 grams, IED bomb 1 no., Rocket shell 2 nos., Booster shell RPG 7 nos., Detonator 8 nos., Safety fuse wire 13 feet, Prima Card 2 nos., Pistol 1 no., Bullets 6 nos., Pamphlet 26 nos., 37 stickers, 5 magazines, 1 mobile phone and 44,980 rupees in cash have been recovered from the possession.

# NAB gives clean chit to PM Shehbaz in Ashiana Housing case

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has declared Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif innocent in a probe into the Ashiana Housing case.

The anti-graft watchdog in its reports said it had not found any evidence against the premier regarding misuse of power and corruption in the case. It highlighted that the project did not incur any losses on the national kitty when it was launched, adding that Mr Sharif did not get any monetary benefits in it.

The evidence and records examined during the investigation showed that no any public office holder received illegal benefits from the project, it said. It said neither Kamran Kayani caused any loss to the national exchequer nor Fawad Hasan Fawad took bribe in award

of contracts.

The bureau has submitted the report in an accountability court in Lahore hearing the graft reference against Shehbaz Sharif and others. The report was submitted in response to acquittal pleas filed by the suspects in the case.

The NAB pleaded the accountability court to issue its verdict on the acquittal pleas according to law. In March, NAB witnesses testified before the court that the PML-N president was not guilty in Ashiana Housing Society reference. The witnesses said they had no knowledge of any illegal act committed in the project. They added that the bid had been opened as per rules and regulations, project had been signed and financed through finance committee and all the relevant documents were designed according to rules. Layyah Deputy Commissioner

Khalid Pervaiz, a NAB witness, took the stance that he worked as LDA director from 2013 to 2015. He said he had signed the Ashiana Housing Society implementation project. He further said he had recorded his statement before NAB's investigation officer on March 6, 2018. NAB's second witness Mehmood Ahmad Sulehri said the LDA had constituted a committee on Ashiana Housing Society project and asked Nespak to nominate a senior member for the body. "Nespak nominated me as a member of that committee," he added. The bid evaluation was properly done by a committee. It was then sent to a steering committee. He said he joined the investigation on March 9, 2018 and recorded his statement. Mr Ahmad said every bid was received under the watchful eye of cameras and properly signed by every member.

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# Three soldiers embrace martyrdom thwarting terrorists' attack on mili' post in Zarghoon



## Adam Khan Wazir

RAWALPINDI: Three soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom on Saturday while bravely thwarting terrorists' attack on the Security Forces' Post in Zarghoon, Marget area of Balochistan while a terrorist was sent to hell during the ensuing fire exchange.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), on May 20, early in the morning, a group of terrorists attacked a Security Forces Post established in Zarghoon, Marget Area of Balochistan.

It added that the Post had recently been established to help check extortion efforts targeting Coal mines in the area.

The troops on the Post had retaliated readily to the fire raid thereby, pushing back the terrorists.

Based on the follow up Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) effort, likely hideout of fleeing terrorists has been identified in nearby mountains and a deliberate blocking and sanitisation operation has been launched, the ISPR said.

Currently, the operation was progressing well and security forces were maintaining pressure to deny terrorists escape from the area.

Security Forces, in step with the nation, remained determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, the ISPR said.

# UAE to help sindh govt in construction of houses for flood affectees



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced support Pakistan People's Party-led (PPP) Sindh Government in the construction of houses for flood affectees in the province.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah and Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi in Karachi.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the housing project will be finalised soon. It was also agreed that bilateral and trade relations between Pakistan and UAE will further be enhanced.

Speaking on the occasion, the envoy informed the Sindh Chief

Minister that investors of his country are keen to invest in Pakistan.

On the orders of UAE government, he said, all possible assistance was being provided to Pakistan, "which will continue until the complete rehabilitation of the victims".

Earlier, the Sindh cabinet approved Rs 50 billion for the construction of houses damaged during the recent heavy rains and subsequent floods.

"Each and every owner of the damaged house would be given Rs 50,000 to start construction, and when the construction would reach the plinth level the remaining amount of Rs 250,000 would be transferred to his bank account to complete the construction," the CM decided in consultation with the cabinet members.

# Mushaal urges G20 countries to boycott summit on tourism in IIOJK

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal Hussein Mullick has urged G20 countries to boycott summit on tourism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on May 22 to 24.

In a letter to G20 countries with the subject Addressing rising human rights violations in IIOJK, Mushaal has urged G20 countries not only to boycott this meeting but to condemn the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and play your due role to ensure resolution of the decades-long dispute as per the UN agreed formula so as Kashmiri people could be able to live a life as per their free will.

"I want to bring your kind attention to the prevailing unabated and rising human rights violations in IIOJK, she further added that the occupied region has been turned into a killing field and garrison city.

Police and security personnel are carrying out raids and search operations on various pretexts to harass and terrify innocent Kashmiri youth and women, she explained. She informed that since Narendra Modi-led government seized the power, his government further escalates the miseries of the Kashmiri people.

# Military courts preferred owing to credibility, says Maryam



## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief organiser Maryam Nawaz said on Saturday she was not in favour of trying civilians in military courts but look at the credibility of civilian courts first.

Addressing a meeting of religious scholars, she said civilian courts had become controversial, adding that they had become a tool for [appeasing] a political party. "How could we expect justice now," she questioned.

Ms Nawaz said foreign funding was employed to raise Mr Khan, adding that his party burned the country on holding him accountable. "Now they are hiding when it is the time for real freedom," she added.

PML-N leader said Mr Khan was seeking evidence on his party's involvement in 9/5 attacks, adding that how could Mr Khan forget the image of his nephew Hassan Niazi holding a baton carrying Pakistan Army's picture during the protest.



# Punjab Govt giving subsidy to the farmers on quality seed fertilizer and spray :Iftikhar Ali Sahu

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Secretary Agriculture Punjab A high level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Iftikhar Sahu. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil, Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khatkhat, Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Ehtesham Anwar, VC Agriculture University Professor Rao Asif, Additional Deputy Commissioner Multan Nauman Afzal, Director Agriculture Shehzad Sabir were present. On this occasion, Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahu said that The Punjab government was giving subsidy to the farmers on quality seed fertilizer and spray. There are orders for additional cultivation and production of cotton on war footing by the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab

Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Sahu directed crackdown against water thieves without discrimination and said that By taking action against

water thieves, cultivation on millions of acres of land will be easy and cheap. By increasing agricultural production, the financial condition of farmers will improve. 53 thousand cusecs of water is being given to the canals of South Punjab. He said that 45 lakhs in South Punjab. Cotton cultivation is ongoing on 54 thousand acres, which is 91% of the total target of Punjab province.

73% of the cotton cultivation target has been achieved under the cotton revival program which is commendable. Irrigation Secretary Wasif Khurshed said that the Irrigation Department is providing more than its share of water to South Punjab on priority basis so that cotton can be grown on maximum area. There is a shortage of more than 27%, but despite this, 53,000 cusecs of water is being given to the canals of South Punjab. Water supply is essential to achieve the target

Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak said that Punjab government has given a target



of cotton cultivation on 1269000 acres to Multan Division. 2221600 from cotton cultivation on 1269000 acres The target of bales will be achieved. Management and Agriculture Department are in the field to solve the problems of farmers regarding cotton cultivation. Farmers must be assured about the sale of cotton crop.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Ehtesham Anwar said that cotton cultivation will have a positive impact on our economy. Pakistan is an agricultural country and its economy depends not only on agriculture but it is also the most sustainable source of foreign exchange. He said that by stabilizing the country's economy, we can get rid of other external debts Cultivate cotton as a national duty. Multan. Irrigation Secretary Wasif Khurshed, Deputy Commissioners of South Punjab, Department of Agriculture, Inhar, officers of related departments was present in the meeting.

## Press conference

KARACHI: Provincial Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addressing a press conference at Noor-e-Haq Institute in Provincial capital.



Photo: Online

## Karachi Arts Council, organizes condolence reference of Shabbir Rana



City Desk

KARACHI : Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Organized a condolence reference in the lobby area in memory of senior actor Shabbir Rana, in which President of the Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah, Governing Body Member Shehzad Raza Naqvi, Iqbal Latif, along with Nazir Hussain, actors Rauf Lala, Parvez Siddiqui, Ali Hassan, Afshan Qureshi, Younus Memon, Jameel Rahi, Salumi, actor Shahzad Malik, Imran Raza, Adam Rathore, Shahzad Ali Khan, Mujtaba Naqvi, Zeeshan Shah, Adnan Shah, Azlan and others expressed their views while moderator the duties were performed by Noman Khan, on this occasion President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmed Shah said that Shabbir Rana was our Dilip Kumar, there was a Dilip Kumar in him from childhood, Shabbir was a smiling man.

He said that once the Arts Council used to be a garbage dump, today it has become an international institution. Governing body member and senior actor Shahzad Raza said that Shabbir Rana was a figure of love, people were very impressed by his words, we had a 53-year-old friend, he actually came to play *Shehnai* on Radio Pakistan, but he played everyone's trumpet, he said. Ahmed Shah never removes the one who goes out of sight from his heart, I thank the president of Arts Council, he takes everyone along, Iqbal Latif said that the tradition of Arts Council is maintained that we take care of our departed. I used to call Shabbir Rana by four different names, Shabbir Rana used to understand something with his eyes. Nazir Hussain said, I am related to Shabbir Rana since 70, he was a very hard working person, worked a lot in radio, film and television, actor Shahzad Malik said he worked a lot with Shabbir. One should keep encouraging so that his freshness remains, actor Rauf Lala said he loved me very much, today our Pakistani Dilip Kumar is gone, may God forgive him, theater artist Salumi said Shabbir Bhai's face on Kabhi me. Shabbir Rana's elder son Adnan Shah said, "I have always taught my father to respect elders and Respected, we learned a lot from him, his love for children was eternal, he will always live in our hearts, I thank President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah for organizing this event, Azlan said that I am very fond of keeping animals, my father was very fond of them, so imagine how much he loved humans, he never raised his hands on us, they lived like friends, but alas.

## District administration taking measures to promote IT education. Rao Atif

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza has said that the district administration was taking measures to promote IT education across the district. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting related to IT education in the educational institutions of the district at the DC office on Saturday. According to a district administration spokesman, in the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Attock Adnan Anjum Raja, CEO Education Attock Malik Fateh Khan, Deputy Director Colleges Arshad Khan, DEO Secondary Akram Zia, MS Government Isfandary Bukhari District Hospital Attock Dr Jawad Elahi, Dr Khalid and Dr Farhan, SNADC Office Muhammad Sufian from COMSATS University Attock were also present. Various topics related to IT education in schools and colleges across the district were discussed. The meeting decided that an IT-based project called 'Learn and Earn' would be started for the eligible students of the district, who would be imparted training in freelancing, creative designing skills, social media marketing, etc, he added.

## Rallies were held to express solidarity with the army

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK : Like other parts of the country rallies were taken out across the inter provincial bordering territory of Attock district to condemn on the monuments of martyrs, state installations by the miscreants of PTI besides expressing their complete solidarity with the Pakistani forces. The rally participants chanted slogan in favor of Pakistan Army at various tehsil's including Jand, Pindi Gheb and Fateh Jang. The main rally led by by Pakistan Muslim League (N) President Tehsil Hazro, Malik Ansar started from Haji Ghaffar Khan Plaza and ended at Fawara Chowk where participants shower flowers on the personnel of armed forces. Ansar while addressing to rally participants acknowledged the sacrifices of soldiers who were protecting the mother land by defending the country's borders. Another rally was organized by Anjuman Khudam Al-Fuqra Citizen Rights Council against the events of May 9 and to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army in Hasan Abdal. Raza Naqvi Attock

## Woman University Multan student nominated to participate in Idea Pitching Competition

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Woman University Multan student nominated to participate in Idea Pitching Competition under the Prime Minister Innovation Award ceremony going to be held on 23, 24 May 2023, at National University of Science & Technology, Islamabad.

According to the spokesperson, the shortlist for the Prime Minister Innovation Award 2023 has been completed. The shortlisted students will present their ideas at the Competition. The awarding ceremony will held on 25 May 2023 at NUST Islamabad. The Women University student of BS Botany Ms. Huma Aslam, has been nominated and shortlisted to participate in the competition recognizing

the idea of Botany Department. It should be noted that under this program food ideas can be presented on security, water management and sustainability, sustainable energy, urban planning, climate change, environment, information technology & telecom, modern governance and reforms, sociology and philosophy, medical and health care services. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Uzma Quraishi congratulated the student Ms. Huma Aslam and Department of Botany. She said that the students of Women University are not less than the students of any other university because of their creative abilities. The nomination of Huma Aslam is a proof that our faculties are sharpening the skills of their students according to the modern requirements.

## Hands-on Training on Advance Research and SPSS organized



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Department of English, the Women University Multan organized two "week-long Hands-on Training on ADVANCE RESEARCH AND SPSS" at Katchery campus.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Uzma Quraishi and Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha. The Focal person of workshop was Prof. Dr. Mamona Khan, and resource person was Dr. Naheed Kausar. The workshop is conducted to familiarize novice researchers with the concepts of Statistical Data Analysis.

Addressing the training Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi emphasized that researchers must keep on exercising their research skill and that knowledge must never be put on halt. She appreciated the efforts of Focal Person Prof. Dr. Mamona Khan for creating such opportunities for the researchers.

Also, she credited the resource person Dr. Nahid Kausar for sharing the insightful knowledge with the scholars.

The Chairperson Department of English and the Focal person Prof. Dr. Mamona Khan underscored the importance of SPSS that how it adds value to the data and assists students in attaining the proficiency and

skill needed to perform statistical analysis for their Research. The resource person Dr. Naheed Kausar conducted the session and provided her expertise in the related field.

She not only delivered the lecturer in which she introduced the researchers with the common statistical term but also provided them with the practical knowledge.

The training was continued for two weeks in which Research Scholars of English Department learned the techniques of Quantitative Analysis.

The practical knowledge of SPSS analysis were given to the PhD and M.Phil Scholars. Sessions involving the process of Data Entry, Data Analysis, Frequency Measurements, T-test, Z-test, One way ANOVA, Two way ANOVA and Regression Analysis were conducted.

Other resource persons were Prof. Dr. Fakir Muhammad from Air University Islamabad and Dr. Muneer Ahmed from Comsats University. By the end of the workshop the projects assigned to the students were submitted by them with great enthusiasm.

At the end of the training Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Uzma Quraishi distributed certificates among the participants of the training.

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Sui Northern Gas  
GOBA

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کی تنصیب لازمی قرار دے دی\*

اوگرا کے احکامات کے تحت  
سوی نادرین کی ٹیزنے گیس سیورکون  
کی گھر تنصیب کا آغاز کر دیا ہے

یاد رکھیں!  
سیورکون نصب نہ کرنے کی صورت میں  
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Maghrib ..... 7:05 pm  
Isha ..... 8:43 pm

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Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
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**Fire incident in Saudi Arabia hotel**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister expressed deep regret for the loss of precious lives. A fire incident occurred in the city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia. According to the report of the Jeddah-based Pakistani Community Welfare Attaché, fourteen Pakistani pilgrims were present in the hotel. In which there are reports of eight martyrdoms and six injured pilgrims. Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Sajid Hussain Turi expressed regret over the loss of precious lives due to the fire in Mecca. He directed the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation and Community Welfare Attache Jeddah to bring the dead bodies to Pakistan as soon as possible. The federal minister further said that he shares the sufferings of the heirs. And will try to help Pakistan in every possible way. According to the Civil Defense, preliminary investigations revealed that the fire broke out due to non-compliance of security and safety requirements in the building.

**International Biodiversity and Forest Days**

**Devcom webinar suggests nature conservation emergency in Pakistan**

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The unsustainable housing policies and timber mafia are the biggest threats to the green and agricultural land of Pakistan, causing immense threats to ever rapidly decreasing forests and biodiversity. The Pakistan government shall impose emergency nature conservation to protect green and agricultural lands to protect 260 million people from climate impact, water and food insecurity.

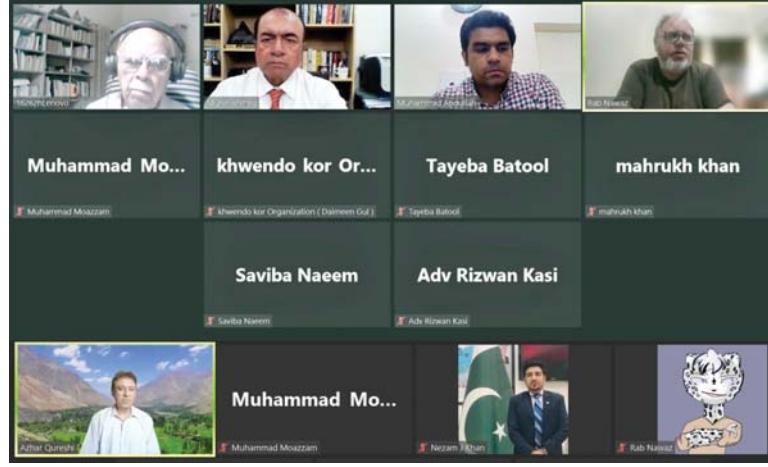
Mountain resources are threatened particularly despite several sustainable development and conservation. Pakistan needs to eliminate the highhandedness of the mafias that are over-exploiting the natural resources, chopping off forests and damaging ecological habitats and systems. Strict implementation of the legislation urged to wipe off the hindrances to nature conservation.

The national webinar on "The State of Pakistan's Forests and Biodiversity and the way forward" was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Saturday.

The keynote speakers included Pakistan's well-known and oldest biodiversity scientist ZB Mirza, WWF-International Senior Expert on Area-based Conservation Rab Nawaz. Other guest speakers were Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Director Cholistan Institute of Development Studies (CIDS) at Islamia University Bahawalpur Dr. Muhammad Abdullah, AJK conservation expert Aftab Hussain Bokhari, marine biodiversity expert Moazzam Khan, eco-conservation expert Azhar Qureshi and National Defense University graduate Mahrugh Khan.

ZB Mirza said Pakistan water resources are depleting fast with degradation for forests and biodiversity despite several conservation efforts and best practices. The conflicts between the stakeholders have added to the vulnerability of the natural resources.

Rab Nawaz from WWF, commenting on the progress that Pakistan has made on Convention of Biological Diversity said that there have been some great successes on bending the curve such as the Indus Blind Dolphin where the population is



recovering slowly but surely. The national animal of Pakistan, the Kashmir Markhor has been brought back from the verge of extinction.

Munir Ahmed said Pakistan's all ecological zones are suffering because of the rapid urbanization and unsustainable development, and by the nexus of unwise influential. It's the time to voice

the conservation emergency all over the country including AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Dr. Muhammad Abdullah said Cholistan desert is facing the challenge of ever fast increasing population, livestock and permanent housing. The government and private sector are converting barren desert into cultivable land that would

wipe off all the desert species. To explore and conserve natural resources and to alleviate the sufferings of inhabitants of Cholistan desert, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has established the Cholistan Institute of Desert Studies (CIDS).

Muhammad Moazzam Khan said with a long coastline, Marine Biodiversity supports a large seafood industry of Pakistan that produces about 450,000 metric tons of fish and shellfish and a source of export earnings of around US \$ 480 million annually.

He said Marine biodiversity of Pakistan is being threatened by uncontrolled commercial fishing operations in coastal and offshore waters using some of the deleterious fishing gears and undesirable practices.

Azhar Qureshi said Agro biodiversity plays a crucial role to conserve the environment, restore our ecosystems, mitigate climate change and foster food security. No doubt Pakistan has some good cases where agrobiodiversity is conserved with support from foreign-funded projects. However, the sustainability of these projects is ensured for a long time.

**Sufi festival kicked off at PAC**

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI :As per the instructions of the Department of Information and Culture, Government of Punjab, Punjab Art Council has organized a two-day Sufi festival titled "Sufi Rung".

Assistant Commissioner Cantt Qandeel Fatima Memon was the chief guest of the inauguration ceremony of Sufi Festival, while Naheed Manzoor and Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were especially present. On the first day of the festival, Sultan-ul-Qadri Qawal group performed in the Mahfil-e-Samaa and received a standing ovation from the audience.



Chief guest Qandeel Fatima Memon said that over the centuries, Sufi sages Rumi, Omar Khayyam and Ghazali did a lot of work regarding Islamic literature. The influence of these Sufi sages is not only on the Muslim world,

but also on Western philosophers and writers. Punjab is a fortress of civilization, flowers, fragrances, literature, culture, songs, music, dances, fairs and festivals, films and theaters, on the other hand it is also the cradle of the loving message of

the Sufis, she added. Naheed Manzoor said that Bulleh Shah, Data Ganj Bakhsh, Pir Waris Shah, Shah Rukn Alam, Pir Meher Ali Shah, Mian Mir Sahib and hundreds of Sufis are resting in the land of Punjab. unjab Arts Council has organized the Sufi Festival to carry forward this message of the Sufis. The aim of the festival is to promote peace through Sufi music, she added. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Punjab is a land of peace and tolerance, the purpose of the Sufi Festival is to inform the youth about Sufism. A large number of people from the twin cities participated in the festival.

**A first for LUMS Advancement of Education in the Asia-Pacific Region**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has awarded the Asia-Pacific Leadership Award to Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of LUMS. Dr. Ahmad is the first recipient of a South Asian university to receive the award in recognition of his efforts to promote education and institutional advancement.

Mr. Shahid Hussain, Rector of LUMS, noted, "Over the years, LUMS has emerged as a model for how a small, young university located in a country without the historic advantages of prosperity, can make a substantial, positive impact on a wide range of complex, interconnected global challenges."

Dr. Ahmad added, "The gifts of LUMS include its exceptionally talented students across Pakistan and the extraordinary faculty and staff who teach and support them. The CASE Leadership Award will always



belong to LUMS, and I'm privileged to be part of the community that is one of the best-kept secrets of the Global South."

Over his tenure, this approach has had a significant impact. By combining LUMS Alumni Relations, Marketing, Development, and Communications under the Office of Advancement, donations and new grants to the University have tripled, and alumni contributions have doubled. Dr. Ahmad also championed the 50% scholarship for women enrolled in graduate programmes at the Suleman Dawood School of Business, which resulted in a 35% increase in women's enrolment within graduate programmes. These efforts have also resulted in more financial support for students coming from disadvantaged areas through LUMS' signature National Outreach Programme (NOP).

Today, LUMS promotes a transdisciplinary approach to research and teaching that encourages cross-appointments across Schools and Centres at LUMS and strengthens faculty and student collaborations across different fields. New experiential learning programmes such as the

Baltistan Experience have expanded immersive learning opportunities at LUMS. Dr. Ahmad spearheaded this new programme in 2022 by engaging hundreds of students for a month-long experiential learning partnership in Skardu. This summer, in the month of July, 50 students from the Computer Science department will lead 25 IT boot camps in high schools across Gilgit. Together, students and faculty from LUMS and communities in Gilgit-Baltistan will engage in several field-based courses that respond to major challenges with local and global impact.

**We are all proud of such brave Pakistan Army: Chaudhry Zulfikar**

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfikar Ali Anjum the Leading industrialist of the country, said in his message that if there is an army, then there is Pakistan, if there is Pakistan, then we are. We know and we are confident that our brave army knows how to deal with all kinds of situations. From the platform of an industrialist and representative of the Chamber of Commerce Multan, we strongly condemn the events of 9th May. The miscreants should be punished.

When there is an earthquake, a flood or any other difficult time, the Pakistan Army has to face it. When it comes to loyalty, there is no one more loyal than those guarding the borders. Leaving the children and parents, they are ready to sacrifice on the borders of the dear country. Due to which we are safe in our homes today. We are all proud of such brave soldiers. At present, the leadership of the Pakistan Army is General Asim Munir. The Chief of Army Staff is doing it, and General Sahar Shamsah Mirza is the Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee. The entire nation is proud of his professional skills. Thanks Pak Army

**Intermediate action yet to be taken on vandals after Imran Khan arrest**

News Desk

RAWALPINDI :After the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, cases could not be registered against the people who vandalized properties worth crores of rupees by unknown miscreants during the nationwide protests. Protest Dozens of people were injured and properties worth crores of rupees were burnt to ashes. Awami Muslim League also responded to the protest against the illegal arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. The property of Awami Muslim League was also set on fire, as a result of which the residence of former information secretary of Awami Muslim League, Muhammad Arshad Afzal, will be set on fire in the satellite town. Due to which Muhammad Arshad Afzal's house was saved from any major damage, the incident was reported to the police, but till date no case has been registered. Due to the poor and vindictive actions of the current government, the local leaders and workers of other political parties have been forced to go into hiding.

**Hamdard Naunehal Assembly**

**Services of late Hakim Said for Pakistanis eulogized**

City Desk

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan president Ms Sadia Rashid has said that Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said loved children who also loved him very much, as he wanted to lead them to modern education and it was his first wish to create a best literature for the children of the nation which could train them religiously, culturally and morally besides making them as good human beings. This she said while addressing the Hamdard Naunehal Assembly organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, with the title of 70-year historical journey of the monthly Hamdard Naunehal magazine (1953 to 2023) and its importance in the present era, held at Naimat Begum Hamd-

ard University General Hospital in Nazimabad.

For love with children and their capacity building, Hakim Said started publishing Humdard Naunehal magazine in 1953 in order to develop children's moral training, character development and interest in studying, and this magazine is still being published.

Ms Sadia said that the written capital left by Hakim Sahib for adults and children in the academic field is a part of historical literature. He advised the youngsters to adopt exercise and a healthy lifestyle, urging them to use mobile and internet for only necessary works.

She said: "Make it a habit to sleep on time and get up early in the morning because Allah has made the night

for rest and the day for work, but today's youth have made a plan to wake up at night." She said that we should give more time to our parents and talk to them besides serving our elders.

Mentioning Masood Ahmed Barkati, the editor of Hamdard Naunehal magazine, Ms Sadia said that he continued to render his services for the magazine till the last time.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, prominent columnist and drama writer Noorul Huda Shah said that Hakim Sahib was the owner of immense abilities, his personality was stable, and he loved Pakistan immensely. The great work in this world is to make people as human and those, who do this work, make generations. Those, who have a deep vision

for the future, are martyred, she said.

Shah said that making medicine is another thing, and healing is another thing. Hakim Sahib worked on healing of humans. He thought of making good generations for this country for which he established various institutions.

Karachi University student Hina Rabani said that whether it is Hamdard Assembly or Hamdard Naunehal magazine, the name of Hakim Mohammad Said and his noble personality always come to mind.

RG Blue Communication CEO Khalid Saleem, Falcon House Principal Sarwat Sagheer, Nunehal speakers Muhammad Abdul Basit, Qareena Awan, Zarnish and Aqsa also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Sana Ghori performed the



Prominent columnist and drama writer Noorul Huda Shah is giving away a shield to a student in Hamdard Naunehal Assembly organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, with the title of 70-year historical journey of the monthly Hamdard Naunehal magazine (1953 to 2023) and its importance in the present era, held at Naimat Begum Hamdard University General Hospital in Nazimabad, Karachi. Hamdard Foundation Pakistan president Ms Sadia Rashid is also present on the occasion.

duties as program organizer. The meeting concluded with prayers for Hakim Said by the students of different schools.



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# Pakistan, the best destination for Tourism

Pakistan is a very beautiful country for tourism; tourists' from all over the world come to visit Pakistan. Pakistan's beauty, history, cultural heritage and national ideals as well as its landscapes and spectacular tourist destinations have been attracting tourists from all over the world for years. Pakistan is known worldwide for its great beauty. Various tourist places of Pakistan including Murree, Swat, Chitral, Neelum, Skardu, Telar, Taxila, Shandur Lake, Miandam, Bonny, Kalash Valley and Ayubia in Galiat in Malakand and Hazara divisions. The environment of the hilly areas refreshes the eyes and soothes the heart. Therefore, people around the world recognize that Pakistan is the best destination for tourism, where tourists can witness various historical, cultural and attractive natural scenes during their travels. This country has many interesting places for tourists like Neelum Valley, Narran, Kagan, Kalam, Hunza, Kalash, Chitral, Gawadar, Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and Murree hiking track, Badshahi Mosque and Fort of Lahore, Shalimar garden and many more. Gash-erbrum in Karakoram which is 8068 metre and K-2 which is 8611 metre high. Nanga Parbat in the Himalayas which is 8125 meters high. Apart from this there are many other peaks which are famous all over the world. Traditional foods and shopping in provinces of Pakistan is also a source of interest for tourists from all over the world. At the present time, there are bright prospects for the further development of the tourism sector between the two countries through the Khunjarab land route between Pakistan and China. There are numerous archaeological sites in Pakistan, the most famous of which are Mohan Jo Daro, Harappa, Taxila, Kot Daji, Taxila, Takht Bai, Sarai Kot and Bhimbar, which give us an insight into the life, art and architecture of ancient times. About, architec-

ture leads to learning about the history of science and philosophy. Mohan Jo Daro, Taxila and Harappa there are many monuments of ancient civilization including buildings, tombs, mosques, cemeteries and ancient types of tools. Many other cities of Pakistan are also full of monuments of ancient civilization like ancient city of Lahore, Shahi Qila, Badshahi Masjid, Masjid Wazir Khan and Masjid Mohabbat Khan in Peshawar. Takht Bahaduri which is located in Sindh, this place reminds of the era of Muhammad Bin Qasim. Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) is a government agency of Pakistan that works for the development of Pakistan and the betterment of the country's tourists. The history of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation is older than World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) the establishment of the World Travel and Tourism Council began in the 1980s and was officially established in the 1990s, while the Pakistan Tourism Corporation was established on March 30, 1970. The responsibilities of the Pakistan Tourism Corporation include tourism in Pakistan. Development includes measures for development. Improvement in the country's education and health, trade development, services for overseas Pakistanis and other important sectors. The objective of this corporation is to make Pakistan famous as a tourist destination around the world. The organization provides services such as provision of tour packages, tourist guides, and organization of tour expeditions as the Pakistan Tourism Corporation (PTDC) promotes the development of Pakistan's tourism. And is designed to increase publicity. Is engaged in efforts to build, develop and

provide the best facilities to the tourist destinations of Pakistan. Information about history, culture, language, food and other tourist interests of Pakistan is provided through this organization. The objective of the organization is to build and develop tourist destinations, provide opportunities for tourists in the country, organize tourism events and fairs in the country, highlight the importance of Pakistan at the international level. Tourism development includes the establishment of hotels, restaurants, amusement parks, swimming pools, tracking sports areas, tour packages and transport for tourist facilities at various locations. The countries of the world are getting a lot of capital from the tourism sector. The importance of Pakistan for the tourists of the world is also due to the fact that the currency of this country is very low compared to the countries around the world. Therefore, a citizen of any country can visit Pakistan despite their limited resources and income. Therefore, our institution and government need to further develop the tourism sector. A country rich in natural treasures should be highlighted among the countries of the world. Because it will earn a lot of foreign exchange and people will also get employment. As according to statistics reported by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), in 2017, the tourism sector contributed about \$19.4 billion to Pakistan's economy, 3.079 billion in 2021 while WTTC expects it to grow to \$36.1 billion. In the future, tourism sector can be expected to increase Pakistan's foreign exchange every year. There are many interesting places for tourism in Pakistan which should be developed in the best ways. Apart from

this, exchange of tourism with Pakistan from foreign countries will increase the foreign exchange of the country. A large number of tourists from America, Europe and other countries used to visit the northern regions for tourism. Samuel Johnson and Adam Salopardo, two tourist friends, named Pakistan as the most beautiful country in the world after visiting 20 countries of the world. The development of the tourism sector will also bring foreign exchange to the country and people will also get employment. Although various measures are being taken by the government of Pakistan for the development of the tourism industry. Such as organizing tourism programs, local fairs and other events in the country. Apart from this, development projects have been initiated to improve the locations of various cities of Pakistan, are signs of improvement in the tourism industry. Pakistan's tourism industry still has many shortcomings, such as deteriorating law and order situation and disruption of industries. Apart from the natural, aesthetic, historical, religious heritage, Pakistan has many romantic areas that attract the attention of tourists from all over the world. The National Institute of Heritage and Culture has the responsibility to ensure the preservation of historical heritage and places. And to maintain the importance of heritage objects over time as these historical buildings are damaged due to climate change and other physical effects. Conservation, restoration and renovation measures are essential to save and restore them as heritage is our precious capital. Although modifications are necessary to adapt heritage buildings to new uses, the heritage value of the object should not be compromised so that current and future generations of history buffs can benefit from it.



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

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## Pakistan's first batch of hajj medical mission arrives in Makkah

A 138 dedicated personnel including 19 Moavineen, 67 medical experts and 52 staff officers from Ministry of Religious Affairs has arrived in Makkah Al-Mukarramah from Islamabad to offer round-the-clock assistance to the intending pilgrims. The delegation received a warm welcome from the Pakistan Hajj mission staff. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has established two hospitals in Makkah Al-Mukarramah and Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, where pilgrims can access medical facilities. In addition, dispensaries have been set up in each residential sector, and doctors and paramedics have also been stationed at airports to serve pilgrims. To ensure efficient healthcare provision in accordance with Saudi regulations, one doctor has been assigned for every one thousand pilgrims. This skilled team aims to provide seamless support and ensure the well-being of the pilgrims throughout their stay in Saudi.

The staff is well-prepared to address any health concerns, provide medical aid, and offer guidance to the pilgrims. They are equipped to handle a wide range of medical issues, including diagnosing and treating common illnesses, injuries, and other health-related challenges that may arise during the pilgrimage. Their presence around the clock underscores their commitment to being available at any time to cater to the needs of the pilgrims. The medical mission and welfare staff will collaborate closely with local authorities, healthcare professionals, and support organizations to maximize the effectiveness of their services. Their aim is to create a safe and supportive environment for the pilgrims, ensuring their health and well-being while they fulfill their religious obligations. By providing round-the-clock assistance, this dedicated group of professionals seeks to enhance the overall experience of the intending pilgrims and contribute to a successful and memorable spiritual journey in Makkah Al Mukarramah. The month long hajj flights operation of Government scheme Hujjaj would start arriving in Jeddah and Madina Munawara from May 21. Nearly 180,000 Pakistani pilgrims will travel to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj 2023.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

## Countering Islamophobia

Charlie Hebdo and other Poems by Ejaz Rahim

Review: **Khurram Khraam Siddiqui**

Charlie Hebdo is a controversial name and dark chapter in the history of interfaith harmony. This magazine hurt the sentiments of millions of Muslims in the world, resulted in numerous terrorist attacks and caused a blow to the harmony between the west and Islamic world. Islam-phobia is now an acknowledged concept by the west and efforts are now being made to counter it. It is the by-product of an older theory of war against terrorism and Islamic extremism. It seems that the west is always searching for the theories to put the Islamic world at defensive terming them as extremist and fundamentalist. This tendency initiated by the enemies of Islam against the great achievement of Islamic civilization at intellectual level is used to twist the arms of Muslim world and to exploit their precious resources. Through various incidents the religious sentiments of the Muslims are hurt, their anger is ignited, they are led to violent acts and then they are dubbed as extremists and terrorists and their lifestyle is made controversial. Then this intellectual weapon is used by the western politicians to attack Muslim countries by sanctions and drone attacks. The illustrious heroes of the Islamic civilization are ridiculed especially the last Prophet of God, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) who is the mercy for the entire humanity and his progeny. The Muslims hold him dearer than any other thing in the world including their parents and children. This is a very dangerous tendency but a strategic weapon with dangerous consequences as it may cause the eruption of the volcano of pent-up feelings of hatred and may disrupt the peace of world. We need to counter this intellectual weapon at scholarly, diplomatic and intellectual level. The latest collection of poems by Ejaz Rahim, Charlie Hebdo and other poems is the step in this direction. It is a laudable effort to foil the efforts of maligning Islam

and to counter Islam Phobia at intellectual level. As he says: Charlie Hebdo's caricatures are Like old wives' tales retold By geo-political proselytes Of a new deity crafted In Democracy's temple And named Free Speech Ejaz has a knack of dealing with the burning current issues of contemporary world in his poetry. He rightly maintains that the killings and violence that erupts due to religious sacrilege is not a right way which usually happens in the aftermath of such incidents. Like pointed out by the Islamic mystics, the greatest sin in the world is to hurt the feelings of another human regardless of color, cast, creed, language or sect. The freedom of expression doesn't give license to revert to blasphemous act. In the poem a Conversation on the Cartoons, he admires the wisdom of a villager who advocates forbearance and need to deal with the sacrilegious act with tolerance. This wisdom is granted to that illiterate person with the universal teaching of love propounded by Islam which is close to human nature. Even an illiterate person can understand the message of peace propounded by Islam: You don't seem to know That our dear Prophet Taught us a simple rule - Do not abuse the gods Of even infidels, lest You provoke them To use foul language Against the Almighty Himself Who is Creator of all - Good and bad alike The other poem in the collection is about Jacinda Arden the heroic Prime Minister of New Zealand appreciating an extraordinary display of courage by the leader of western world for interfaith harmony who stood by the Muslim world after the terrorist attack on a mosque in Christchurch New Zealand which killed many Muslims.

You have lit Interfaith lamp With unremitting pluck And proved to the hilt That peace can be built On flowing springs of love And compassion's waterways Your single trump card Of simple tenderness Has triumphed over Hatred's many trumpets. Like his previous collection of English poem this collection also includes the poems written about people dead or alive. The people in the poems for him stand for some human value that he cherishes. These values are incarnated in the people and he is in fact writing poems about the values for which the seemingly ordinary man lived and died. These poems include Dante Alighieri: An Encounter (Dedicated to Professor Dr Akbar Ahmed for His Vision and Scholarship), Godin Sahib's, Safwat Ghayur Shaheed, A Birthday Poem For Dr Satyapal Anand, Colonel Hamid Afrid, Nighat Asad Ali Shah's Beloved Mother and Poem for Tazeen (A Young Pakistani-British Social Worker And Television Broadcaster). There is remarkable poem in the collection in which he pays tributes to the character-building and inspiring personality of the Father Scanlon (Headmaster Burn Hall, Abbottabad) You were no colonial remnant Harping back to bygone times But a prescient bell-ringer Who dreamt of another age In which the twin pillars Of Love and Law And Knowledge and Order Were seen as axiomatic To save minds and morals From chaos and corruption In short this collection of poems by Ejaz Rahim is an intellectual gift for those who combines west and east and stand for universal human values of love, tolerance and peace.

### Letter to the Editor

## Pakistan has highest diabetics

Shahzad Lodhi

A news has appeared in different sections of today's press ranking Pakistan with highest number of diabetic patients in world According to World of Statistics, a group supported by the Georgia State University Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Pakistan has a diabetes prevalence rate of 30.8 percent. This study included data from 38 countries, with Pakistan ranking first, Kuwait ranking second with a diabetes incidence of 24.9%, and Egypt ranking third with a diabetes incidence of 20.9%. Diabetes has been on continuous rise around the world, particularly subcontinent. Just 05 months ago, according to International Diabetes Federation-IDF, Pakistan was 3rd among nations with India being first and china on second Pakistan now ranks first with patients suffering with diabetes. This is an alarming state of affairs. Diabetes, on the other hand, is said to be mother of various ailments and had trickle down affects right from head to toe If left unattended, this menace can play havoc to a human body and has the potential of harming

vital organs of human body ultimately resulting into early death. Unfortunately, at the government level, there are no efforts seen to tackle diabetes There is one multi disciplinary hospital in private sector of Pakistan named The Diabetes Centre situated next to Phulgaran Toll Plaza on Murree Express way founded by a British Pakistani Dr Asjad Hameed and leading industrialist and philanthropist, Mr Tahir M Abbasi which is waging a war against diabetes. There is dire need of awareness at the first level. Unfortunately, due to lack of education, most of our population living in villages dont perceive it as a threat to their life. Without making necessary changes to life style, they carry on with their erratic eating habits Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is being urged to take note of it and instruct Ministry of Health to come up with a strategy to save people falling prey to diabetes To begin with, a national conference on diabetes with major governmental and nongovernmental stake holders must be organized in Islamabad at the earliest. (Writer is British Pakistani, Former Journalist, BBC World Service Bush House London UK)



# Canadian MPs, officials, diplomats enjoy soul Qawwali performance at Canadian Parliament

**Spokesman Report**

OTTAWA : Canadian Parliamentarians, Senators, MPs, senior government officials, High Commissioners, ambassadors and members of the diplomatic community, were entertained by a splendid display of mystical Sufi music of Pakistan through a soulful performance of famous Qawwali singers Fareed Ayaz and Abu Muhammad Qawwal Brothers in the Canadian capital.

Arranged under the auspices of Pakistani Canadian Senator Salma Atallahjan and MP Paul Chiang in association with the Pakistan High Commission, at the historical Sir John A. Macdonald Building in Ottawa, the Qawwali event brought together "the Sound of Pakistan: Mystical Sufi Music and Dinner" through a combination of

various Sufi musical colours scattered from Khyber to Mehran in Pakistan. A large number of Pakistani diaspora was also gathered on the occasion to lend a touch of 'Pakistaniat' to the colourful evening.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua lauded the organisers Senator Salma Atallahjan and MP Paul Chiang for bringing Pakistan's Sufi music to Ottawa and presenting it to their colleagues and others in town as part of the ongoing celebration of the Asian Heritage Month at the Canadian Parliament.

Janjua said the Qawwali event was justifiably themed as "From Khyber to Mehran: Journey through Pakistan" as the performance was meant to take the guests in attendance to a spiritual journey of Pakistan, showing them the



feelings, emotions and aspirations of the people from the north to the south of Pakistan.

The High Commissioner also acknowledged and thanked participating Senators, MPs, including Pakistani Canadian MP Salma Zahid, MP Yasir Naqvi, MP Shafiqat Ali, MP Iqra Khalid and MP Sameer Zuberi, High Commissioners, Ambassadors, government officials and members of Pakistani diaspora for gracing the occasion.

Earlier, Senator Salma Atallahjan introduced the team of Fareed Ayaz and Abu Muhammad Qawwal Brothers to the audience.

MP Paul Chiang said he was born in Karachi and he was proud being part of an effort for showcasing the art of Qawwali he himself had grown up listening to, during his time spent in Pakistan.

## A 35-member business delegation from Pakistan to visit Bangladesh in May 2023 –

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: A 35-Member Business Delegation from Pakistan is expected to participate at the Handover-Takeover Ceremony of the Bangladesh Presidency to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chambers of Commerce and Industries (SAARC ICC) for the Term 2023-2024. The Handover-Takeover Ceremony of the Bangladesh Presidency is scheduled to take place in Dhaka during 24-25 May 2023.

Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad and the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi have extended necessary supports including extending

necessary visas to the business delegation from Pakistan. The Missions also coordinated with the Federation of the Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Headquarters in Karachi. Two groups of seven businesspersons from FPCCI called on the Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi. They discussed issues of promoting mutual trade and commerce between the two countries bilaterally and under the aegis of the SAARC ICC.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will takeover the SAARC Presidency for the term 2023-2024. The handover-takeover ceremony will be held in Bangladesh with

the presence of the SAARC ICC Executive Committee. The General Assembly of the SAARC ICC is scheduled during 24-25 May 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The SAARC ICC Members from Pakistan are expected to visit Bangladesh to attend the SAARC ICC event of handover-Takeover Ceremony of its Presidency for the Term 2023-2024.

The Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Karachi S. M. Mahbul Alam elaborated that the SAARC ICC encourage Trade, Service, Industry, Small & Medium Enterprise, and Agriculture, Intra-Regional through creating strong business linkages amongst the entrepreneurs of the region of South Asia. It

also make recommendations to safeguard the economic and business interests of the SAARC member countries. Further the body serve as a consultative body of the Private Sector of the region to provide input / feedback on regional economic issues.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi S. M. Mahbul Alam mentioned that the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka will warmly welcome the business delegation from Pakistan. He further expressed his optimism that as the President of the SAARC ICC Bangladesh would play a significant role in promoting the causes of the organization.

## G-20 countries's Srinagar meetings violate UN charter: Attique



Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir has described Srinagar station 4-day G-20 meetings scheduled by India as glaring violation of UN charter that prescribes respect for UN principles by member countries. Kashmir is UN declared international disputed territory where no member of UN can hold unilateral meeting. India's bid to have meetings of G-20 in Srinagar is to make the Group as shield to show India-held Kashmir conditions as normal.

In an appeal Saturday to member countries in G-20 Group Sardar Attique Khan, a former Prime Minister of AJK, urged them not to become part of India's nefarious designs to camouflage of fact of G-20 countries; the presence of G-20 countries' representatives in Srinagar will adversely affect the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir; I may remind them that the fact of this dispute stands acknowledged by them as members of the UN organization within UN system; therefore I appeal to all participants not to compromise their international position because India the occupier of Kashmir wants them to use them for her ill designs, he added.

Sardar Attique Khan hailed the decision of the People's Republic of China not to attend the Srinagar G-20 meetings because of disputed nature of Kashmir. He urged other members to boycott their meetings from May 22 to 24, 2023 in Srinagar.

Meanwhile Kashmiris across Line of Control and world over shall hold May 22, 2023 as protest day against planned meetings of G-20 in Srinagar.

## Chinese government to accomplish all announced ventures, Yang Yundong;

**News Desk**

KARACHI: The Karachi Editors Club (KEC) delegation paid a visit to the recently appointed Consul General of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong, following his assumption of the esteemed position — succeeding Li Bijian — who was transferred in January 2023.

The delegation was warmly received by Shang Hailong, the Protocol Secretary of the Consul General. Zhang Hao, the Vice Consul General, was also in attendance during the meeting.

Yang graciously extended a warm welcome to the KEC delegation and engaged in a fruitful hour-long discussion. Prior to the meeting, the KEC delegation presented a symbolic Jinnah Cap, an honorary membership certificate of the KEC, a bouquet, and the book "Amazing China" authored by Manzar Naqvi, as tokens of appreciation.

During the meeting, Yang placed great emphasis on the robust and elevated China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. He underscored the pivotal role played by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in fostering economic collaboration between the two nations. Yang expressed his firm belief that through the active involvement of Karachi Editors Club, the Pakistani media would be empowered to provide objective and truthful coverage of China's development.

Earlier, Mubasher Mir, President of the Karachi Editors Club (KEC), in his address, provided insights into the organization's notable standing as a distinguished media think-tank in Karachi, Pakistan, devoted to societal and national progress.

He highlighted the recent establishment of a specialised committee within the KEC called the "Silk Road Media Corridor (SRMC)," under the astute leadership of KEC Secretary General, Manzar Naqvi.

The primary objective of the SRMC is to counteract negative propaganda surrounding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship endeavor, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Mubasher ardently expressed the committee's strong desire to promote forthcoming CPEC projects, reflecting their steadfast dedication to this cause.

Furthermore, he affirmed the unshakable commitment of the Karachi Editors Club to actively and impartially promote Pakistani media coverage pertaining to the cherished camaraderie and collaboration between Pakistan and China, thereby making a valuable contribution in strengthening the bilateral ties between the two nations.

During this auspicious event, Manzar Naqvi seized the opportunity to formally present the esteemed members of the KEC delegation, namely Agha Masood Hussain, Iqbal Jamil, Khurram Jafarani, and Muhammad Noman Nizami. Filled with genuine warmth, Naqvi extended heartfelt congratulations to Yang Yundong, the recently appointed Consul General of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Karachi, while expressing firm confidence in the Consulate's forthcoming achievements under Yundong's proficient guidance, owing to his vast expertise and dynamic leadership prowess.

During this momentous occasion, Agha Masood Hussain, Iqbal Jamil, and Khurram Jafarani were graciously invited to impart their insightful thoughts and perspectives.

In a gesture of utmost goodwill, the Consul General concluded the gathering by presenting each member of the delegation with the esteemed fourth volume of Xi Jinping's books "The Governance of China", accompanied by specially curated tea packs from China.



## Indonesian Humanitarian Assistance for Flood Affectees of Sindh and Balochistan Continues

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority arranged a ceremony for handing over of food packs for flood victims of Sindh and Balochistan, at Canteen Store Department (CSD) Zonal office Karachi. The ceremony was attended by Counsel General of Indonesia Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, Deputy Director NDMA, Director Commercial CSD and other relevant officials.

This in-kind support in the form of food packs was part of Indonesia's continues humanitarian assistance to Flood victims of Pakistan. The 15900 packs containing essential food items were purchased by NDMA through CSD with the monetary assistance already provided by Indonesia to incorporate in relief and rehabilitation efforts for flood affectees.

The ration packs will be distributed among flood victims of Sindh and Balochistan by Pak Army. Talking to the event, the Counsel



General appreciated efforts of how Pakistan dealt with Floods 2022 and prayed for speedy recovery and settlement of the affectees. "We will continue to support our brothers in Pakistan whenever required", he further assured on behalf of Government and people of Indonesia.

NDMA officials, on behalf of

Chairman NDMA, thanked for the in-kind and financial support to Pakistan and also briefed the CG on composition of Food Packs to be distributed in earmarked areas of Sindh & Balochistan.

Besides the monetary aid, Indonesia has been supporting Pakistani flood victims throuout.

## IICR organizes conference on 'Unmasking India's Normalcy Facade: Assessing G20 Meeting in IIOJK'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution – IICR organized a round table conference titled "Unmasking India's Normalcy Facade: Assessing the G20 Meeting in Occupied Territory" to address the concerning issue of India's disingenuous democracy and its efforts to justify the occupation by hosting the G20 meeting in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). The round table conference was organized before the G20 meeting to bring attention to the ongoing human rights violations and advocate for holding the perpetrators of war crimes accountable.

The round table conference was chaired by Ambassador Maj Gen Dr. Raza Muhammad, Pres-



ident IPRI and former Ambassador. The distinguished panelists included Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Convener Tehreek e Hurriyat; Advocate Nasir Qadri, Executive Director Legal Forum for Kashmir; Mr. Abdul Rasheed Turabi, Former Ameer, Jamaat e Islami AJK; Dr. Nazir Hussain, Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU Islamabad; Ms. Farzana Yaqoob, Former Minister AJK; Ambassador Fauzia M Sana, Former Ambassador, DG

Global, and Research ISSRA NDU; and Ms. Sabah Aslam, Founder, and Executive Director IICR. Ambassador AbdulBasit, Former High commissioner to India, addressed the conference through a pre-recorded video message.

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, in his address to the panel, said that India has formed a smokescreen of democracy in the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that the successive UN resolutions

clearly state that the dispossession of the disputed status of the erstwhile state is possible only through a free and impartial plebiscite.

Advocate Nasir Qadri, in his intervention, highlighted the lack of proactive lawfare pertaining to the Kashmir issue from the successive governments of Pakistan.

Mr. Abdul Rasheed Turabimented about the inaction of the state of Pakistan, and the lack of an effective and sustained Kashmir policy. He proposed immediate practical counteractions in IIOJK and AJK to highlight and expose the agenda behind conducting the G20 meeting in the region.

Ambassador AbdulBasit, in his pre-recorded video message, highlighted the need for a well-calibrated multi-pronged strategy to coun-

ter India's unilateral and unlawful actions in the occupied territory. He further proposed the appointment of a special envoy on Kashmir and a plebiscite advisor by the AJK government.

Dr. Nazir Hussain, while addressing the panel elucidated the pressing need to frame a long-term Kashmir policy. He also proposed the appointment of a Permanent Special Rapporteur on Kashmir, along the lines of Palestine and Western Sahara.

Ms. Farzana Yaqoob, in her interjection, urged the Govt of Pakistan to trust the people of AJK and GB, and to involve them in the policy-making on the Kashmir issue.

Ambassador Fauzia M Sana, in her brief intervention, discussed the various thought processes on the Kashmir issue. Highlighting the inconsistencies of policies on the Kashmir issue.

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns storming of Al Aqsa Mosque by a member of the Israeli occupation authority and members of the Knesset under protection of Israeli occupation forces. Violation of the sanctity of one of the holiest sites in Islam constitutes yet another reprehensible event in a series of escalatory Israeli actions disrespectful to religious sentiments of over 1.5 billion Muslims around the world.

We reiterate that such acts are inconsistent with the right to freedom of expression and religion or belief of the Palestinian people, defying all humanitarian and human rights laws and norms.

Pakistan calls upon the international community to take urgent action to put an end to Israeli transgressions in the occupied territories that have been conspicuously ascendant since the beginning of this year.

## Pakistan strongly condemns storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli occupation authorities



# The business community expressed solidarity with the army

Chairman CDA announce allotment of land for IIA office

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Noorul Amin Mengal on Saturday announced the allotment of land for the central office of Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) and Islamabad Industrial Estate and issued an order for its immediate implementation.

He said that the relevant directorate of CDA and IIA should hold a decision-making meeting in this regard as soon as possible and steps will be taken towards the implementation of this project.

Mengal said this while addressing the Luncheon organized by the Islamabad Industrial Association along with other speakers.

Chairman CDA, on this occasion, announced the nomination of the President of Islamabad Industrial Association Muhammad Ahmed Waheed and President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtauri as a member of the CDA Board and said that now the both President of IIA will be included in the decisions making of CDA because he is a major stakeholder in Islamabad.

He said that the location for the Islamabad Industrial Estate has been decided and the construction of the Islamabad Industrial Estate will be started soon and in the meeting of the CDA Board, where President IIA Ahmed Waheed and President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtauri participated as member.

He will participate as a member, where he will play his full role in the decision of CDA for the location of Islamabad Industrial Estate.

He said that President IIA Ahmed Waheed will now resolve his problems by playing his full role to resolve the problems of his association and industrialists as a CDA board member.

Mengal announced the allotment of land for the central office of the Islamabad Industrial Association and issued an order for its immediate implementation.

Chairman CDA said that the relevant directorate of Islamabad Industrial Association CDA should hold a decision-making meeting in this regard as soon as possible and clear steps will be taken towards the implementation of this project.

On this occasion, he announced to resolve the problems of Kahota and Rawat Industrial Zone on a priority basis and announced all the modern facilities in it.

He further said that businessmen have a very important role in the country's economy and with the inclusion of businessmen and industrialists in the decisions of CDA, the country's economy will be strengthened and islam city will develop.

Chairman CDA also announced the construction of a modern hospital and allocation of space for a medical college on the demand of the industrialists of Islamabad.

In response to the demands of the first President IIA Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President CDA said that CDA



will soon decide to take the 33-year lease to 99 years and the issue will be finalized.

He said that the construction of Islamabad Industrial Zone on the pattern of Faisalabad Industrial Zone will be finalized and the traders will soon hear the good news.

He said that the Industrial Association and Industrialists of Islamabad are giving employment to 500,000 people and it is about 0.5 million people who have been provided employment by the members of this association.

He expressed the hope that the Islamabad Industrial Association and the industrialists will provide employment to more people in the same way

after the creation of a new industrial zone.

On this occasion, Chairman CDA issued an order to resolve the issue of entry on 19th Avenue. He said that the issue of plot bifurcation will be resolved on priority basis and a meeting of CDA will be called soon.

Apart from this, Chairman CDA also issued orders for doubling the road in the industrial area of Islamabad and for the corrodng facility in the industrial area of Nain Witten and it was asked to implement it soon.

Apart from this, Chairman CDA announced to upgrade the vegetable and fruit market of Islamabad and also announced his visit.

Addressing the ceremony on this

occasion, IIA President Muhammad Ahmed Waheed thanked the Chairman CDA for including him in the CDA board and said that with this the industrialists and businessmen will contribute to the development of the country's economy.

On this occasion, Ahmed Waheed thanked Chairman CDA for approving all their demands, including industrial zone and land for central office and said that industries will flourish in Islamabad with such decisions.

He said that the industrial zones of Islamabad are providing employment to 500,000 people who have a great contribution to the country's economy.

Chairman CDA said that Islamabad Industrial Association was established

in 1960 and since then it has played an unparalleled role in the development of Islamabad.

He said that 2000 companies are registered under Islam Industrial Association, out of which 600 are dynamic industries.

He said that Islamabad is the third largest tax-paying city of Pakistan and our association has a major role in it.

On this occasion, he thanked Chairman CDA for issuing orders to resolve all their demands, including Kahouta industry and other issues.

On this occasion, the President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce thanked its Chairman CDA for announcing to provide space for all demands including industrial estate. He said that CDA should establish a facilitation center in the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce.

The Chief Convener of Islamabad Industrial Association Sahail Malik said that Chairman CDA thanked him for announcing the provision of land for the industrial zone and office of the industrialists of Islamabad.

He said that the facilities of the industrial zone of Islamabad will have an impact on the country's economy and the country's industry will grow.

On this occasion, he said that the role of the Pakistan Army is very important in uniting Pakistan and the army is our pride.

He said that any propaganda against Pakistan Army will not be tolerated and the business community of Islamabad is standing with Pakistan in this regard.

## Business community stands by armed forces

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has expressed full solidarity with the Pakistan army, warning of creating division between the military and the public, saying the business community is always standing with them.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, in a written statement issued here, observed that political stability and law and order are the pre-requisite for the strengthening of the national economy and must for the survival of the country and this hateful drive is actually aimed at creating chaos and uncertainty in the country.

He gave a strong reaction to the recent incidents of violence, and attacks on government and military installations, calling it an attack on the integrity of the country and demanding strict action against those responsible. He said that Pakistan is already going through an economic crisis. He said that due to the recent violent incidents, the value of the dollar suddenly increased, which caused irreparable damage to the economy.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that due to the current political instability, the economic crisis is becoming a serious situation. If this series continues, then the integrity of Pakistan will be at stake. He said that all political parties should forget all their differences and negotiate and decide on the Charter of Democracy.

## Gold prices increase by Rs.2700 to Rs.235,300 per tola



ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 2700 and was sold at Rs 235,300 on Saturday against its sale at Rs. 232,600 the previous day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,315 to Rs 201,732 from Rs 199,417, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 184,920 from Rs 182,800.

The price of per tola silver and that of ten-gram silver remained unchanged to close at Rs 2850 and Rs 2443.41 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by US\$ 13 to \$1977 against its sale at \$1964, the association reported.

## Hardwork

KARACHI: A worker is busy in winding of generators at his shop in Ranchore Line area, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Budget FY24 Provides Golden Opportunity to Revive Industry

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has led a high-profile delegation of FPCCI to meet Mr. Ishaq Dar, federal minister for finance & revenue, to present FPCCI's budget proposals. The delegation also comprised of Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI; Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI; Mr. Zakaria Usman, Convener of FPCCI's Budget Advisory Council; Mr. Younus Dagher, Chairman of FPCCI's Policy Advisory Board, among other office bearers & officials of the apex body.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has emphasized that the upcoming federal budget 2023 - 24 provides golden opportunity to the government & the business

community alike to agree upon and introduce budgetary measures and policies to enable industrial growth in Pakistan; explore avenues for import substitution and revive sick units through targeted, phased and result-oriented fiscal measures.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that industrialization is the key to wealth creation and reversing the trend of dwindling per capita income in the country; bridge trade deficit and create employment in these difficult times. Additionally, we can only have healthy foreign exchange reserves (FER) on a sustainable basis if our industry earns substantive sums in a number of industrial sectors - like many of our regional & sub-regional countries, he added.

## ICCI urges all stakeholders to work for steering economy out of troubled waters

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan needs a strong economy to get its due place in the international community, and emphasized that all the stakeholders should work for steering the economy out of troubled

development and the whole nation is suffering due to this situation. He said that there is a great need to create a conducive environment for business and investment in the country so that investors from all over the world are encouraged to do business and invest in Pakistan, which will improve the economy and bring prosperity to the nation. Express-

promote national unity. Let's work together to make Pakistan strong because an economically strong Pakistan can provide a bright future to our generations. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari expressed regret over the desecration of martyrs' memorials and destruction of various properties including Jinnah House. He said that the whole nation including the business community strongly condemns such incidents. He said that Pakistan is currently facing challenges on its borders including terrorism and Pakistan's armed forces are sacrificing their lives on the front line for national defense. In these circumstances, we need to strengthen our forces.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that the current situation in Pakistan demands promotion of national unity and abandoning sit-ins and protests.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the present era is the era of economic wars and those countries are advancing in the world which are economically strong.



waters and put it on the path of sustainable growth. He said that Pakistan is endowed with a lot of natural resources, which have not been utilized yet due to lack of good governance.

Resultantly, Pakistan is still far behind in the race of devel-

## CCP authorized to proceed with three major cases following the court decision

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Lahore High Court, Multan Bench, has granted authorization to the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to recommence proceedings in three cases involving allegations of Deceptive Marketing Practices. This decision comes as a result of the court's recognition of the CCP as the primary authority responsible for addressing competition-related matters, affirming its status as the original forum for such issues.

The cases originated from enquiries initiated based on formal complaints lodged by three companies including M/s. Ismail Industries, M/s. Hilal Foods, and M/s. English Biscuit Manufacturers against M/s. S.M. Food Makers Limited and M/s. Volka Foods. The complainants accused the latter parties of engaging in deceptive marketing practices, contravening Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010.

The CCP's investigation concluded that SM Foods and Volka Foods had engaged in the practice of free riding by utilizing trademarks, product labelling, and packaging of the complainants without authorization. This act of unauthorized usage, prima facie, violated Section 10 of the Act. Subsequently, CCP, relying on the findings and recommendations of the Enquiry Reports, issued Show Cause Notices to S.M. Food Makers Limited and Volka Foods.

Upon receiving the Show Cause Notices, S.M. Food Makers Limited challenged the legality of the notices before the Lahore

High Court, Multan Bench Multan. Subsequently, three separate writ petitions were filed by S.M. Food Makers, urging the court to nullify the Show Cause Notices.

After thorough deliberation and hearing arguments from all parties involved, the Honourable Lahore High Court, Multan Bench Multan, dismissed all the constitutional petitions and referred the matter back to the CCP, recognizing it as the original forum responsible for addressing competition-related issues. The court directed the petitioner, S.M. Food Makers Limited, to file a response to the Show Cause Notices within 30 days and raise all objections before the CCP.

Additionally, the Honourable Court emphasized that competition laws offer a remedy through the appellate forum, which possesses the competence to address all factual and legal disputes related to the case. Consequently, the court deemed it inappropriate to render a definitive judgment at this stage without undergoing due process.

This court ruling enables the CCP to proceed with the case and conduct hearings into the abovementioned complaints. The decision upholds the principles of fair competition and demonstrates the court's confidence in the CCP as the competent authority to determine the outcome of such cases.

As the proceedings resume, the CCP is expected to thoroughly examine the evidence and arguments presented by both sides, ultimately working towards ensuring a fair and just resolution under the competition law of Pakistan.



# Pak ambassador assures support to Afghan cricket

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizami on Saturday assured his full support for betterment of cricket in Afghanistan.

The ambassador received members of Afghan national cricket team at his residence, Pakistan embassy in Kabul said in a press release. The ambassador said that he was delighted to host the incredibly talented national cricket team and discussed with them ways to strengthen cricketing ties between the two brotherly countries.

He expressed his best wishes for their upcoming tours and also appreciated their efforts, dedication, passion and commitment for cricket. The ambassador also presented calligraphic painting to Chairman Afghan Cricket Board Mirwais Ashraf.

On this occasion, the management and players of Afghan cricket board including CEO Naseeb Khan, Afghan team captain Hashmatullah Shahedi, Imran Farhat HPC coach, Rana Naveed ul Hassan and other officials of the embassy were present.

Separately on his Twitter handle, the



ambassador said that he was delighted to host the incredibly talented Afghanistan national cricket team.

They discussed ways to strengthen cricketing ties between the two brotherly countries.

He also expressed his best wishes to the Afghan team for their upcoming tours.

# 34th National Games: Pak Army win the title of baseball event

**Sports Desk**

QUETTA: The Pak Army defeated Pak Wapda by 15 to 00 Runs in the 5th innings, to secure 1st position and win Gold Medal in the baseball event of the ongoing 34th National Games being held in Quetta on Saturday.

Pak Wapda fetched 2nd Position with Silver Medal while HEC secured 3rd Position with Bronze Medal in the Tournament.

For the winners, Pak Army players scored 02 Runs each by: Arsalan Jamsheh, M. Hussain, Nazeer, Asad Ali and Saqib

While Abdullah and Faqeer scored one run each.

Waseem Akram scored 03 Runs. (Saqib 03 Home Run)

On the other hand, Pak Wapda Players could not score any runs and faced defeat by 15 runs.

Later, the Chief guest, Chaudhary Yaqoob, Vice President of the Pakistan Olympic Association, laud-



ed the Balochistan Govt, especially its Sports Department, for getting assembled athletes from across the country including the far-flung areas in Balochistan under one platform for the mega National Event, which is an excellent effort in the current situation when the nation is faced with the tense situation due to unprecedented economic issues and other

challenges. "It will help promote brotherhood among the people of all provinces and bring them closer and unite them, he said.

The Pakistan Olympic Association Secretary General Khalid Mahmood said that currently the event is being held in peaceful and relaxed atmospheres due to best coordination efforts and

due to the excellent security arrangements for the mega events, which has enabled the athletes to focus on the game and performance at their best.

He was all praise for the Balochistan Govt for the provision of the best arrangements and excellent security to the sportspersons who are in Quetta for the National Games.

# Aleem Dar reveals the best modern-day Pakistan captain



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Renowned Pakistan-based umpire Aleem Dar picked wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed as the best modern-day Pakistan captain.

Dar, while speaking on ARY News' show Bouncer, was asked to pick the best Pakistan captain during his prolonged umpiring career.

He, in response, acknowledged all of Pakistan's modern-day captains which included Shahid Afridi, Misbah-ul-Haq, Mohammad Hafeez, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Babar Azam but revealed that the wicketkeeper batter had the edge over the rest due to his decision-making abilities.

"I believe every one of them had different qualities but if someone had superior game awareness and better captaincy skills then it was Sarfaraz," shared Dar.

"I think a wicketkeeper is a better decision-maker because he is well aware of what the bowler is bowling and that is why I think it is very important that a wicketkeeper should be the captain," he added.

Aleem Dar further shared his opinion regarding Babar Azam's captaincy and claimed that he is also performing well but highlighted the importance of having a good team performance.

"Babar is also performing well but if there is no teamwork and you are performing well [individually] or doing captaincy [is not that important\_] and hence I believe having a good team [performance\_] is the most important thing," stated Dar.

It is worth mentioning here that Sarfaraz Ahmed is considered one of the most successful Pakistan captains as the side won the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 under his leadership.

He also led Pakistan to 11 successive T20I series victories amid his tenure.

# Shahid Afridi to represent Pakistan in Over-40 Cricket World Cup

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi will represent Pakistan in this year's inaugural Over-40 World Cup, scheduled to take place from September 23 to October 8 here.

This was decided in a meeting held on Friday between the Chairman of Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association (PVCA) Fawad Ijaz Khan, Shahid Afridi, Director of PVCA and Owner of PSL Franchise Quetta Gladiators Nadeem Omar and Zafar Malik, CEO Shahid Afridi



Foundation. It was also agreed that Shahid Afridi Foundation will be CSR Partner for the Over 40s World Cup.

According to the details, a total of eight teams, including

the inaugural Over-40 World Cup including Australia, West Indies, Canada, USA, UAE, Hong Kong & Saudi Arabia.

Besides Afridi, legendary batters Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq will also

represent Pakistan in the mega event. The PVCA chairman further shared the details about the playing conditions and revealed an innings in the Over-40 World Cup will consist of 45 overs and also that the matches will be played across six different venues here.

"An innings of the Seniors World Cup will consist of 45 overs. The matches will be played at six different grounds in Karachi," Fawad Ijaz shared.

"Day and night matches will also be played during the World Cup. The finals of the event will be telecasted live," he concluded.

# Elena Rybakina to clash with Kalinina in Italian Open final

**Sports Desk**

ROME: Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina fought from 4-1 down in the second set to overhaul Jelena Ostapenko on Friday to reach the final of the Italian Open.

The 6-2, 6-4 comeback from the Kazakh sent Elena Rybakina into her fourth major final of the season after the Australian Open, Indian Wells and Miami.

She will bid for the trophy on Saturday against Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine, who reached the second WTA final of her career with a 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 defeat of Russia's Veronika Kudermetova.

The winner then gave a shout-out to her country, invaded by Russia last year, as she moved into the title match at the Foro Italico.

"It's absolutely important to try and win every match, (considering) what Ukraine is going through," she said.

"I hope I can give a small light and maybe some positive emotions to my country."

Elena Rybakina will need a quick turnaround after winning a rain-interrupted Italian Open semi-final in just under one and three quarter hours, aided by 33 unforced errors from 2017 Roland Garros champion Ostapenko.

The second-set fightback sealed victory for Elena Rybakina on her first match point as her opponent dumped a volley into the net.

"It was not easy at all with the starting and stopping," the winner said. "I need to recover for the final."

Everyone knows how



good Anhelina is, we are also good friends – if you can say that (in tennis).

"It will be a tough match for sure. I think of course I'm more consistent, there are still a lot of things to improve.

"But I'm happy that physically I can maintain and stay in the tournament till

the end.

Elena Rybakina was pleased with her second-set turnaround.

"I didn't start that well, I was a bit low in energy. Lost my serve. So it was difficult.

"Then a few good shots from her, good serves – it changed very quickly.

"I just tried to focus on every point and got the break back and served really well after that."

Earlier Kalinina pointedly refused to shake hands with her defeated Russian Kudermetova opponent and made no apologies for the snub.

"We didn't shake hands because the girl is from Russia basically. It's no secret why I didn't shake, because this country actually attacked Ukraine," she said.

"This is sport, but it's also kind of a politician thing. It's nothing personal. But in general, yes, it's not acceptable."

Kalinina will be the lowest ranked finalist at the Italian Open since 1986 and will rise to her equal career-high ranking of 28th.

It took her nearly three hours to go through in a

match played 72 hours after she won another marathon in the quarter-finals.

"I don't feel my legs, I've played so much tennis last couple of days – all three-sets," the winner said.

"I'm barely walking but I'm happy to be able to go through."

The Ukrainian dominated the third set after a back-and-forth battle in the earlier chapters on the clay.

Kalinina saved eight break points over two games in the first set before finally taking a 4-3 lead with a break to love.

Kudermetova stayed in touch, delivering two aces to trail 4-5, with Kalinina subsequently broken as she tried to serve out the set.

But the Ukrainian came good on a second chance,

winning it 7-5 after 66 minutes thanks to 18 unforced errors from her opponent.

The second set began with a pair of love holds before Kudermetova handed over a break for 3-2 to Kalinina from a long forehand.

The Ukrainian, who lost her only previous WTA final two years ago in Budapest, was broken to love while serving for the match, with a recharged Kudermetova taking a 6-5 lead.

She quickly captured one more game after winning 16 straight points to throw the match into a deciding third set.

Kudermetova saved three break points but fell short on a fourth to lose serve in the opening game of the third set as she went down to defeat.

# Tape ball cricket tournament arranged by Pak Army ended



**Adam Khan Wazir**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Tape Ball Cricket Tournament organized by Pakistan Army concludes. 16 teams from across the district participated in the tournament.

A sensational final match was played at Qila Iqbal Cricket Ground. In the final match, Zalimi Sports won the trophy after defeating the Al Qasar team. Station Commander Brigadier Mohammad Rashid Khan was the chief guest of the final match. Station Commander Brigadier Mohammad Rashid Khan distributed prizes and trophies among the players. The winning team was awarded a tournament trophy and a cash prize of Rs 75,000, while the runner-up team was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 50,000. On this occasion, the players said that complete arrangements have been made for the players and a good environment is being provided.

On the other hand, the local people and sportsmen expressed special thanks to the Pak Army for arranging the tournament.

However, organizing these kinds of positive activities is not only welcomed for the area, but by settling the sports fields, a healthy society comes into being.

# WAPDA Hockey teams won gold medals in National Games 2023



**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Excellent Performance of Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) women and men hockey team players, WAPDA hockey teams won gold medals in National Games 2023. 4 players of MEPCO hockey team Sana, Kulsom Shahzad, Moira and Sanaulah Dutta represented WAPDA women team and won gold medals by defeating army hockey team by three goals against Safar in the final match. Mepco player Rana Abdul Waheed, who is part of WAPDAMIN hockey team, was the best. Got gold medal by showing performance

Wapda women and men hockey team gave away the winning trophy and gold medals to MEPCO sports officer Razia Sultana. MEPCO hockey team coach Abdul Saeed was also present on the occasion. Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrulah Yarabharwana, Director General HR & Admin / President Mepco Sports Committee Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood, Director HRM/Vice President Mapco Sports Committee Waqas Masau Dachghatai, Secretary Mepco Sports Committee Haider Usman Uthungal and Mapco officers awarded the players of Mepco men and women hockey team gold medals and named Mepco and WAPDA. Congratulations on the enlightenment.

# Theo Bongonda double pulls Cadiz away from La Liga relegation zone

**A Sports**

CADIZ: Theo Bongonda struck twice in Cadiz's dominating 2-0 victory over Valladolid at home in the clash between teams trying to avoid relegation from La Liga.

Both teams fought hard for a place in the top division for the next season, but it was Cadiz who made the critical step with a timely win.

Despite a strong start from the visitors, Cadiz found a perfect opportunity before halftime to move the scoreboard in their favour when Ruben Alcaraz was rewarded with the penalty.

The central midfielder, however, failed to capitalize on the opportunity as his strike thudded into the crossbar.

The missed opportunity, however, did not threaten Cadiz much as Theo Bongonda struck home in the 69th from long range to break the deadlock.

The goal by Bongonda changed the tone of the game, and the DR Congo international extended the home team's lead six minutes later by successfully converting a penalty.

Valladolid competed with 10 men in the closing minutes of the game when Martin Hongla was sent off for elbowing Lozano in the head while fighting for the ball. Cadiz's safety buffer grows to four points, which likely be enough to ease their La Liga relegation worries while Valladolid fights on.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Muzammil Waqar son of Sheikh Waqar Ahmed Sethi transferee of plot No. 177-A, Block-B, Area Development Scheme-II, Gujar Khan has appointed General Power of Attorney to Sheikh Muhammad Umer son of Sheikh Muhammad Shoaib Sethi vide registered deed at Nos. 974/4, dated 29-12-2022 from Sub Registrar, Gujar Khan. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer his share in the name of Mr. Arsalan Imtiaz Chaudhary son of Chaudhary Imtiaz Hussain.

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

**Deputy Director  
Punjab Housing & Town  
Planning Agency  
Sub Region Rawalpindi**