



Rana Sanaullah blames Imran Khan for attacks on military installations

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has once again blamed former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for attacks on the military installations. Rana Sanaullah inaugurated the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) office in Faisalabad today.



UN chief warns of progress on human health being 'in peril'

UN Secretary-General Sunday warned that despite the headway over the past 75 years, progress on human health in the wake of COVID, climate change, and other challenges, was "in peril". The UN chief, who was addressing via video-link the annual opening of the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO), said the UN agency was born out of a spirit of cooperation, (Details on Page 8)

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Our Army our pride

HYDERABAD: Workers of MQM Pakistan hold a protest rally to condemn the 9th May 2023 incidents, and express solidarity with Pak Army.



Photo: Online

Mariyum calls Imran 'liar' as he rebuts news article on his wife's corruption



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Sunday called Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chair-

man Imran Khan a "liar" as he tried to refute a news article on his wife Bushra Bibi's corruption and unceremonious removal of the former chief of an institution.

"If this wasn't the reason, what was? Do tell! The only reason you can't give another reason because you know that this is the real reason. LIAR," the minister said while responding to Imran Khan's tweet on his wife's corruption.

May 9 vandalism '9/11-type' attacks on Pakistan's national interests: Ahsan Iqbal

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday termed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers' May 9 vandalism of sensitive state installations as the "9/11-type" attacks on Pakistan's national interests.



was not only the residence of a Corps Commander rather a heritage of the founder of the country," he observed.

The minister in an exclusive interview with APP said it was regrettable that a political party's (PTI) workers on May 9 stormed and destroyed many symbols of Pakistan's pride that include Jinnah House, Yadgare Shuhada, fighter jets of the famous 1965 war and Chagai mountain model.

He said this reaction to their leader's (Imran Khan) arrest over corruption charges was unprecedentedly irrational, unacceptable and not less than the 9/11 attacks carried out in the US in 2001.

"The May-9 incident for Pakistan's Armed Forces was equivalent to the September-11 of America. The violent workers of a political party attacked Pakistan's heritage and the pride of the security departments. The 'Jinnah House'

He regretted that the PTI workers broke the statue of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, a symbol of courage and bravery demonstrated by the Martyr in the Kargil battlefield and even admitted by the arch-rival India. "If they have broken the fighter jets of 1965 war, [it means] they have attacked the pride of Pakistan Air Force attained by defeating the enemy in the air war."

The minister said the model of Chagai Mountain, which reminded the nation of nuclear tests carried out by its scientists that made the country's defence impregnable, was also set on fire.

"There seems a scheme/method behind this madness as all such symbols were targeted selectively which had a link either with national heritage or pride of the Armed Forces."

IK, former chief justice caused huge damage to PKLI: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that it was his cherished desire to transform the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) into a splendid institute like Johns Hopkins, but PTI's chief Imran Khan and a former chief justice had caused huge damage to it.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that the PKLI had always been close to his heart and he wanted it to become an identity for Pakistan in the rest of the world for the treatment facilities in kidney and liver diseases.

"But alas! Imran Niazi and a former chief justice out of their politics and personal interests targeted this mission and inflicted huge damage," he added in his tweet posted in Urdu language.

The prime minister expressed



ing his resolve said that these things would not deter them and it was his firm conviction that Allah Almighty supported those who worked with a passion to serv humanity. For transformation and restoration of PKLI into a world class health facility, they were striving and utilizing their energies, he said while referring to his yesterday's visit to the facility where he reviewed different measures in this regard.

IK led ilk torches Quaid's House in Lahore like terrorists set Ziarat Residency on fire: PM

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that May 9 was the darkest day in the history of Pakistan when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan Niazi led miscreants torched Quaid's (Corps Commander) House in Lahore like the terrorists had set Quaid's Residency in Ziarat on fire during 2013.

Addressing a meeting to review the law and order situation, the prime minister said on May 9, Imran Niazi and his followers stoked terrorism and violence that amounted to anti-state acts. They caused damage to such a huge extent that even the enemies of Pakistan could not do in the last 75 years, he added.

The prime minister further equated attack on GHQ by the PTI leaders and supporters to the one mounted by the terrorist outfit TTP in the past.

He said the terrorists had attacked naval facility in Karachi in the past and the PTI leader and his supporters damaged the plane in Mianwali which had been used to defend the country. Unfortunately, he observed these Pakistanis turned into enemies of the country and carried out attacks. Radio Pakistan and several other buildings were attacked, he added.

"Such agonizing incidents will continue to haunt the nation," the prime minister regretted.

India cannot silence voice of Kashmiris, says FM Bilawal

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Sunday that India will not be able to suppress the voice of the people of occupied Kashmir by holding the G20 summit in the disputed region.

Speaking to media after arriving in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on a three-day visit, FM Bilawal said, "It is not possible for India to play an important role in the world by violating UN resolutions".

"At a time when India is holding a conference in Occupied Kashmir, I have been invited to address the Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)," Mr Bhutto-Zardari maintained.



He added, "I believe that when a country takes such a step as India has taken, its true face comes before the world".

In connection with showing solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people, Mr Bhutto-Zardari went on to say that he will also participate in a protest rally in Bagh district to express solidarity with Kashmiris. On Saturday, Prime Minister advisor on Kashmir affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said that India wanted to hold the G20 session to hide its cruelties in the occupied Kashmir.

Arab League Summit marks milestone for regional rapprochement: Saudi envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki on Sunday said the Arab League Summit, hosted by the Kingdom under the dynamic leadership of Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, concluded on a high note, signaling a significant step towards regional rapprochement and cooperation.

The summit, held at King Abdulaziz Conference Center in Jeddah, brought together leaders from across the Arab world to discuss key regional challenges and forge a path towards unity, stability, and progress, he said in an exclusive talk to media.

Ambassador Al-Malki said the summit aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration among Arab



nations, emphasizing the importance of resolving conflicts, promoting economic development, and countering common threats in the region.

He said Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, known for his bold and transformative vision, played a central role in steering the discussions towards concrete action and tangible outcomes.

He said the summit commenced with an opening address by Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman,

who expressed his commitment to strengthening Arab unity and emphasized the urgency of addressing the pressing issues facing the region.

He also added that the Arab League Summit in Jeddah, under the leadership of Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, marked a significant milestone in the pursuit of regional rapprochement.

It is worth noting that the Arab summit addressed the need for increased coordination in combating terrorism and extremism, recognizing the grave threat they posed to regional stability and security. Leaders reiterated their resolve to counter extremist ideologies and enhance intelligence sharing and joint security measures to ensure the safety of Arab nations.



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan apprehended on Sunday his arrest, saying that there was an 80 percent chance of his arrest on May 23.

In an interview with a foreign news channel, the deposed premier said, "Everything is being done to destroy our democracy. At this point, more than 10,000 workers have been arrested. My entire senior leadership team is in jail."

Speaking about former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Mr Khan said, "I worked with former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa before he switched horses".

"For the last six months of the PTI government, Bajwa worked to remove me and later claimed that I was a danger to the country," claimed Mr Khan.

Mr Khan said he firmly believes that the country needs a strong defence system.

Taking a jibe at the incumbent government, Mr Khan claimed, "The government wants to hit me because it is petrifying of the elections".

Referring to the assassination attempt on him, Mr Khan said, "I predicted that a religious fanatic will be sued to kill me like our governor was killed. My life is still in danger."

He expressed his fear that the government will not hold elections in October, claiming, "The government is afraid that the PTI will come to power".

On Friday, Mr Khan claimed that efforts were on to "crush" his party.

In an interactive session with journalists, Mr Khan said, "Today, a Punjab government delegation came to meet me, and they gave me eight names, who they said were wanted men." Everyone in the PTI was currently wanted, he added.

"The authorities have apprised me of conducting a search operation at Zaman Park's residence, but I have refused to do so. They can come as per permission given by the Lahore High Court (LHC)," he maintained.

Departure with Good Wishes

ISLAMABAD: Grand ceremony marks first Hajj flight departure from Islamabad International Airport.



Grand ceremony marks first Hajj flight departure from Islamabad International Airport

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad International Airport on Sunday witnessed a grand ceremony on the occasion of the first flight of Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, Minister for Narcotics Shahzain Bugti, and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki.

The departure of Pakistan

International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-743, carrying 388 pilgrims, took place on time amidst an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation.

The Road to Makkah programme proved highly beneficial for all pilgrims departing from Islamabad Airport. This programme streamlined immigration procedures and ensured that all legal requirements for Hajj were completed at the airport itself, eliminating the need for additional processes upon arrival in Saudi Arabia.

Minister Talha, accompanied

by Saudi ambassador, personally saw off the pilgrims and distributed gifts and garlands of flowers to each of the travelers on the inaugural flight.

Speaking at the ceremony, he addressed the pilgrims, highlighting their important role as ambassadors of Pakistan abroad.

He urged them to transcend religious and political boundaries, emphasizing the significance of facilitating others during their journey and embracing their national identity as they represent their country.

In a testament to his commitment to the welfare of the pilgrims, Minister Talha announced the establishment of a dedicated cell to address any difficulties faced by the Hajj participants.

He also shared a WhatsApp number through which he would maintain direct communication with the pilgrims.

He expressed his gratitude to the Saudi government and Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki for their unwavering support during any challenges encountered.

Ambassador Al-Malki, in

his address, extended congratulations to the pilgrims and conveyed his best wishes for a successful and fulfilling Hajj journey.

He assured everyone of the Saudi government's commitment to providing the necessary support and assistance throughout their stay in the Kingdom.

Several senior officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Narcotics were present at the ceremony to offer guidance and support to the pilgrims.

PM Shehbaz calls Sirajul Haq, vows action against attackers on his convoy



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday contacted Jamaat e Islami (JI) chief Sirajul Haq and assured that the elements responsible for the attack on his convoy would be brought to justice.

During a telephonic conversation, the prime minister expressed pleasure that the JI chief remained safe in the suicide attack that struck his convoy in Zhob.

He sympathised with the families of those who were injured in the bomb attack, saying that every stakeholder would have to work together for eradicating all forms of terrorism.

While expressing best wishes for the JI chief, the prime minister assured that the elements responsible for the incident would be brought to justice.

Sirajul Haq thanked PM Shehbaz Sharif for his phone call and for his support and best wishes.

Khawaja Asif says no new military courts being established

Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday termed the May 9 violent protests on military installations as an "attack on Pakistan's integrity and existence."

"Pakistan's existence was attacked on May 9. One person [Imran Khan] made this attack just for the sake of his power," Asif said while addressing the media in Sialkot.

The defence minister insisted that the government was not "snatching anyone's basic rights", and cases would be pursued against individuals who have been identified through footage attacking military installations.

Asif reiterated that no new military courts are being established to try May 9 rioters, confirming that the trials will be held in the existing courts.

He went on to say that attacks on

airbase were conducted by an enemy, not a patriot, adding that he did not differentiate between the attack on GHQ, Lahore Corps Commander's house, Mianwali airbase and the attack by arch-rival India on the Sialkot memorial.

"I strictly do not differentiate between the attack that happened at the Corps Commander house, Mianwali air base, the GHQ (Pakistan Army's general headquarters), and the attack by India on this place (Sialkot memorial)," said Khawaja Asif.

Earlier, the minister visited the Yadgar-e-Shuhada (martyrs monument) in Chawinda and laid a floral wreath on the graves of the martyrs before offering fatiha.

He said that they had visited the martyr's monument to remember their bravery in defeating Indian army.

UN chief warns of progress on human health being 'in peril'

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Sunday warned that despite the headway over the past 75 years, progress on human health in the wake of COVID, climate change, and other challenges, was "in peril".

The UN chief, who was addressing via video-link the annual opening of the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO), said the UN agency was born out of a spirit of cooperation, leading to dramatic improvements in human health.

"Global life expectancy - up over 50 percent; Infant mortality - down sixty percent in 30 years; smallpox - eradicated; And polio on the verge of extinction," he said. "But progress is in peril. War and conflict threaten millions. The health of billions is endangered by the climate crisis."

The secretary-general said COVID-



19 had stalled and even reversed, the steady improvements in public health, and led to backsliding in 2030.

"But this is not inevitable", he continued. We can return to the path of progress. We can realize our ambitions for health and well-being for all. But only if the world works together. If we cooperate, despite the tensions straining relations between nations."

He said promoting public health long-term, meant strengthening the independence, authority and financing of the WHO, "which stands at the

heart of our international effort" and must have a key coordinating role in fighting the next pandemic.

As international negotiations continue for a new pandemic plan of action, "it is vital to prepare for the health threats to come - from new pandemics to climate dangers - so that we prevent where we can, and respond fast and effectively where we cannot", the UN chief said.

Reinforcing that message in his introductory speech to the Assembly, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that the world's emergence from the dark tunnel of COVID-19, was "not just the end of a bad dream from which we have woken. We cannot simply carry on as we did before."

The painful lessons of the pandemic must be understood, he said.

"Chief among those lessons is that we can only face shared threats with a shared response."

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Iran

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attack in the Sarawan County of Iran on 20 May 2023, resulting in the loss of lives of six Iranian security personnel.

The government and people of Pakistan express their deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the martyrs as well as to the Iranian government over this tragic incident. As reaffirmed during the recent meeting between Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of Iran, we stress upon the need for mutual efforts to eliminate the terrorism on both sides of the border.

Funds approved for establishing state of the art NFPI

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives has approved Rs 400 million in order to establish a state of the art National Film Production Institute (NFPI).

The project aims to provide professional training in various fields of film-making, acting, production, camera and cinematography for local film production.

The project is being executed under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) with a budget of Rs 400 million, said a press release issued by the Ministry here Sunday.

PIMS Hospital's director served notice over improper disposal of medical waste

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An investigation has been launched into the improper disposal of medical waste at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital and a show cause notice was served to the hospital's director non-medical Chaudhry Waris Raza.

The PIMS head served a show cause notice to the director non-medical Chaudhry Waris Raza following the directives of the health ministry after an investigation was launched into the improper disposal of medical waste.

Chaudhry Waris Raza has been directed to clear his position in three days, otherwise, he would face discipli-

nary action by the PIMS management. According to the notice, the authorities detected mismanagement and SOP violations in medical waste disposal.

As per the SOPs, the medical waste of PIMS Hospital must be disposed of separately but three genres of the hospital waste were being dumped together. It further stated that the hospital has two incinerators for the disposal of medical waste but one of the two incinerators was dysfunctional for four months.

It emerged that the PIMS waste management in charge mismanaged the management regarding the dysfunctional incinerators and payment was disbursed to the contrac-

tor for the faulty incinerator besides failing to provide a written record of the medical waste disposal and attendance data of the concerned staff.

The notice read that the medical waste was disposed of in the absence of the experienced staff of the waste management department. It is pertinent to mention here that a private company is responsible for medical waste disposal at the PIMS Hospital.

The notice stated that the private company did not devise a comprehensive mechanism for medical waste disposal and its staff provided unsatisfactory answers to the show cause notices.

Around 80,000 intending pilgrims to leave for S. Arabia from nine Pakistani cities

Spokesman Report

MADINAH MUNAWWARAH: More than 80,000 intending pilgrims under the government scheme are set to embark on their Hajj pilgrimage this year from nine cities, as per the latest information received on Sunday.

Among them, around 42,000 pilgrims have chosen Madinah as their first destination, while nearly 38,000 pilgrims will be making their way to Jeddah. The first flight, PK 743, is scheduled to depart from Islamabad on Sunday night at 9:15 pm.

In a significant development, the initial flight of PIA, PK773, carrying 328 pilgrims, has successfully arrived in Madinah from Karachi.

The distribution of pilgrims included over 26,000 will arrive from Islamabad, more than 17,000 from Karachi, 17,629 from Lahore, 6,582 from Multan, 4,050 from Quetta and 4,484 from Sialkot.

Additionally, 3,251 pilgrims will be coming to Saudi Arabia from Faisalabad, 468 from Rahim Yar Khan and 914 individuals will be departing from Sukkur for the sacred journey.

Go India Go Back

KASHMIRIS
BOYCOTT

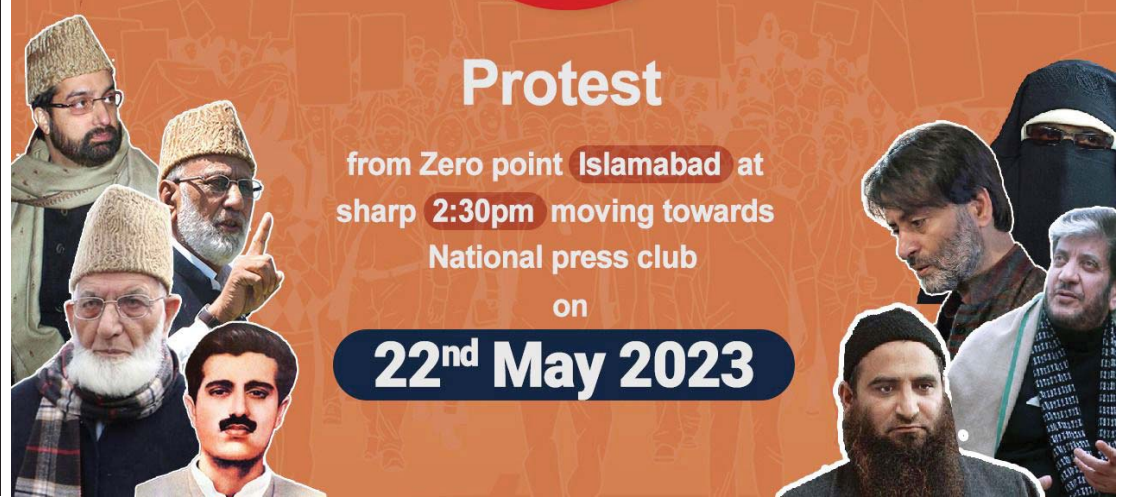
G-20

Protest

from Zero point Islamabad at
sharp 2:30pm moving towards
National press club

on

22nd May 2023



India's to host the G20 summit in Srinagar is another conspiracy: PM AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the Indian bid to host a meeting of G-20 nations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir was yet another tactic to hoodwink the international community.

Terming Jammu and Kashmir as an internationally recognized disputed territory, the PM said India has no justification to host an international event in the region which it has occupied illegally by usurping the fundamental rights of Kashmiris.

"Holding the G20 meeting in Srinagar is a violation of international laws", he said adding that the Occupied Kashmir was presently the largest



military zone in the world where Indian occupation forces have been committing serious violations of human rights day in and day out.

Thanking the Chinese government for boycotting the events being hosted by New Delhi in Srinagar and Leh, the PM said that it was high time that the other members of the forum should follow suit and boycott the meeting being held in the disputed territory.

"Kashmiris living on both sides of the ceasefire line and around the world are protesting against the G20 meeting in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir", he said, adding that India's motive behind the controversial move was to create a notion that everything was honky dory in Kashmir.

He said that the ground situation in the held territory was contrary to what India had been projecting. He said that innocent civilians, mostly young boys, were being martyred by the Indian occupation forces day in and day out, whereas Hurriyat leaders, political and human rights activists had been thrown behind bars.

He said that Indian occupation forces were involved in heinous war crimes in Kashmir.

The Prime Minister said that the G20 countries should put pressure on India to give Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

He said that India was hell bent on changing the demography of Occupied Kashmir to convert the Muslim majority into a minority.

He said that for the establishment of peace in the region, it was imperative to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

India's illegal, immoral and unconstitutional actions, he said, cannot weaken the resolve of Kashmiris.

He said that the day was not far when Kashmiris' sacrifices would come to fruition and their legitimate struggle for right to self determination would reach its logical conclusion.

Farmer is Guarantor of Development and Prosperity of the Country: Governor Punjab



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rahman has said that agriculture is very important in the development and prosperity of the country. Our farmer will be prosperous and agro-related industries will also develop. He expressed these views while addressing the Kisan Mela held at Qila Kahana Qasim Bagh. On this occasion, Kisan Mela organizers Dr. Muhammad Amjad Bukhari, Bilal Niazi and former Member of Assembly Sheikh Tahir Rashid, Faraz Ahmed Noon, representatives of agricultural companies and farmers' organizations were present.

Governor Punjab Engineer Balighur Rahman while addressing Kisan Mela added that the government has launched many schemes for the welfare of farmers, the support prices of wheat and cotton have been increased so that the farmers can pay for their hard work. Get the best reward. Subsidy is being provided by the government on agricultural implements, machinery and fertilizers. He said that all the stakeholders have to work together to achieve the cotton production target so that the country's economy gets stability. Governor Punjab said that Muslim League (N) has always taken practical steps for the development of agriculture and education sectors after coming to power.

Because a prosperous farmer is the guarantor of the development and prosperity of the country. He said that the Department of Agriculture and the companies associated with the agricultural sector should encourage the farmers towards modern methods of cultivation and complete and timely awareness should be provided in this regard so that we can get better production of our crops like the world. Other countries are developing in the agricultural sector.

Trade organizations rejected the increase in drug prices: Khawaja Sulaiman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Central Traders organization Pakistan has completely rejected the 14 percent increase in the prices of medicines and has demanded that the government immediately withdraw the decision to increase the prices of medicines by 14 percent and demand further reduction in petroleum products. In this regard, the central chairman of the central organization Tajran Pakistan Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, central vice-chairman Sheikh Akram Hakeem, South Punjab President Sheikh Javed Akhtar, Multan General Secretary Naeem Baig, South Punjab Vice President Zeeshan Zafar, South Punjab Vice President Akmal Khan Baloch, Additional Secretary of South Punjab, Rao Liaqat Ali, has said that due to rising inflation, the poor citizens are already suffering from severe problems, for whom it is difficult to meet household expenses.

In such circumstances, it will be impossible for the poor people to buy medicine, where can they get treatment at expensive prices. It is a pity that free treatment facilities have disappeared in government hospitals, where medicines are not available. has been increased and after 100 units the flat rates have been increased. Prices are falling if this situation continues

So the business community will be forced to come out on the streets, that's why the government should take time and give real relief to more than 22 crore poor people of the country because the commercial and business centers have been affected due to the problems. At present, due to economic crisis and rising inflation, the markets and bazaars are in a state of desolation

Murderous attack on Siraj ul Haq is not only condemnable but sad, President Ji

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District President Nadeem Wazir of Jamaat-e-Islami Lower South Waziristan has said in an ongoing statement, that the murderous attack on the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj Ul Haq yesterday in Zhob area of Balochistan province is a cowardly act, while such an attack on the leader of a religious party is very sad and the district president strongly condemned the incident and demanded the federal government.

That the attack on Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Amir Siraj-ul-Haq should be immediately investigated and the elements involved should be arrested and brought to justice.

He said that this kind of attack in our dear country Pakistan is not only alarming but also sad, therefore, the federal and provincial government of Balochistan and other law enforcement agencies have taken measures at a high level to prevent these types of attacks.

Tribute to Martyrs of Pak Army, Gomal University organized Badminton Tournament



Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Gomal University is going to be organized first 'Shuhada-e-Pak-Army Badminton' tournament here at its Quaid-e-Azam Campus from Monday to pay homage to the martyrs of the armed forces.

The tournament is jointly organized by the varsity's Directorate of sports and Department of Public Relations on the special directions of Gomal University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shakib Ullah to pay homage to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, said a press release issued here.

The Vice Chancellor, being a chief guest, would inaugurate the event on May 22 which would be going on till May 23.

About 21 teams of electronic, print and social media journalists from Dera Ismail Khan would participate in the event.

All the participating teams were divided into two pools. The semi-final and final matches would be played on May 23rd.

Gomal University Director of Sports of the university Dr. Wasim Khan and Public Relations officer Raja Alamzeb already held a meeting with journalists in this regard. During the meeting, the organizers conveyed the rules and schedule of the tournament to journalists.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Wasim said that organizing the event was not only aimed at remembering the martyrs of Pak-Army but also to send a message to the new generation that all the security forces were the pride of the nation.

Solidarity with Army

ISLAMABAD: Ch Muhammad Sarwar, Chief Organizer, PML Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) & Rizwan Sadiq President PML Islamabad Are leading a rally to show solidarity with armed forces of Pakistan on Sunday.



Spokesman Photo by Raja Farid

Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Visits CBD Punjab Project Site

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique, visited the CBD Punjab Walton Road project site. For briefing session about the project. Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has been entrusted with the responsibilities of Bab E Pakistan development and Walton Road upgradation, following the successful completion of the Kalma underpass Remodeling CBD Punjab Boulevard.

The Board of CBD Punjab has granted approval for PCI for this project and allocated a substantial budget of 23 billion PKR. CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, and Executive Director Technical, Riaz Hussain, provided a comprehensive briefing on the project details.



The first phase of CBD Punjab will be connected to Walton Road Phase 2 through a main corridor, featuring the construction of a railway

underpass. Additionally, widening of Walton Road and upgrading the entire sewage system will be undertaken.

Federal Minister Khawaja Saad

Rafique expressed his full confidence in the capabilities of CBD Punjab, emphasizing their commitment to completing this project with the same passion and dedication they demonstrated during the successful completion of the Kalma Underpass Remodeling CBD Punjab Boulevard. Federal Minister stated, "CBD Punjab has showcased its professional skills by taking on this project, which is expected to resolve critical issues such as traffic congestion and sewage problems on Walton Road."

The Bab E Pakistan development and Walton Road upgradation project undertaken by CBD Punjab is expected to bring substantial improvements to the region's infrastructure. With the successful completion of previous projects, CBD Punjab has established itself as a reliable and capable authority dedicated to delivering exceptional results.

Saraiki cultural extravaganza at PNCA mesmerizes twin cities

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Saraiki community residing in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi flocked to the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Sunday to witness the sweetness of Saraiki culture in a 'Saraiki Cultural Program'.

The effervescent Saraiki Jhoomer, soul-stirring poetic symposium and melodious folk musical show not only illustrated the delicate details of the Saraiki culture but also immersed the audience in the cultural realm of South Punjab.

Former Senator and the prominent leader of Pakistan



People's Party Farhat Ullah Babar graced the event as chief guest and said Saraiki was one of the major language in Pakistan, encompassing a unique

sweetness and profound depth. "I led the commission that was constituted in an effort to establish a Saraiki province. Therefore, I have a strong

affinity for Saraiki culture," he expressed while addressing the audience.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of holding cultural programs and said arts had the magical power of encountering violence and breed peace and tolerance in society.

All the artists in the show depicted the Saraiki culture through performing arts which could not be possible to describe in words, huge respect and homage to all the people who organized the enchanting Saraiki show, said Abdul Rauf, a student from Bahawalpur in Islamabad, while talking to

media.

"I have traveled across the globe and explored many cultures, but no other culture possesses the kind of sweetness that is embedded in Saraiki culture. Although I am not Saraiki myself, I have a deep affection for the Saraiki culture," expressed Malaika Saqib, another spectator in the show.

In a remarkable display of cultural celebration, the Saraiki Adabi Academy and Sehra-e-Social organization joined forces with PNCA to orchestrate an unforgettable program in commemoration of World Cultural Day, observed on May 21.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3: 25 am
Zohr 12: 04 pm
Asr 5: 00 pm
Maghrib 7: 06 pm
Isha 8: 44 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Decisions made under IMF pressure will cause irreparable damage. Adil Nawaz Bhatti

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA, DHA-I-R) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that the decisions made under the pressure of IMF will cause irreparable damage. The real estate sector and the millions of consultants associated with it are facing severe difficulties. Previously, only capital was transferred out of the country, now investors are also moving abroad very quickly, in such a case, there will be irreparable damage due to the decisions made under the pressure of IMF. The government must involve the business community in the consultation process. In one of his statements, Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that the real estate sector has been under constant pressure for the past few years, but no incentives have been introduced in response. Realtors will react strongly to any kind of additional tax. This time the realtors will not be silent. He said that the real estate sector should be regulated and given the status of a regular industry and the implementation of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act can help in this regard.

G-20 summit in Srinagar failed after China's refusal to participate: Barrister Sultan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry and British MP Mirza Khalid Mehmood have said that the G-20 Working Group meeting being held by India in Srinagar has failed because key members of the group, including China had categorically refused to attend the conference.

Addressing a press conference at his office in Islamabad on Sunday, they claimed that, along with China, many other members of the Group would skip the meeting. Referring to the Indian government's nefarious designs to use the high profile event to achieve its strategic objectives, they said that the G-20 nations' decision to skip

the conference being held in the restive region was a clear indication that they have refused to become brand ambassadors of India's so-called normalcy narrative on Kashmir.

They said that India's main motive behind organizing the G-20 Summit events in IIOJK was meant to hoodwink the international community by creating a false impression that everything was normal in Kashmir.

Highlighting the delicate situation in the region, they said that the political and human rights situation in the held territory had further worsened since the Modi government stripped the region of its special status on August 5, 2019.

They said that on one hand, India had intensified human rights violations, while on the



other, a massive onslaught to change the region's demography and its political landscape was launched to convert the Muslim majority of the state into a minority.

Voicing their grave concern over the abysmal situation in the region, they said, "It is high time that the international commu-

nity should take effective cognizance of the matter and pressurize India to stop bloodshed and violence in Occupied Kashmir".

Citing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights report, they said that the commission had released a detailed report on the human rights situation in the IIOJK in 2018 and

called for the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the ongoing human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces.

They said that it was imperative that the world community should influence the government of India to allow a fact-finding mission to visit the occupied territory and implement the recommendations of the report the Commission had released in 2018.

President Chaudhry further said that on his call protest demonstrations were being held all across the globe, especially in the influential world capitals including Washington, London, Brussels, Geneva, Paris and other places.

The main purpose of these protests was to register People's anguish and resentment against India's decision to hold a G-20 conference in Kashmir, which happens to be a disputed territory. He said that the international community needs to realize that the key to peace in the region lies in the settlement of the long standing Kashmir dispute.

He said that India wanted to mislead the world about Kashmir by holding the G-20 conference and wanted to give the impression that Occupied Kashmir was a peaceful area.

On this occasion, British Member of Parliament Mirza Khalid Mehmood said, "We will continue our efforts to raise the issue of Kashmir at the international level".

They also appreciated the Chinese leadership for taking a principled stance on holding G-20 summit in the disputed territory.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Marrayum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting inaugurating the PTV's National Film Production Institute on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM AJK pays rich tributes to Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone, Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq on their martyrdom anniversaries

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq while paying rich tributes to renowned Kashmiri leaders Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone and Shaheed Millat Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Farooq on their martyrdom anniversaries, has said that the supreme sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri leaders were a great asset of the nation.

The PM said that sacrifices and services rendered by these great leaders would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history.

The Prime Minister said that Khawaja Abdul Ghani Lone was a staunch politician and thinker while Maulana Muhammad Farooq was a religious scholar and fiery orator. Terming them as high caliber and visionary politicians, he said the deceased were aware of India's nefarious designs.

Lauding the sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri martyrs, the PM expressed optimism that the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people for the freedom of their motherland would never go in vain.

"Sooner or later India will have to leave Kashmir. No power in the world can deprive Kashmiris of their basic right of self-determination", the PM said.

Murtaza Noor nominated as Goodwill Ambassador to promote sports

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Muhamamd Murtaza Noor, Executive Director of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) and National Coordinator Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan, a largest network of Pakistani universities, has been nominated as Goodwill Ambassador by Elite Sports Pakistan to further promote e-sports and healthy activities at the university campuses across Pakistan.



According to the nomination letter, he has been nominated as Goodwill Ambassador in recognition of more than two decades-long contribution in higher education sector especially ensuring effective and meaningful engagements of youth at university campuses through developing First ever Roadmaps on Promoting Social Sciences and Peaceful & Tolerant University Campuses, strengthening campus based student societies and sport clubs through provision of required equipment & sport items, establishing first ever Student Societies Centre at Shah Abdul Latif University & Benazir Bhutto University Layari & multiple sport facilities, araching three successful editions of International Student Conventions at Islamabad, Lahore & arachi, forming National Student Societies Network and promoting co-curricular & healthy activities across Pakistan and globe as well.

Margalla Hills Trail-4 catches fire, inferno put out despite harsh terrain

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) staff along with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) teams in a joint effort on Sunday put out a wildfire in the Margalla Hills National Park that erupted at its Trail-4 top area of Dhoke Jeewan.



According to the IWMB officials, the fire flared up around 1500 hours whereas the Park Rangers probably promptly responded to the situation for preemptive measures.

The Board's 20 Rangers took part in the fire fighting operation alongwith 40 officials of the CDA.

Moreover, the IWMB officials also remained present at the spot and monitored the firefighting process.

The fire was completely brought under control after a tedious operation due to difficult pathways on the track that caused difficulties in controlling the fire.

An area of 20 to 25-Kanal land got affected due to forest fire leaving 80% of the shrubs turned to ashes.

The IWMB had established a dedicated forest fire hotline and pickets in the Margalla Hills National Park last year that were aimed at ensuring adequate resources and strategies to control the forest fires during the season from April to June.

However, more details were to follow about the losses as the staff was still on the site busy in tabulating the damages.

Punjab Arts Council organized Sufi Night

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A Sufi night was organized in the two-day Sufi festival by the Punjab Arts Council. Mr. Khawaja Azfar Aziz was the chief guest of the Sufi night. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed and Naheed Manzoor were also present on the occasion. Sufi night singers Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Bilal, Sana Nimat and Sonia Azeem recited Sufi kalam in such a beautiful way that the participants swayed uncontrollably.

Special guest Khawaja Azfar Aziz said that Sufi poetry is the guarantee of promoting peace and security while Sufi music connects hearts.

He said that Auliya Ikram raised the flag of Islam in the sub-continent of Pakistan and India with the help of Sufi speech and sent a message to the world through Sufi speech that Islam is a religion of love, tolerance and prosperity. Naheed Manzoor said that there is no need to understand the language in Sufi kalam, whether it is in Arabic, Sindhi, Urdu or Persian, but it has an effect on the heart, on the soul,



because this kalam is directed towards Allah. Sufism is the pain of Allah, you get spirituality from this word, like feeling cold inside, like the soul is lost. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that the Arts Council wants to introduce the young generation of Pakistan to the extinct art of Qawwali and Sufi Kalam. He said that the Arts Council has always presented the work of young artists to the world. A large number of people participated in Sufi Night.

Real estate sector is the backbone of the country's economy: Atif Butt

Sohail Anjum Malik

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Estate Agents Association Progressive Ethihad Group Atif Jameel Butt has said that protection should be provided to the real estate sector because the real estate sector is the backbone of the country's economy. Taxes should be reduced, DC and FBR should end the double standard regarding property valuation so that the government can get additional revenue. While holding a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad, he further said that the real estate sector is the backbone of the country's economy, the role of the state is like a mother.

The government should support the real estate sector as the government gets the highest revenue from this sector but unfortunately this sector is the most neglected, the government should encourage voluntary implementation and regularization



of tax matters. Recommend a general amnesty specially designed for dealers. This will help bring more dealers into the formal tax net and promote transparency in the sector. Real estate agents want to pay taxes to the government, but due to government policies, they face severe difficulties, regarding property value. There is a difference

of up to eight percent between the DC value and the FBR value, which has stopped the transfer of property, which is causing the loss in the form of non-revenue to the government.

The government should refrain from further increase in DC valuation in the next budget and maintain it at the current level as this increase will

cause more difficulties in collecting tax revenue, the advance tax for filers should also be reduced or it should be kept at the current level, should be maintained, whatever the government decides about non-filers, tax exemptions should be given to overseas Pakistanis while buying property so that investment can increase in the country, reducing the tax burden on taxpayers will result in more real estate. Estate agents will be motivated to become filers and contribute to the country's tax revenue.

The government will have to take decisions in consultation with stakeholders to bring more taxpayers into the tax net. A complex system of tax rules and procedures can deter dealers from fulfilling their tax obligations. Steps should be taken to simplify the tax collection process, improve access to information and provide clear guidelines for real estate professionals and dealers to have a one-page income tax return.

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India happy to see attacks on our Military Assets

On 9 May 2023, former Pakistani Prime Minister and politician Imran Khan was arrested from inside the High Court in Islamabad by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on the charges of corruption in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust, which he owns alongside his wife, Bushra Bibi. Following Khan's arrest, his party called for demonstrations.

In Rawalpindi and Islamabad, violent confrontations between the police and PTI supporters were witnessed followed by a crackdown on party supporters. In Rawalpindi, sensitive installations, including GHQ and Hamza Camp (Ojhri Camp), were targeted by the PTI supporters. Two police officials – Waris Khan DSP Tahir Sikandar and Ratta Amral SHO Chaudhry Riaz were also injured in an altercation with the PTI workers. The metro bus service was also suspended between the two cities.

In Lahore, the PTI workers gathered at Liberty Chowk and started marching towards the Cantonment. The announcements were made on social media sites to reach the Cantonment to protest outside the military corps commander's house. In footage circulating on different social media platforms, the PTI workers carrying clubs and party flags reached the corps commander's house in the Cantonment area. The protesters forced their way into the house while chanting slogans against the arrest of their chairman. They were also seen breaking the windowpanes, TV, and furniture of the house and also setting the trees and furniture on fire.

In another video, the PTI activists could also be seen pelting stones

and bottles at an army convoy on Mall Road. The workers also set police vehicles outside Fortress Stadium Lahore on fire in addition to several security posts in the Cantt.

In Karachi, hundreds of PTI workers took to the street in different parts of the province against the arrest of party chairman Imran Khan prompting action from the police resulting in the arrest of Ali Zaidi, a couple of MPAs, and dozens of opposition party workers.

Sharee Faisal turned into a battleground hardly an hour after the arrest of Mr Khan when PTI Karachi chapter president Aftab Siddiqi urged the workers to reach Insaf House – the party headquarters. As the workers marched on Sharee Faisal suspending traffic on the key road link, the police resorted to baton-charge and teargas shelling which attracted a strong reaction from the protests. In a three-hour-long face-off between police and the protesters, over a dozen vehicles, including a police van, and two check posts each of the Karachi police and Pakistan Rangers were set on fire.

In KP, after learning about the arrest of the PTI chief, scores of the opposition party's workers reached the Hashtnagar Chowk in Peshawar blocking the Grand Trunk Road.

The protesters torched the replica of the Chaghi Mountain, where Pakistan conducted its first nuclear test in 1998. They also smashed the main gate of the provincial assembly's building and threw

stones inside the premises.

In his another address to the nation in April last year, Prime Minister Imran Khan lauded India's independent foreign policy, saying that no superpower had the audacity to tell India to change its foreign policy. Despite pressure and sanctions on Russia, he said, India didn't stop importing oil from Russia, because it felt that it was the best decision for its people. Expressing that he knew India better than other politicians, PM Imran regretted that Pakistan and India did not have good relations because of the latter's "RSS ideology and what happened in Kashmir".

Soon after the address, Indian media and social media users praised Imran Khan for his comments on India which attracted wide coverage. The Hindustan Times highlighted that the premier called the address, Indian media and social media users praised Imran Khan for his comments on India which attracted wide coverage. The Hindustan Times highlighted that the premier called the address, Indian media and social media users praised Imran Khan for his comments on India which attracted wide coverage. The Hindustan Times highlighted that the premier called the address, Indian media and social media users praised Imran Khan for his comments on India which attracted wide coverage.

Readers, In a talk show on an Indian Channel which was hosted by

Tahir Aslam Gora, the guest speaker Major (Retd) Gaurav Arya said that if Pak Army will be strong then Pakistan will at least have one institution which will be stable. He said that Pak Army is not just a force, it's actually a bond and a glue which has stitched Pakistan together and if you consider that there is no Pak Army then what Pakistan has in reality. Apart of the army there is nothing. He said that there is only one credible institution inside Pakistan which is Pakistan Army. He said that it's not just an army it's a glue which has stitched Pakistani people together. He said that Pak Army is a ray of the hope for the people of Pakistan which always heard bad news. He said that if a person from Inside Pakistan is giving such damage to you without our interference than what else we need. He said that Imran Khan is a man of EGO and always thinks for himself and for him only he is everything. He appreciated that such a leader from Pakistan is actively working against Pakistan and we don't have to spend a single penny for doing this.

Recently, I seen another talk show in which the guest also says that Imran Khan is good for India and we should not be against him. The incidents of May 9 have much pleased the India and their media as they say if Imran Khan is there then we don't need to attack Pakistan. These things and notions should be noted by our Government, Law enforcement agencies and security authorities to look at the possibility of any foreign actors behind the incidents of May 9. Whole nation is anxiously waiting to see strict action against the planners and actors behind these incidents of terrorism.



Amjad Rasmi (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Brain Drain and Bright Stars of Pakistan

ShoibAijaz / Amna Khan

Brain Drain is the movement of people with high levels of talent and skill from their nation of origin to another country in pursuit of job opportunities and better living conditions. For many years, Pakistan has been suffering from a brain drain, in which a sizable number of highly talented and skilled people have been emigrating to other countries.

The phrases "bright stars" and "brain drain" are related since the former describes the intelligent and skilled people who are emigrating from Pakistan in pursuit of better chances, which causes the brain drain phenomena.

For many years, Pakistan has struggled with the problem of brain drain, when many of the most talented and brightest citizens leave the nation in search of better prospects overseas. Pakistan's progress and development are greatly hampered by this tendency as the nation loses its top talent, creating a dearth of qualified workers in crucial industries like healthcare, education, and engineering.

The brain drain of skilled individuals from Pakistan to other Asian countries is attributed to several factors, such as job opportunities in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Malaysia, China, and Middle East countries. This has led to a loss of valuable human capital and talent, which can impact sectors such as healthcare, education, engineering, and technology, and lead to a loss of innovation, creativity, and potential economic growth.

Pakistan has seen a massive brain drain, with an estimated 5,000 highly qualified workers leaving the nation each year, according to research by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the bulk of competent individuals who emigrated from Pakistan go to industrialized nations like the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

According to the Bureau of Emigration and overseas employment, there are more than 760,000 people left Pakistan. According to an article off Pakistan Today in March 2023, a nation's ability to advance is hampered by the loss of professors, researchers, engineers, doctors, and engineers. For instance, between 1971 and the present, for various reasons, 29,939 medical professionals, 11,968 nurses, 5,791 chemists, 87,869 engineers, 66,093 accountants, and 230,639 painters/artists have left Pakistan.

The causes of Pakistan's brain drain are numerous and intricate. Lack of employment possibilities and poor growth prospects, especially for those with the aptitude and talent to achieve, are among the main causes. Political unrest, a poor economy, and restricted access to cutting-edge technology are further contributing reasons.

Since human capital, innovation,

RDF makes significant contributions towards rural development in Pakistan

Zil Ur Rehman Qureshi

The Rural Development Foundation (RDF) of Pakistan in Islamabad has been making significant contributions towards rural development in the country since 1978. It was founded by late Dr. Muhammad Sadiq Malik and after his demise his son Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik took the responsibility to carry forward the cause of his father.

Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik is a dynamic retired bureaucrat with wide experience of development sector. He held very important positions in Government, including Finance Secretary, Principal Secretary to PM and head of Wafaqi Mutasib (Federal Ombudsman). His visionary approach and guidance and new initiatives has given new soul to RDF.

RDF has been working in various thematic areas like agriculture, disaster management, mother and child health care, environment, women vocational training center and education, Disaster Management and Climate Change and has achieved several milestones in these fields. RDF has significantly helped in increasing the income of poor ladies through kitchen gardening and marketing their stuff prepared at RDF Vocational Training Center in village Godho Taxila. Thousands of patients, since 1984, have been treated through Mother Child Health Care. RDF's mandate is to serve humanity, all services are free of cost. All cost of Train-

ing teachers, Doctors and support staff are borne by RDF from its own resources. Medicines are also delivered to communities free of cost.

With the appointment of Brig Muhammad Aslam Khan (Retd) as the President of RDF, the organization is expected to achieve greater heights. Brig Muhammad Aslam Khan's vast experience and leadership skills are expected to help RDF expand its operations and reach out to even more people in need. His vision to empower youth and introduction of digitalization on grassroots level will not only help marginalized communities to get connected to modern technologies but can also be a source of economic/ financial growth at community level. Recently Brig (Retd) Aslam Khan has introduced telehealth in village

Godho from where women, children and men are getting benefits at their door steps from qualified doctors. To provide alternate energy channels and environmental friendly energy resources RDF has recently launched its first bio gas plant in Shahdara village near Islamabad to aware people to reduce dependency on Govt and use own available resources.

RDF has been working tirelessly in the area of agriculture, introducing modern farming techniques and technologies to farmers in rural areas, thereby increasing crop yields and improving the standard of living of farmers and their families. RDF has also been involved in disaster management, providing assistance to people affected by natural disasters like

floods and earthquakes.

RDF has set up health clinics and schools in remote areas, providing medical assistance and education to thousands of people who would otherwise not have access to them. RDF has been instrumental in promoting sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of the environment, making significant contributions towards environmental protection.

RDF is now calling upon international donors like UNDP, US Aid, JICA, EU, CIDA, Muslim Aid, Muslim Hands, Acted, and German International NGOs to support its ventures. RDF aims to upscale and replicate projects like Bio Gas plants, rain harvesting projects, solid waste plants, telemedicine, and school in box for out of school children in other rural areas of Pakistan. These projects have the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of people in rural areas.

RDF's past achievements and future potential under the new leadership of Brig Muhammad Aslam Khan (Retd) are a testament to the organization's commitment to promoting rural development in Pakistan. The call for international donors to support RDF's ventures is an opportunity for these organizations to make a meaningful contribution towards rural development in Pakistan. By supporting RDF's initiatives, international donors can help uplift the lives of people in rural areas, promoting sustainable development and prosperity.

(Writer is Director in Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan)

Chinese Embassy held the reception

72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, Chinese Embassy held the reception on "China-Pakistan Unbreakable Friendship and the Bright Future" on May 19. H.E. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, the chief guest, H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Mazhar Javed, Director General of Foreign Service Academy spoke at the reception, which were attended by former Pakistani Ambassadors to China, officials from MFA and Pakistani young diplomats along with Chinese diplomats.

Ms. Pang welcomed friends old and new to the Chinese Embassy, emphasized that the China-Pakistan relationship has profound historical roots, solid

public support and strong practical needs. Under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping, China is steadfastly advancing the process of Chinese modernization. China will provide new opportunities for the development of countries including Pakistan, with new accomplishments in Chinese modernization. As developing countries, both China and Pakistan are constantly exploring development paths that suit their own national conditions, and are actively committed to maintaining world peace and stability.

Ms. Pang stated that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping, and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes covering areas of industry, agriculture, IT, disaster prevention and mitigation,

etc., which made significant contributions to promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure, improving Pakistani people's well-being, enhancing people to people contact and deepening regional connectivity. CPEC has become well-known hallmark of China-Pakistan cooperation.

Ms. Pang said that from 5th May to 6th May, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang paid a successful visit to Pakistan, which is of tremendous significance in solidifying and deepening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation. She conveyed great appreciation to successive generations of diplomats from the two countries for their painstaking efforts and contributions, and asserted that China will join hands with Pakistan to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries in real earnest and

continuously promote the great cause of China-Pakistan friendship with great strides.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan applauded the contribution of generations of the two countries' diplomats to the achievements of China and Pakistan unbreakable friendship and cooperation. The change of the compound of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan itself is the witness of the development of friendship with its previous compound being handed over to Pakistan government and became the Foreign Service Academy and the new compound became the biggest one in all Chinese Embassies abroad.

He appreciated that Chinese friends always unwaveringly provide generous help, give strong support to Pakistan's sovereignty and independence, financial stability and infrastructure construction. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has brought prosperity



and progress to Pakistan's economy and society, which Pakistan is deeply grateful of. In the year marking the 10th anniversary of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the launch of the CPEC, China and Pakistan should jointly celebrate this memorable moment. Now that the baton of China-Pakistan friendship has been handed over to a new generation of diplomats, it is hoped that diplomats of the two countries will work together to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Dr. Mazhar Javed said that the relations between China and Pakistan have been nurtured by both sides for last 72 years. All-round cooperation between the two sides provides valuable opportunities for exchanges and learning between the younger generation. The engagement of State Councilor and Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Qin Gang with Pakistani young diplomats in his visit to Islamabad and the reception held are very helpful to Pakistani Young diplomats in strengthening

their understanding of the China-Pakistan iron-clad relationship. He hoped that young diplomats will continue the traditional friendship throughout their career, and promote greater development of China-Pakistan relations.

Before the reception, the guests watched the photos on history of the China-Pakistan friendship and the transformation of the Chinese Embassy compound, enjoyed traditional Chinese tea ceremony performance, and made dumplings by themselves. The whole atmosphere was warm, cheerful and harmonious. The former ambassadors to China recalled their spectacular memories in China and said China and Pakistan need to cement the iron-clad friendship and promote the comprehensive pragmatic cooperation to a new higher level. Pakistani young diplomats said the reception is very warm and impressive, not only enhancing their knowledge and understanding of China and the CPC, but also tightening the friendship between the young diplomats between the two countries.

Homage paid to Martyrs of Kashmir by Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmed Bhat, has paid rich tributes to prominent martyred Hurriyat leaders, Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Farooq, Khawaja Abdul Ghani Lone, Abdul Ghani Bhat, martyrs of Hawal and all martyrs of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Altaf Bhat said that Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Farooq was assassinated by unidentified gunmen at his residence in Srinagar on 21st May in 1990. On the same day, over 70 mourners were killed when Indian troops opened indiscriminate fire on his funeral procession in Hawal area of Srinagar.

Twelve years later on May 21 in 2002, unknown attackers had shot dead Khawaja Abdul Ghani Lone when he was returning after addressing a gathering at the Martyrs' Grave-yard in Srinagar.

On 14th May 2004 the



Well-known businessman of Kashmir, the philanthropist, Abdul Ghani Bhat was martyred by unknown gunmen.

The Chairman of JKSM, in a statement said, Mir-Waiz Molvi Muhammad Farooq, Khawaja Abdul Ghani Lone, Abdul Ghani Bhat and other martyrs of the freedom movement are the heroes of Kashmiri people. He

said the Kashmiris on the martyrdom anniversaries of these leaders vow to accomplish the mission of their martyrs at all costs.

Bhat added that these noble souls sacrificed their lives for a great and sacred cause of freedom. He said, they were torch-bearers of freedom movement, and their struggle, teachings and sacrifices are role models for the future generations

of Kashmir.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat added besides a visionary leader, Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Farooq was a great Islamic scholar, orator and preacher who through his powerful and soul stirring sermons educated and organized oppressed Kashmiris to raise their voice against the Indian oppression.

He said that Khawaja Abdul Ghani Lone was a great political leader who struggled for peaceful solution of Kashmir. He was very brave, courageous and fearless leader.

Abdul Gani Bhat was famous for his contributions towards the freedom struggle and was very great soul. All of these leaders sacrificed their lives for noble cause of Kashmir.

In his statement he made it clear that no power on earth could suppress the freedom struggle of Kashmiris. The blood of the martyrs will never go in vain and Kashmiris will achieve their goal that is freedom from cruel clutches of India, Insha Allah.

India violates international rules by calling G-20 meeting in Srinagar: Ali Raza Syed

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed said that Occupied Kashmir is a part of the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir and holding an international meeting in a disputed region is a violation of the UN Charter and international norms.

Issuing a statement from Brussels, the EU headquarters, Chairman Kashmir Council added that we have already wrote letters to the European authorities and told them that Kashmir is a disputed area and there are UN resolutions on this issue. For the resolution of this conflict, it is necessary that Kashmiris should be given their right to self-determination.

It should be noted that the Indian government has announced that it will hold a meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar on May 22.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU emphasized that G-20 countries should not participate in this meeting at all. These countries should be aware of the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, and should also know that the Indian occupying authorities cannot change the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir by convening the G-20 meeting in Srinagar, the capital of the Illegally Occupied Kashmir.

Ali Raza Syed said that the Indian announcement of arranging an international meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir is illegal and all



Kashmiris are protesting against it.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU said that the reality of the disputed status of this region cannot be covered by the international event in Srinagar. In order to end the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir, it is necessary to give the Kashmiris their right and find a peaceful and acceptable solution to the problem.

He said that calling the G-20 meeting in Srinagar is illegal and unprincipled. India wants to continue its illegal

occupation of Jammu and Kashmir through such an illegal act, but the fact is that the Kashmir issue is recognized at an international level. It is an unsettled problem and international law and UN Security Council resolutions exist in this context.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU said that the international community, including the European Union, should take strict notice of this situation and play its role for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue.

APHC urges Kashmiris to observe strike against G20 meeting in IIOJK tomorrow

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has urged Kashmiri people for a complete shutdown in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) tomorrow on May 22, against the hosting of G20 meeting in Srinagar by the Indian government.

According to Kashmir media service, the call for the strike has also been supported by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government, political leadership and parties of AJK and Pakistan, while the Kashmiri Diaspora will hold anti-India protest rallies and demonstrations in world capitals, including UK and US, to denounce the Indian move, to what the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Fernand de Varennes, has described as an attempt to normalize a military occupation

over Jammu and Kashmir. Incarcerated Chairman of APHC, Masarrat Aalam Butt, has urged the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to observe a complete strike on Monday, to register their protest against the holding of G20 meeting in Srinagar by Narendra Modi-led Indian government.

Masarrat Aalam Butt in his message from New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail, also appealed to the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Kashmiris living across the world to hold protest demonstrations on the day against the illegal move of the Modi regime. He said by holding the G20 meeting in an internationally recognized disputed territory, the Modi government is attempting to hoodwink the world about the real situation in IIOJK and legitimize its illegal actions of



August 05, 2019. He urged the members of this august forum to skip the event to demonstrate their commitment to human rights and values.

The APHC leaders and organisations in Srinagar said the Narendra Modi-led Indian government is committing a flagrant violation of international law by holding the G20

meeting in Srinagar. They said Jammu and Kashmir is not India's part but an internationally-recognized disputed territory whose future is yet to be decided by its people. They said the holding of an international event in a disputed territory is also a violation of the UN Charter.

Meanwhile, the US-based Sikhs have also come forward to

expose Modi-government's evil design to hoodwink the world about the prevailing situation of IIOJK through the G20 meeting in Srinagar.

The Sikhs For Justice, spearheading the movement for a separate homeland for Sikhs in the name of Khalistan, urged the Kashmiris to block Srinagar airport to apprise the delegates

about the sensitivity of attending the G20 event in the occupied territory.

Al Jazeera has reported that India is holding the meeting in the disputed territory "to claim that its 2019 scrapping of partial autonomy brought peace and development". The Al Jazeera report said, "In the years since New Delhi brought Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under its direct control, the (Modi) government has pushed a series of laws and policies that Kashmiris in the valley say are aimed at undermining their struggle for the right to self-determination of their future."

The analysts said it is unfortunate that India is going to host the G20 event in IIOJK in an attempt to get legitimacy for its illegal occupation in Kashmir valley. India always kept on misleading the inter-

national community and violating international laws and UN resolutions as well on the Kashmir issue whereas Kashmir is an internationally-recognized disputed territory. They said no international conferences can be organized in any disputed territory as per International laws and norms.

Unfortunately, the international community, due to political, economic and diplomatic interests with India, is reluctant to force India to ensure implementation of UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute and to force India to stop its aggression in the disputed territory.

The Jammu and Kashmir Awami Front (JKAF), an organization supporting the APHC, has displayed posters in Srinagar and adjacent areas, urging the G20 countries to boycott their meeting in the internationally recognized disputed territory.

Business
Community
expects growth oriented and industry friendly budget: RCCI



News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has pinned high hopes and the expectation that the upcoming budget 2023-24 will be growth oriented and industry friendly.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq while addressing the 8th executive committee meeting at chamber house, said that the business community expects a comprehensive industrial package so that the ailing economy can be put on the right track.

"The time has come to take hard decisions and adopt an export promotion strategy, set the right direction and we strongly demand that the basis of Pakistan's economy shall be on exports instead of imports," said Saqib Rafiq. We expect that the Finance Minister will introduce measures that support and promote exports. This can include incentives for export-oriented industries, facilitation of trade agreements, provision of export financing, and the development of export-related infrastructure, he added.

He said that RCCI has always been vocal and demanded that the tax net has to be broadened and in order to meet the budget targets; there is a need to bring non-tax paying sectors into the tax net.

He said that the stakeholders shall be taken on board for devising any policy framework and added that we expect that the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will engage chambers of commerce prior to finalizing the budget document. "We want to present and discuss budget proposals, key measures and recommendations on various sectors ranging from trade, taxation, tourism, SME, agriculture, livestock, IT, non-conventional sectors, Gems stone, and smuggling etc". RCCI strongly desires to implement policies that promote macroeconomic stability, control inflation, and ensure a stable exchange rate. This stability provides a conducive environment for businesses to plan their investments and operations effectively, he added.

Great opportunities for economic development in the real estate sector



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Al-Jamal Group, associated with the real estate sector, has introduced a successful business model and luxury digital lifestyle in the hospitality sector, which offers lucrative business and investment opportunities that Pakistani investors and overseas Pakistanis can take full advantage by safe investment. Mohyuddin Ahmed Jan, CEO of Al-Jamal Group, while addressing the participants of the open house held regarding investment and economic stability in Pakistan, said that if the government provides full patronage and extend possible facilities to the real estate sector, it would help for promoting local & foreign investment in real estate business.

He said that the Jamal Group has introduced new dimensions to the real estate sector and provided safe investment as well as leadership training and employment for the youth and advancement in the corporate sector. He said that those interested in investing can benefit from Jamal Business Advisory Service, which provides complete information about business models with guaranteed profits.

G-20 Group meeting

China lauded for boycotting G20 meeting in India

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday lauded the Chinese leadership for declining to participate in the G20 summit to be held next week in India.

Chinese Foreign Ministry has said that "China firmly opposes holding meetings in any disputed areas and will not attend such meetings," which is a big blow to New Delhi, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President of ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that apart from other plans, India would like to show-



case its potential as a tourist destination to the delegates to improve its tourism industry.

India also planned to take G20 leaders to Indian Held Kashmir for their endorsement of its act to deprive the Kashmiris of their autonomous status by abrogation of Article 370 of India's constitution.

The Indian government is seeking to normalize its illegal occupation by instrumentalizing a G20 group meeting in Srinagar and portraying it as an international "seal of approval", he added.

The business leader said that we should highlight massive human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir, including torture, extrajudicial killings, political persecution and

suppression of free media.

He has pointed out that the G20 is unwillingly providing support to India at a time when massive human rights violations, illegal and arbitrary arrests, political persecutions, restrictions and even suppression of free media and human rights defenders continue to escalate.

The situation in occupied Kashmir should be decried and condemned, not pushed under the rug with the holding of this meeting.

He noted that it is quite clear that the governments of G20 countries are fully aware of what India is up to in occupied Kashmir but their behaviour in this whole affair is not praiseworthy.

The government should take steps to revive the hotel industry: Mian Akram

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Addressing the executive meeting of All Pakistan Hotels Association (PHA), Pakistan Hotels Association Senior Vice Chairman M. Akram Farid said that the first and foremost is the chaos and such environment in the country. Most services (hotel industry) are affected, all events are cancelled. Pakistan Hotels Association also expressed serious concerns over the declining economy and historical inflation in the country. The forum demanded from the political leadership a negotiated solution of the political parties and the constitutional crisis in the country.

The business community will support all efforts for national reconciliation and development. Chairman PHA stressed the need for a planned economic reform package that would ensure the salvation of the country's poor as well as the business community. It is endowed with natural beauty and it should make full use of this God-gifted asset. Due to conflicting policies of the government, this very important sector related to tourism is dying and no department or government is ready to listen to their grievances. Actions should be taken and immediate action taken. Provide packages and facilities to the hotel industry.



Addressing the meeting, Chairman PHA Mustansar Zakir said that the government should take steps to restore the hotel industry, the bed tax should be abolished or reduced. Exempt all taxes on income. He said that like other business sectors, the hotel industry has also been affected but it is a pity that the government has not given any relief to this industry.

The bed tax, which was earlier one rupee per bed, has been reduced to five percent of the room rent for hotels in Islamabad in July 2019. The government should abolish it. A very important area is being neglected in this regard. Said that foreigners are welcome in Pakistan during tourist season from May to September. This time, due to the floods and the destruction of road infrastructure, foreign tourist bookings are almost non-existent and the

earlier bookings are now being cancelled. Hotels are operating at barely 30% of their capacity and nearly 70% of people's jobs are at stake. He said that the government needs to take immediate remedial measures in this regard. He said that the hotel industry contributes a lot to the overall GDP of the country but is being neglected by the authorities. is not sustainable and needs to be drastically reduced.

Said that sales tax on hotels should be reduced to 7.5% like restaurants. He said that there is also a need to revise the bed tax which is currently 5% of the room rent. The tourism industry has been badly affected by the recent floods and epidemics and thousands of men and women involved in this industry have lost their jobs. But have started. Unlike other sectors like construction, the government has not provided any relief to

the hotel industry so far. In the current unfavorable economic conditions, the country cannot afford more unemployment. M. Akram Farid further said that making the hotel industry sustainable was very important and urged the government to take measures for the survival of the tourism industry in general and the hotel industry in particular. M. Akram Farid further said that the government should exempt the income of three star and four star hotels from all taxes.

He said that like other business sectors, the hotel industry has also been affected but unfortunately the government has not given any relief to this industry. Due to credit sale, hotel owners are paying sales tax and bed tax. Between 0.5 and 6 million people are involved in the hotel industry in Pakistan. In addition to the tax, the hotels that have not yet been able to collect the tax should be given a reprieve until the situation improves. Vice Chairman Faisal Qayyum Khan and Abdul Jabbar Rathore, former Chairman Anwar Qureshi, Executive Members Athar Bhutto, Rashiduddin, Nadeem Riaz Chaudhry, Zubair Bajwa, Asim Ibrahim, Ziaur Rehman, Ahmed Iqbal Saeed, Khalid Ilyas Kishitwala, Zulfikar Ahmed Malik, Fazal Elahi Kashtiwala also addressed.

Mand-Pishin new border market to enhance Pakistan trade with Iran: PIAF

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan and Iran inaugurated the first border market and electricity transmission lines the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said the Mand-Pishin in border marketplace and the Gabd-Polan electricity project would serve as a stepping stone for greater economic cooperation between the two countries, expressing the hope that it would unleash development, trade, business and employment opportunities contributing to the prosperity of the people of Gwadar and Balochistan.

Stressing the need for

enhancing regional trade to ease the current economic crisis, PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that the project had been pending since 2009 and was now completed in a record time of four months.

The Mand-Pishin border sustenance market is expected to increase trade with Iran, helping local businesses find new opportunities. This is one of the six border markets which will be constructed along the Iranian border.

He said that located in the remote village of Balochistan, the marketplace is the first of six to be constructed along the Pakistan-Iran border under a 2012 agreement signed by the two sides.

Creating a rift between the army and masses is an unforgivable crime

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The businessmen of Islamabad have said that the conspiracy to create a divide between the army and the people to pave the way for conflict is an unforgivable crime.

Those who tried to tarnish the reputation of the army and attacked its installations do not deserve any mercy, the said.

Strict action should be taken against them so that the series of targeting national institutions for political purposes can be ended, they said.

Speaking to a hurriedly called meeting Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) President Mohammad Ahmed, SVP Karim Aziz Malik, VP Usman Shoukat, Mian Akram Farid, Khalid Javed, Tariq Sadiq, Nasir Khan, Zakaria Usman, Mian Waqas Masood, Mahmood Waraich, Umair Khattak, Tahir Ayub, Convener Coordinator IIA Malik Sohail Hussain and the business leaders representing different markets of including I-8, I-10, I-11 and Blue Area said that we are indebted to those who sacrificed their lives for the motherland and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for them.

The business leaders said that they will stand by the army to thwart the evil intentions of the enemies of the country.

Vandalising of the army and private property across the country was unjustified, which caused a loss of billions of rupees to the economy, while the country's reputation was also affected, they said.

IIA leaders called it an attack on the integrity of Pakistan and noted that every patriot of Pakistan is worried about these incidents.

Some divisive politicians are trying to get away with these incidents despite the clear evidence, which is reprehensible, they observed.

The army has shown exemplary discipline and restraint during vandalism, but this should not be done in the future, but they should be crushed with full force, otherwise, the miscreants will be encouraged.

The business leaders noted that the country's economy can afford another MQM and country should not be pushed to a civil war in the name of democracy.

Malik Sohail said that the army, with the help of the business community, should clean the country from all the selfish and self-interested politicians who are putting the integrity of the country at stake.

Political stability is the pre-requisite for the strengthening of the economy and a must for the survival of the country and the current loathsome drive is actually aimed at creating chaos and uncertainty in the country.

Discussing

ISLAMABAD: Karim Aziz Malik, SVP, Islamabad Industrial Association Captain (R) Noor Alamin Mengal, Chairman CDA, Chief Commissioner ICT is discussing the issue of industrial areas. IIA President Muhammad Ahmed is also seen in the picture.



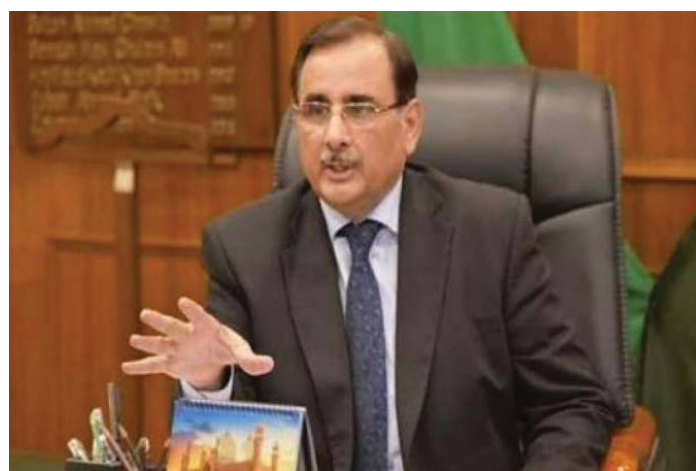
Spokesman photo by Raja Farid

BMP calls for growth-oriented Budget 2023-24 for trade and industry

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called for a growth-oriented Budget 2023-24 for the trade and industry, suggesting the government to make visible reduction in taxes, helping revive the businesses in the country, urging the government to hold thorough consultations with all stakeholders including the business community on the upcoming federal budget.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that the his group in consultation with business community across Pakistan has finalized its budget proposals, which have been sent to the relevant departments and called upon the government to incorporate them in the Federal Budget 2023-24 as their implementation would address the key issues of trade and industry, facilitate better growth of business activities, improve tax revenue of government and help in revival of



economy.

He stressed the need for reforming and simplifying the taxation system in consultation with the real stakeholders.

Dilating upon the key features of proposals, he said that the impact of political uncertainty has badly affected business and industrial sector and stressed that government should bring down GST and policy interest rate in order to ease the difficulties of business community.

North Waziristan Inter-Madrassa Futsal Tournament ended

Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: In North Waziristan for the first time Inter-Madrassa Futsal Competitions were held from May 6 to May 13, 2023. Teams of 30 madrasas from all tehsils of North Waziristan participated in these competitions.

The closing ceremony of which was held yesterday at Younis Khan Stadium Miran Shah, General Officer Commanding 7 Division Major General Muhammad Naeem Akhtar was the chief guest of the ceremony and apart from this, Deputy Commissioner Rehan Khattak, DPO Salim Riaz, tribal elders, civil and military officials, students of madrasas, dignitaries and people participated in



large numbers. The final match was played between two Madrasas Tapi Madrasa and Sarbankai and Madrasa Sarbankai won

the match and took the tournament.

On this occasion to whom GOC Seven Division Muhammad Naeem Akhtar gave the Umrah package and other prominent players, teams and trophies and cash prizes.

Addressing the GOC said that there is no shortage of talent among the youth of Waziristan, But they do not have the same opportunities that are available to the youth of other parts of the country. However, we all have to work together to provide these opportunities for the youth here.

He further said that for this purpose, very soon, i.e. next month, such activities will be organized in which the youth of the entire Waziristan will be given an opportunity.



A meeting of President ACP & Secretary, KPA, held with Mr. Bakhtiar MD, T'CKP in Peshawar. Abu Zafar Sadiq & Najeeb Khattak discussed various programs for Joint collaboration To begin with it was agreed that TCKP shall support Eco Summer Snow for KPAA. More activities shall be planned in Summer to promote sports tourism in KP.

Tennis event of 34th National Games from Monday



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) in collaboration with Balochistan Tennis Association will be organizing the tennis event of the 34th National Games at PTF Tennis Complex, Garden Avenue, Islamabad.

The eighth-day event that commences on Monday will conclude on May 29, a PTF spokesman said on Sunday.

Elite players of the 10 leading provincial and departments team of the country, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Pakistan Navy, Higher Education Commission ((HEC), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Islamabad are participating in the event.

The strength of men athletes is 39 along with 10 officials, whereas that of women athletes is 30 women's athletes with seven officials.

Six events will be played: Men's Team Event, Men's Individual Singles and doubles, Women's Team Event, Women's Individual Singles and Doubles.

Pakistan outwit Hong Kong in Women's Baseball Asia Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan got off to a flying start in the 3rd Asian Women's Baseball Championship (Women's Baseball Asia Cup), downing hosts Hong Kong 16-1 in their inaugural fixture on Sunday, according to information received here.

Pakistan's hitters Alina Masood scored four runs, Zahida Ghanani chipped in with three runs, while Ayesha Ejaz, Arim Barkat and Tasmia Rubab scored two runs apiece.

One run each was scored by Sana Arooj, Manahil Ahmed and Najma Zafar.

Sadia Bibi showed excellent pitching on behalf of Pakistan. In other encounters, India defeated Thailand 9-8 in a thrilling contest, while Indonesia tamed Sri Lanka 24-3.

Pakistan will take on Sri Lanka in their second match on Monday, while in their third match, they will face Indonesia on Tuesday.

Champions Barcelona suffer defeat at home ahead of trophy celebration

A Sports

BARCELONA: Mikel Merino and Alexander Sorloth struck goals in each half to give Real Sociedad a 2-1 win at Barcelona on Saturday in La Liga.

Sociedad inflicted the first home defeat of the season upon La Liga champions on a day when they were celebrating their title triumph. With the league title already at their disposal, the fans at Camp Nou were unmoved by the team's loss and remained seated to see the post-game celebrations when Barca would lift the La Liga trophy.

However, Real Sociedad made sure to strengthen their position for the Champions League spot as they moved to 65 points, five ahead of fifth-placed Villarreal who beat Girona 2-1 earlier on Saturday.

Strikers dominate T20 phase of Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The T20 phase of the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament 2022-23 comprised four teams so the probabilities for the ACC Women's Emerging Asia Cup in Hong Kong next month could get maximum match practice ahead of the all-important event.

These emerging women cricketers, captained by Pakistan seamer Fatima Sana, formed Strikers and made the most of the opportunity by winning all three matches, defeating Challengers (42 runs), Blasters (nine wickets) and Dynamites (three runs) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Karachi.

Shawaal Zulfiqar scored 74 off 52 balls (12 fours) and all-rounder Natalia Pervaiz

hit 39 off 29 to lift Strikers to 171 for six before Anoosha Nasir's four for 19 and Tuba Hasan's two for 20 limited Sadia Iqbal-led Challengers to 129 at the Oval Academy Ground.

They inflicted a thumping defeat on Blasters, skipped by Muneeba Ali, the next day, chasing 119 with as many as nine wickets and six overs spare with Eyman Fatima smashing 72 not out off 49 (nine fours and three sixes) and Sadaf Shamas hitting 40 not out off 26 (six fours and a six) in a 104-run stand.

This young bunch displayed great nerves today when they secured a three-run win in a low-score affair at the State Bank Ground by limiting Sidra Amin's Dynamites to 89 after posting 92 for eight. Umm-e-Hani took three wickets for 18 and

Syeda Aroob Shah, Pakistan's captain in the inaugural ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup earlier in the year, took two wickets for 17.

Dynamites were the second best side with two wins – against Blasters, who remained win-less, and Challengers, whose only win came today when they beat Blasters by a staggering 96 runs, thanks to Saima Malik's five for nine.

Former Pakistan captain and Dynamites batter Bismah Maroof accumulated the most runs – 139 at an average of 139 and a strike rate of 130. She stroked back-to-back half-centuries. The two Javerias – Rauf and Khan – made 134 and 109. Rauf averaged 44.67 and scored at 129. Khan averaged 36.33 and her strike rate was 110. The two Chal-

lengers teammates made a half-century each.

Saima recorded the only five-wicket haul and the best figures with her five for nine today. She finished with six wickets, the joint most with Dynamites leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima. Saima's each wicket cost nine runs, while Fatima averaged 10.33. Strikers' Anoosah Nasir averaged 5.40 as she took five wickets in two matches.

The one-day phase of the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament commences Tuesday with three teams – Challengers, Blasters and Dynamites – playing each other twice. The final will be played on 4 June and it will be live-streamed through Pakistan Cricket Board's official YouTube channel. All matches will be staged at State Bank Ground.

Akram's fifty gives Shaheens close win over Zimbabwe Select in third one-day

A Sports

HARARE: All-rounder Qasim Akram played a heroic knock of 57 not out to steer Pakistan to a narrow win against Zimbabwe Select in the third match of the six-game one-day series on Sunday.

Shaheens were five runs ahead of the target as per the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method when bad lights stopped the play at the Harare Sports Club.

Chasing 279 runs, Shaheen scored 263/8 in 46.5 overs with the help of excellent knocks from Akram and wicket-keeper Haseebullah Khan, who made 49 from 60 balls.

Akram, however, held the fort and scripted a sensational comeback for his side after the hosts reduced Shaheens to 169/6 in the 34th over.

He gathered 68 runs with fellow spinner Mubasir Khan (30) on the seventh wicket



and continued to play his shots despite fading lights.

Earlier, Sean Williams played an excellent knock of 78 runs to help Zimbabwe Select post a massive 279-run target.

Electing to bowl first, Shaheens were unable to contain runs despite an electrifying start given by Shah Nawaz Dahani in his very first over.

He dismissed opener

Joylord Gumbie on a paltry one and went on to take three more wickets to finish with brilliant figures four for 43 in his full quota of 10 overs.

All-rounder Aamer Jamal, on the other hand, bagged three wickets while offering 60 runs to keep the hosts below 300.

For Zimbabwe, Williams top-scored with his 59-ball 78 which included six fours and three maximums.

Tadiwanashe Marumani (29), Wessly Madheveru (41) and Craig Ervine (29) also chipped in with useful contributions at the top.

Meanwhile, skipper Hamilton Masakadza (18), wicketkeeper Clive Madande (22) and Faraz Akram (19*) also put up resistance in the lower order to maintain Zimbabwe Select's dominance over Shaheens' bowlers.

Asad Ali Memon sumitting Everest

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: IoBM is thrilled to announce that our high-spirited student, Asad Ali Memon, has accomplished an extraordinary feat by successfully reaching the summit of Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world. Conquering the majestic mountain means that he is now part of an exclusive cohort of individuals to summit Mount Everest and is now the first and only person from Sindh to achieve this feat.

As he makes his descent, we wish him health and a safe return to his family and loved ones. At IoBM, we believe in fostering an environment that encourages our students to pursue their dreams and exceed their own expectations. Asad's successful ascent to the summit of Mount Everest epitomizes the values and ethos we strive to instill in all our students—a passion for exploration, an indomitable spirit, and a relentless pursuit of greatness.

As an Institute, we are proud to have supported Asad in his quest to acclaim the highest prize that exists in the world of mountaineering, that is, reaching the absolute top of the world!

PCB confirms appointments to Men's Selection Committee



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board today confirmed three appointments to the national men's selection committee, which will select senior, Shaheens and U19 sides.

The new selection committee comprises Haroon Rashid (chair), Hassan Cheema (selection committee secretary and manager analytics and team strategy for national men's side), Mickey Arthur (national men's team's director), and Grant Bradburn (national men's team's head coach).

The presence of Cheema, who has worked as strategy manager and data analyst in franchise cricket around the world, Arthur and Bradburn will aid in strategising for the approaching and upcoming series, enhance the bench strength and provide a proper pathway to performing players in Shaheens and U19 sides to graduate to the national side.

The first task of the selection committee is to name the players for the fast and spin bowling camps next month in Lahore, which will be announced in due course.

Man City win fifth Premier League title in six seasons

Sports Desk

LONDON: Manchester City won the Premier League for the fifth time in six seasons on Saturday, taking a first step to a possible golden treble of trophies as second-placed Arsenal lost 1-0 at Nottingham Forest.

The Gunners' challenge finally evaporated after a second consecutive defeat left Mikel Arteta's side four points adrift of City with one game left for them to play.

Taiwo Awoniyi's first-half goal also ensured Forest avoided relegation in their first season back in the top flight for 23 years.

City's third successive English title has turned Sunday's league game at home to Chelsea into a celebration match.

Pep Guardiola's men will now look to complete a treble when

they face local rivals Manchester United and Italian giants Inter Milan in next month's FA Cup and Champions League finals respectively.

City have become the dominant force in the English game since an Abu Dhabi-backed takeover transformed their fortunes in 2008.

But admiration for the quality of their football under manager Guardiola has also been accompanied by questions over their financing, with City facing a mammoth 115 charges for breaking Premier League rules.

Nevertheless, City captain Ilkay Gundogan insisted his side had been pushed hard this season.

"The Premier League is without doubt the most demanding and competitive league in the world so that tells you everything

about what an achievement this is," he said.

But for Arsenal manager Arteta, a former assistant to Guardiola, there were thoughts of what might have been for the longtime leaders.

"First of all congratulations to Manchester City for winning the championship but it is a sad day for us," Arteta told Sky Sports.

"Now we have to face the reality, today we gave a goal away and we were not good enough to break them down. We could play for three hours and we would not have done it."

For Cooper, Forest manager Steve Cooper told the BBC: "We limited them (Arsenal) to very little, incredible desire and we got over the line. It was everything we wished for from today. It is what the players and the supporters

particularly deserve."

– Man Utd, Newcastle eye Champions League – Manchester United and Newcastle were on the brink of qualifying for next season's Champions League after Liverpool's 1-1 draw against Aston Villa.

United's 1-0 victory at Bournemouth, combined with Liverpool's failure to beat Villa, left Erik ten Hag's men and Newcastle within touching distance of ensuring top-four finishes.

Fourth-placed United and Newcastle, in third, are both three points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool, who have only one game left.

At the Vitality Stadium, United took the lead in the ninth minute through Casemiro's acrobatic bicycle kick from close-range.

"We are nearly there, but we

are not there. I don't care what happens in Liverpool, it's about us," Ten Hag said.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp watched from the stands at Anfield as he served a touchline ban following his recent rant about referee Paul Tierney.

Villa wasted a 22nd-minute penalty when Ollie Watkins fired wide after the striker was brought down but they still went ahead five minutes later through Jacob Ramsey's volley.

Fans' favourite Roberto Firmino, set to leave Liverpool at the end of the season, came on late in the game and the Brazilian forward then marked his Anfield farewell with a close-range finish in stoppage-time.

– Everton late show – "We would have loved to make it exciting for another week, but

we will make the Europa League our competition. I am not that spoilt," said Klopp.

For Liverpool's local rivals Everton, dreams of European football have long been replaced by the need to avoid relegation.

Yerry Mina's last-gasp equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Wolves boosted the Toffees' hopes of avoiding playing in the second tier for the first time since 1954.

Sean Dyche's men fell behind after 34 minutes when Hwang Hee-chan netted from close-range.

Mina bundled in Everton's leveller nine minutes into stoppage-time to leave them fourth bottom, two points above the relegation zone, with Leeds and Leicester snapping at their heels.

"If you are a footballer you can't just sign up for the good

things," said Everton manager Dyche. "You have to fight to be in the Premier League and we are fighting."

Tottenham's season to forget hit a new low with a 3-1 home defeat against Brentford.

Spurs took the lead through Harry Kane's 28th league goal this season, but a Bryan Mbeumo brace and Yoane Wissa's late strike left them floundering in eighth place.

Frustration has mounted throughout the final weeks of a troubled season for Tottenham and fans hung banners outside the stadium pointing the finger of blame at owners ENIC, while chanting for chairman Daniel Levy to resign.

Fulham and Crystal Palace shared a 2-2 draw at Craven Cottage.