



PM urges businessmen to help govt in overcoming challenges

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday urged businessmen to help the government in overcoming the multiple challenges facing the country and take lead in creating jobs and enhancing exports. He was speaking to a gathering of businessmen and investors in Karachi. (Details on Page 8)



Govt committed to facilitate youth, says Rana Tanveer

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said that the Government was committed to facilitating the country's youth to pursue their academic goals and play their role in national development. The Minister was addressing a distribution ceremony organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Programme (Phase-III). (Details on Page 8)

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Ceremony

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the ground breaking ceremony of Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV Project) on Friday.



Photo: PID

President condoles with family members of martyred soldiers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday talked to the family members of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom in South Waziristan and Balochistan on May 20, paid tribute to the martyrs and expressed sympathies with them.



Zarghoun areas of Balochistan.

The president saluted the martyrs for their utmost love for their country and devotion to their duties. He called the family members of martyred Naek Muhammad Attique and Rajjab Ali via telephone and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to them to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

The president also talked to the family members of Sepoy Mudassar, Abdul Qadir and Zaheer Ahmed who embraced martyrdom in Gulab Post and

Dar, Blome discuss matters of mutual interest, enhancing existing bilateral relations



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator welcomed H.E. Mr. Donald Blome and shared deep rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts. The Finance Minister shared economic policies and priorities of the government to address the challenging economic environment and set the economy to stability and growth.

The two sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and enhancing the existing bilateral relations between both the countries. The Finance Minister informed the US Ambassador about the government's pragmatic plans related to revenues and expenditures for meeting its national as well as international financial obligations. He shared various economic avenues in which

both countries can further deepen their economic relations.

The Finance Minister also informed the envoy about the on-going IMF programme and assured the dedication of the government to complete the program.

H.E. Mr. Donald Blome, the US Ambassador underscored that both countries enjoy good relations and expressed confidence on the policies and programmes of the government for economic sustainability and socio-economic uplift of the masses. He extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between both the countries. Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar thanked the US Ambassador and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties with the USA.

PM asks exporters to come up with innovative ideas for boosting exports

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday stressed the country's exporters to come up with innovative and unique ideas to boost exports which would ultimately help the country earn valuable foreign exchanges.

"Despite various challenges, we have very robust, very futuristic, and extremely hardworking entrepreneurs that have gradually built Pakistan's export culture," he said while addressing a ceremony at the Textile Expo here.

He said with genuine government support combined with the entrepreneurs' extraordinary intellect and hard work, the provision of quality export goods to foreign customers would be ensured.

Welcoming the foreign delegates, the PM said he was happy to learn that over 400 foreign dele-

PM Shehbaz, FM Bilawal discuss political situation

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and discussed overall political situation in the country.

Held at the Sindh Chief Minister House, the meeting was also attended by federal ministers Syed Naveed Qamar, Syed Faisal Sabzwari, Mariyum Aurangzeb, State Minister Dr Musaddiq Malik, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and MQM leader Dr Farooq Sattar.

Commerce Minister, Secretary Commerce, and Zubair Motiwala, he said had done a commendable job by arranging this expo which would help promote the country's exports.

The PM said the textile sector constituted 60% of total exports while 40% labour force was absorbed in this sector. "It is no doubt one of the largest sectors of Pakistan's economy," he added.

He pointed out that despite financial challenges and other difficulties, the government was committed to providing genuine support to all the export sectors including textile, leather, and sports to help increase the country's export volume.

He recalled that a few decades ago, Pakistan was ahead of its neighbors in textile exports, however unfortunately it lost the grounds. "But I have no doubt in mind that we can still recover from these setbacks and take hands off the clock back to 1990s and excel in our exports," he said adding that Naveed Qamar, its team, and the finance minister combined could turn the table.

He maintained the government believed in the rule of law and merit, and come what may, the government would toe the line of constitution and policies.

Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar on the occasion

said Pakistan offered numerous opportunities for investment to foreign investors.

He stressed the need to provide more incentives to the exporters to boost the exports of the country. He also assured the entrepreneurs of the government's full support saying that it would provide a conducive environment for them to help Pakistan not only to build up the country's foreign exchange reserves but also to lessen their dependence on international lenders.

He said last month the government set up the compliance cell in the ministry to coordinate the efforts for meeting all the conditionalities for various programs including GSP Plus.

Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala said Pakistan was known for the standard textile products around the world.

SC stops proceedings of judicial commission on audio leaks

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) has stopped the proceedings of the judicial commission on audio leaks and suspended the notification issued by the federal government.

The Supreme Court (SC) issued its ruling on the petitions against the judicial commission on audio leaks constituted by the federal government.

The bench — headed by CJP Bandial and comprising Justice Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed — heard the petitions.

In its ruling, the top court stopped the proceedings of the audio leak commission and issued notices to the parties. The top court will resume the hearing of the petitions on May 31, the written verdict read.

The notification regarding the audio leak commission issued on May 19 was also suspended by the SC.

The order read that the constitution of the inquiry commission was challenged in four petitions filed in the

Supreme Court. During the hearing, the attorney general raised objections to the bench's constitution in the initial arguments.

The attorney general also raised objections to the inclusion of the chief justice in the bench. The order read that it is a constitutional requirement to seek permission from the chief



justice prior to acquiring the services of a judge.

It further stated that two judges included in the inquiry commission were chief justices of high courts.

The federal government constitution of the commission without seeking permission from the chief justice and violated the constitutional principle, whereas, the constitution process was also suspicious.

The federal government formed a

three-member judicial commission, led by Supreme Court senior puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa, to probe the multiple audio leaks pertaining to the judiciary.

The other members of the judicial commission include Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Islamabad High Court (IHC) CJ Aamer Farooq.

According to the notification issued by the government: "WHEREAS, recently wide circulations of controversial audios have been witnessed on the national electronic, print and social media, allegedly regarding the Judiciary and former Chief Justices/Judges, conversation raising serious apprehensions about the independence, impartiality and uprightness of the Chief Justices/Judges of the Superior Courts in the administration of justice". It added that such audio leaks had eroded public trust and serious concerns had been raised by the general public regarding "independence, impartiality and uprightness of the Chief Justices/Judges of the Superior Courts".

Indian origin citizen tries to attack White House, 'seize power'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: People in India had fallen victim to the ideology of extremism and this extremist thinking was reflected in an incident in which an Indian origin citizen tried to enter the White House in Washington and carry out an attack.

According to Hindustan Times, the U.S. authorities this week arrested 19-year-old, Indian-origin Sai Varshith Kandula for crashing truck into White House barriers when Joe Biden was inside. The young man who was accused of deliberately crashing a rented U-Haul truck into the White House barrier told authorities that he wanted to get inside the mansion to "seize power" and "kill" US President Joe Biden, according to media reports.

Imran Khan 'mastermind' of May 9 attacks: Maryam Nawaz

Bureau Report

VIHARI: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz called former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan 'mastermind of May 9 attacks'.

While addressing PML-N workers convention in Vihari, Maryam Nawaz condemned May 9 riots after the arrest of PTI chief Imran Khan. He alleged that the miscreants carried out organised attacks on military installations including Corps Commander House in Lahore.

She further alleged that Imran Khan had given the tasks and targets to the miscreants who attacked the military installations. She added that Imran Khan was not solely involved in the May 9 attacks but his facilitators should also be held accountable.

Accord inked with Google for 45,000 scholarships this year: Fed IT Minister



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Aminul Haq has said that an agreement has been inked with Google for 45,000 scholarships, which will increase up to 450,000 next year.

At least 40 percent of the scholarships of Google will be for women.

He said this while addressing the Startups for Industries and IT Exports conference at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATTI), here on Friday. The Minister said that the

Google company had earlier given only 15,000 scholarships last year, but these were increased after consultation.

The Federal IT Minister said that a building has been constructed in NED University at a cost of \$ 1.6 million for gaming and animation, for further promotion and growth of this industry.

Dignitaries including KATI Vice Patron Zubair Chhaya, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Senior Vice President Nighat Awan, Chairperson of Standing Committee Maheen Salman, Former President Saleem-Uz-Zaman, Masood Naqvi, Razaq Hashim Paracha, Ehtishamuddin, experts from universities, National Incubation Centers, students, teachers and start-ups participated in large numbers in the event.

Gathering of Businessmen

KARACHI: A delegation of leading businessmen and industrialists calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Governor House on Friday.



Photo: PID

PM urges businessmen to help govt in overcoming challenges

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday urged businessmen to help the government in overcoming the multiple challenges facing the country and take lead in creating jobs and enhancing exports.

Speaking to a gathering of businessmen and investors here, he said Pakistan was faced with multiple challenges and the economy could only make progress in the presence of political stability.

He said common man wanted facilities of health and education, service deliv-

ery and resolution of everyday problems.

He said in the last one year inflation went high in the country and at the international level, adding the inflation was acutely high even when he formed the government a year ago.

He pointed out that political instability was cause of present difficult economic conditions.

The last government broke agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and then the country was devastated by the biggest climate-induced floods of the century, he mentioned.

The prime minister said the federal government spent Rs 100 billion – Rs 72 billion through the Benazir Support Programme and Rs 20 billion through National Disaster Management Authority – for rehabilitation of flood affectees besides the billions of rupees spent by provincial governments for the same purpose.

Another reason of economic hardship was the rise in international oil prices and the substantial increase in the oil import bill, he remarked.

During COVID pandemic, he said the gas prices were low in the international market

but the previous government did not sign agreements for the purchase of gas.

Shehbaz said International Monetary Fund imposed stringent conditions for its loan programme and still his government met all of those conditions and many friendly countries came forward and bridged the financing gaps faced by Pakistan without putting any conditions.

Brotherly countries wished Pakistan to make progress and Chinese government and even their commercial banks rolled over the loans, he said adding the government sincerely tried to avail the IMF programme

and the Chinese Prime Minister also cooperated with Pakistan. "We are trying to sign an agreement with IMF as soon as possible."

He credited businessmen with the continuous economic growth seen over the last decades, adding however, now a major chunk of the investment was made in real estate projects and high rises and the exports had come down.

He said our armed forces faced the enemy with bravery in the wars and now it was unfortunate to see that on May 9, barbaric acts were committed and monuments of our martyrs were desecrated.

On President's notice, CAA waives off charges for wheel chairs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Friday directed airlines to refrain from receiving money for providing facility of wheel chairs to handicapped persons and elderly.

The instructions were issued after President Dr Arif Alvi took notice of the matter raised in social media.

The President in a letter asked the aviation authority to either waive off the charges or ask airlines to bear the cost of providing wheel chairs to the persons in need.

Punishment of Capitol Hill attackers gives fitting reply to advocates of armed group in Pakistan: Marriyum



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said the advocates and spokespersons of the armed group that attacked national heritage, civilian properties and sensitive installations on May 9 had received fitting response from the United States.

"The punishment of the activists and their leaders for attacking the Capitol Hill in the United States

shows the difference between democratic protest and attack on the state," she said in a tweet.

The minister said whether it was the US, Britain or Pakistan, no state tolerated the desecration of the national symbols in sheer violation of constitution and law.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of senior journalist Ashraf Mumtaz. The minister, in a condolence message, prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

She also sympathized with the bereaved family and said she was saddened by hearing the news of the senior journalist's demise.

7 FIRs regarding May 9 incidents to be tried in military courts: Sanaullah



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah shedding light on the May 9 violent protests and providing key statistics regarding the ensuing investigations and arrests Friday revealed that a total of 499 First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered in connection with the incidents, and out of those, only six or seven cases would be tried in military courts.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that the trial of 33 individuals involved in the May 9 mayhem had been shifted to the military courts.

They were involved in attacking army installations during the protests that followed the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, he added.

The minister informed that of the 33 individuals, 19 belonged to Punjab, while the remaining 14 were from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK).

Addressing the concerns raised about the enforcement of the Military Act on civilians, he clarified that military would investigate the cases but not take cognizance of them.

He said that they would determine whether the Army Act or the Official Secrets Act applied in each situation.

He said the Official Secrets Act and the Military Act were applicable to the violation of every defense and military location.

He questioned that how and why the attack on Jinnah House, which was not just residence of military officials but a camp office of the Corps Commander and housed highly sensitive information and data, should be considered a political protest, adding it was the matter of national defence.

He said the matter came within the jurisdiction of the Military Act, which was enforced in 1952, as the miscreants took important items such as laptops that might contain sensitive data, and there were chances that this data and information might get into the hands of the county's enemies.

The minister said over 5,000 individuals were apprehended, with approximately 80% of them already had released on bail.

Sanaullah expressed a resolute stance that the assemblies would complete their tenure, adding a caretaker setup would be established, and elections for all assemblies would be held simultaneously across the country on time.

Govt committed to facilitate youth, says Rana Tanveer

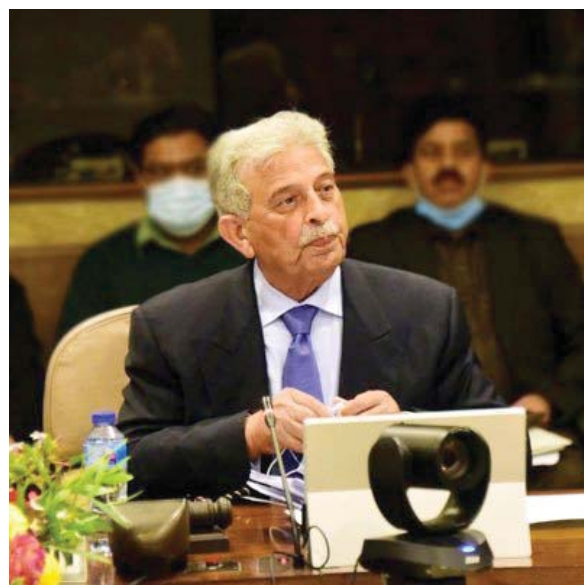
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer-Hussain on Friday said that the Government was committed to facilitating the country's youth to pursue their academic goals and play their role in national development.

The Minister was addressing a distribution ceremony organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Programme (Phase-III).

On this occasion, 37 Electric Wheelchairs were distributed among the students of different universities.

Rana Tanveer observed that differently-abled youth are very talented and have a great vision



about progress in life.

He said the Government has

launched a number of initiatives under the Prime Minister's

Youth Programme as youth are the country's asset.

He stressed the need for ensuring maximum facilitation to the youth facing physical challenges.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed briefed the Minister on the implementation of various projects under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

He informed the Minister that HEC has collected data of physically challenged university students particularly those facing mobility issues, visual impairment, and hearing problems.

He added that as the next stage of the scheme, these students will be provided with the gadgets and tools required.

In her opening remarks, Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail shed light on

the background and status of the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Scheme.

She said that the distribution of a total of 600 electric wheelchairs among students with different needs was planned in three phases of the scheme, launched in 2017.

She said 206 electric wheelchairs were provided to students in the first phase, while 159 wheelchairs were handed over to students in the second phase. She maintained that in the ongoing last phase, 240 wheelchairs are to be provided to the students.

On this occasion, wheelchair recipients also expressed their views and appreciated the Government and HEC for effectively implementing the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Scheme.

UAJK hosts National Curriculum Revision for Industrial Engineering

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) hosted the three-day final meeting of the HEC-National Technology Council (NTC) National Curriculum Revision Committee (NCRC) for BSc Industrial Engineering Technology Academic Programs from May 24 to May 26, 2023. The objective of the meeting was to develop a national-level curriculum for the Industrial Engineering Program. Esteemed guests and experts from various universities and institutions came together to collaborate on the development of the Industrial Engineering Curriculum.

Pakistan Week concludes in China with fruitful results

Spokesman Report

BELJING: The 2023 Pakistan Week, scheduled from May 18 to May 24, came to a successful close in Dujiangyan, Chengdu, Sichuan, China.

Themed "Working hand in hand for a closer China-Pakistan bond under the Belt and Road Initiative", the 7-day event showcased traditional Pakistani clothes, dazzling jewellery and hand-made rugs copied from ancient Chinese artists, which vividly interpreted the fusion and collision of Chinese and Pakistani culture.

"Children are our future. That is why I was particularly excited to have the opportunity to visit Wanhui Academy in Dujiangyan, to talk to representatives and discuss Pakistan-China relations," noted Agha Hunain, Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu, expressing his excitement to communicate with local children and representatives to know more about the long-lasting friendship between both countries, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

During the event, the Chinese city of Dujiangyan and the Pakistani city of Murree signed a Letter of Intent for the



establishment of a sister-city relationship to cement people-to-people exchanges and enhance practical cooperation.

Also the military action-romance film "Parvaaz Hai Junoon" was screened for local residents to enjoy the charm of the friendly country on their doorsteps.

According to Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, this cultural week will promote the understanding of Sichuan people on

Pakistan, and effectively boost the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in fields of culture, tourism, economy, trade, and education.

Hosted by Sichuan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Dujiangyan Municipal Government, and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu, the event is an important part of the 2023 China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchanges.

25 new crime scene units have been launched in districts: Karachi Police Chief

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: 25 new crime scene units equipped with 8 modern technology vehicles and 12 to 14 trained police personnel in each unit have been set up round the clock high alert in different districts told Additional Inspector General of Police Javed Alam Odho in a statement.

According to the spokesman, 25 new crime scene units have been inaugurated, the purpose of establishing offices in all districts of Karachi is to make the crime scene safe and secure in a timely manner and to innovate and improve the investigation.

It was further informed in the meeting that the main objective of the Crime Scene Unit is to secure the evidence from the spot and to enable the investigating officers to

access the accused and to convict the accused in the Court on the basis of solid evidence.

ADIG Crime, SSP Malir, SP Headquarters, DSP Crime Scene Unit and other officers participated on this occasion.

Meanwhile, special measures have been taken regarding high security alert in Karachi parts during Friday prayers.

Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho issued orders to make all security arrangements and measures very concrete and extraordinary in Metropolitan city during offering prayers on Friday.

On the occasion of Friday prayers, instructions are issued to ensure the deployment of police personnel in plain clothes and uniforms on the sides of mosques and Imambargahs and on the main roads.

Seminar on 'Global Development Initiative - Catalyst for Development Cooperation'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized a seminar on "Global Development Initiative - Catalyst for Development Cooperation" today.

The Chief Guest at the seminar was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairperson Senate Defense Committee. Former Ambassador to China Mr. Masood Khalid was the keynote speaker. Other Speakers included: Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy Ms. Pang Chunxue; Assistant Professor and Director of China Study Centre, COMSATS University, Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan; Assistant Professor, International Relations Faculty of Contemporary Sciences, National Defence University, Islamabad, Dr. Sumeera Inman; and Deputy Director of Institute of South Asian Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Dr. Wang Shida. The seminar was moderated by Director CPSC, Dr. Talat Shabbir.

While delivering his address, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed lauded China for the launch of the far-reaching and consequential Global Development Initiative (GDI). He stated that the world was currently experiencing both transformation and turmoil. Different leaders were describing this decade in different ways. President Macron had accurately stated that this decade marked the end of 300 years of western dominance. The current era was witnessing the rise of China and the 'Asian Century.' Despite global conflicts, climate change, poverty, and energy-related challenges, China had shown impressive leadership. China's global strategy included the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative, which shared many similarities.

In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that GDI was a critical initiative launched by China at a time when the world was deeply affected by health and economic effects of Covid-19 pandemic and the deficit in the achieve-

ment of SDGs was growing. President Xi Jinping presented the GDI at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2021 to pool efforts to tackle the challenges of the world and to facilitate the post-pandemic recovery. He noted that Pakistan was one of the first countries to lend its strong support for the GDI. Pakistan was also among the first countries to become a member of the GDI's 'Group of Friends' at the United Nations. A lot of progress had since been achieved from that platform.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir stated that GDI aimed to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda by focusing on people-oriented development. It sought to promote stronger, greener, and healthier global development by revitalizing global development partnerships.

Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, noted that GDI was a re-prioritization of SDGs and rejuvenation of global development efforts. Noting that GDI was an initiative that aimed to reactivate inter-



national development cooperation, she highlighted in detail the progress made in advancing the aims and objectives of GDI through practical cooperation with partner countries and organizations. She added that Pakistan occupied the position of a 'priority partner' in the GDI framework. The two countries needed to work hand-in-glove in the domains of agriculture, industry, technology and all other areas of mutual interest.

Ambassador Masood Khalid, while expressing his views, said that the launch

of Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI) was taking place at a time of major transformation in the international system. The major motivation behind GDI was the adverse impact of COVID-19. GDI aimed to take advantage of technology, innovation and modern infrastructure in order to tackle the issues faced by the world.

Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan from COMSATS University noted that as

people, development and civilizations were linked GDI, GSI and GCI inter-linked initiatives. The Global Development Initiative by China talked about collective development of all countries.

Dr. Sumeera Inman from NDU, while expressing her views, said that GDI reflected President Xi's agenda of global responsibility. It was a model initiative which aimed to boost mutual cooperation.

Dr. Wang Shida, from the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), said that the essence of President Xi Jinping's Global Development Initiative was based on some core objectives, which included: adhering to priorities, inclusivity, innovation drive, action-oriented approaches, capacity building, and economic cooperation.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG ISSI, in his concluding remarks, stated that the key objective of GDI was that development should be at the centre of all human efforts. Problems of development could be solved by joint and concerted efforts.

AKNS organized a grand ceremony in honor of Raja Azhar Iqbal

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: All Kashmir Newspaper Society (AKNS) organized a grand ceremony in honor of Director General Information Government of Azhar Raja Azhar Iqbal in his honor at National Press Club Islamabad. Former President PFUJ Afzal Butt, President AKNS Amjad Chaudhry, President National Press Club, Anwar Raza, General Secretary AKNS Zaheer Jagwal, President RIUJ Abid Abbasi, President Central Press Club Muzaffarabad Wahid Iqbal Butt, General Secretary National Press Club Senior journalists including Khalid Ahmed Raja, former presidents of AKNS Sardar Zahid Tabsum, Aamir Mehboob gave a warm welcome to DG Information Raja Azhar Iqbal and presented him a bouquet.

Addressing the event, Director General Information Raja Azhar Iqbal thanked the journalists Mr Afzal Butt and All Kashmir Newspaper Society (AKNS) and said that I am grateful to the leadership of the National



Press Club and all my journalist brothers who have honored me during my career in journalism. I have been associated with the field of journalism for four decades. I understand that it is not easy for journalists to organize an event for any government official.

He said that I am grateful to everyone for the ideas that my friends have expressed. I have received your support. You have supported me everywhere, which also boosted my motivation. I am grateful to Allah Almighty. He said that there were difficulties in hard work, but Allah Almighty showed great mercy. He said that I had told my colleagues from the

first day that we have to calculate our salary and fulfill it. I have to pay in full, which also created the department and also served for journalism. I am very grateful to you for honoring me on this big forum, thank you all very much. AKNS President Amjad Chaudhry paid tribute to DG Information Raja Azhar Iqbal for his valuable services to the department and journalism. But if you go to the information department office today, you will find that the information department is the richest department in Azad Kashmir. He had always solved the problems of the newspapers.

AKNS Founder President Sardar

Zahid Tabsum said that the purpose of today's solemn ceremony is to recognize the services of DG Information Raja Azhar Iqbal during this entire period, he established the best working relationship between journalists and the government.

RIUJ President Abid Abbasi paid tribute to the services of DG Information. And appreciated the organization of this event by AKNS, he said that Raja Azhar Iqbal will never retire from our hearts, his role in the construction of Muzaffarabad Press Club and support of District Press Clubs will be remembered. Your role in the development of newspapers will always be remembered, he said that you have developed links with various journalistic institutions of Pakistan, we are praying for you. President Editor Council Raja Kafeel Ahmed said.

That DG Information who is the shining star of Azad Kashmir Civil Service, he said that Raja Azhar Iqbal's tenure with newspapers was very wonderful, he has done excellent work, we appreciate his role.

World Bank approves \$213 million for the flood-affected communities of Balochistan

News Desk

WASHINGTON: As part of the program agreed with the Government of Pakistan to respond to the devastating floods that hit the country last summer and build a climate-resilient Pakistan, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved \$213 million in financing to improve livelihoods and essential services and enhance risk protection in communities affected by the 2022 floods, with a focus on Balochistan Province.

"We will be working closely with the Government of Balochistan to support the affected communities by providing livelihood support and rehabilitating irrigation and flood protection infrastructures," said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan.

"This will not only help restore livelihoods but also protect the population by improving their resilience to potential future climate-related disasters and natural hazards. This project is part of the comprehensive package of post-floods rehabilitation and resilient-reconstruction program agreed with the authorities."

The Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP) will provide housing reconstruction grants to approximately 35,100 homeowners to rebuild their homes following resilience standards and livelihood grants to smallholder farmers to support livestock, promote climate-smart agriculture and other productive activities. It will also help restore essential services by rehabilitating damaged community infrastructure and facilities such as water supply, irrigation, roads, and community facilities.

"Balochistan is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters due to its geographical location, socioeconomic background, and climate change," said Yoro Sidibe, Senior Water Specialist at the World Bank.

"This project will help provide economic opportunities to the affected communities while ensuring social inclusion and participation. It will also strengthen institutional capacity in terms of preparedness and response to future disasters."

The project will benefit approximately 2.7 million people in selected communities in calamity-declared districts across Balochistan.

It will mitigate flood risks through a combination of resilient protection infrastructure, enhancing early warning systems, while ensuring that women have access to this system and disaster risk management information. IFRAP will restore degraded watersheds and strengthen institutional capacity at both the provincial and local level.

Umar Jahangir pays tribute to martyrs of Pakistan Army, security forces, law enforcement agencies and police

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner pays tribute to martyrs of Pakistan forces, law enforcement agencies and police on Pakistan Martyrs' Day.

Martyrs laid the foundation of the bright future of this nation with their blood. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir.

The entire nation is proud of its martyrs and is indebted to them for



their sacrifices. Umar Jahangir Today we salute all the martyrs and veterans including the Pakistan Army and Police.

The precious blood of millions of martyrs and Ghazis is included in the establishment, survival and integrity of Pakistan Multan district and civil society along with Pakistan forces and security forces are celebrating Martyrs' Day today with full determination.

IESCO issues 2-day power suspension in Attock, Rawalpindi

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday issued 2-day power suspension programme for Saturday and Sunday for various areas of its region including Attock due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period on Saturday from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Nogzi, Bajni-al Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, RCCT-1, 2, 3, 4&5, Chowk Pandorian, Sahala, IST, New Rawat, Shahpur, Dhok Noor, Chahan, Chontra, Rajar, Chakri, SPD, SPF, Fazal Ahmed Shaheed, Choa Khalsa, River Garden.1&2, Swan Garden.

II Feeders, Islamabad Circle, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, Naval-1&2 Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Rizwan Mill, Sarpak, Islamia Chowk, Chakral Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Puran, Khore, Fatehpur, Sarai Alamgir, Shukrila, Mandi Bhalwal, Military College, New Khanqah Feeders, From 08:00 am to 01:00 PM, Attock Circle, Taxi-la 1, 2, Sher Shah Suri, Mainawala Feeders, Moreover 132KV Jhelum, Bara Guwah, Sanghui, Dinah, Sohawa, Rajar, LB Mangala, RB Mangala, Mirpur, New Mirpur, Chakswari, Islamgarh, Chatter pari and Dhadyal grid stations Load management required 35-40 megawatts on demand on Sunday From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Cantt Circle Rawalpindi, Askari-7, Khadhwan Hussain Road, VIP, Jhanda, Rawalpindi-III Feeders, On 27th & 28th May 2023 From 06:00 AM to 06:00 PM, GSO Circle, Pindi Point, Barian, Public Health, Gharidal, PAF, Upper Topa, Lora, Patriata, Company Bagh, Cecil Roster, Lora 2, MCM, TDGP, Kohala, Sunny Bank, Kaldana, PC, Dhirkot Chamankot, Ranga, Dana Express, Dhala, Sohawah, Nimbal, Beirut Kazmi, Dhirkot-II, Desto, PAECE, Shahadara, Angori, T&T, DESTO, Bahria Golf City, Shahpur, Athal Treat, Mangyal Feeders and surrounding areas.

President AJK hails diaspora community's role in keeping issue of Kashmir alive at international level



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azam Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said Kashmiris settled in the UK have played a key role in keeping the issue of Kashmir alive at international level. He expressed these views in a detailed meeting with senior leaders of Kashmir Peace Forum International Chaudhry Shaban and Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, who called him here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that on the occasion of the G-20 working group meeting Kashmiri diaspora community organized protests all across the globe to express their resentment against India's contentious move. He said that demonstrations were held in more than 20 cities of the UK against the holding of the G-20 conference in Srinagar. Highlighting Britain's role in resolving the Kashmir dispute, the president said that Kashmir is the festering legacy of partition. The Kashmir problem, he said, arose when Britain left the region after ending its two hundred years of rule in the subcontinent.

He said that the Kashmir issue has entered into a critical juncture and it was the responsibility of every conscious citizen of the state, especially those settled in UK, Europe, and other parts of the world to raise the Kashmir issue before the international community. On this occasion, Chaudhry Shaaban, Senior Advisor Kashmir Peace Forum International America, UK and Europe and Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, President Kashmir Peace Forum International Midland, invited the President to visit the UK.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No.SW/A-8/2022-23/983 Dated Islamabad the 26/05/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed bids are invited on Percentage Rates Basis single stage one envelope for the below mentioned work from the firms having registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), (relevant category C-6 or above) with specialization codes EE-04 & CE-10 for the year 2022-23 having valid Electrical License. The bid shall comprise separate technical and financial proposals as per PPR rule 36(a). Tender documents can be purchased upon written request from the office of undersigned upto **12/06/2023**. The applications shall be submitted from legally authorized representatives of the firms. Application shall accompanied with affidavit of non-blacklisting/debaring, non-involvement in fraudulent practices, forging or misleading in past. The firms shall also provide ownership documents i.e. sole proprietor/partnership/private limited from relevant authorities (i.e. other than PEC) without any sub-judice or disputed status.

The sealed bids shall be received on **13/06/2023** upto 02:00 PM and will be opened at 02:30 PM on same day. Fixed bid security i.e. call deposit or irrecoverable bank guarantee shall be provided with the technical proposal otherwise it shall be treated as non-responsive. Procuring agency reserve the right to accept or reject all bids or proposal at any time prior to acceptance of bid/proposal as per PPR Rule 33(1). The interested firm/companies must have security clearance from the quarter concerned while participating in the bidding.

Technical proposal shall comprise documents given in eligibility criteria of tender documents. Responsiveness of each technical bid will be determined before opening financial proposal. The financial bids of only responsive bidders will be considered and announced. Financial proposal shall comprise of tender document, firms are not allowed to quote their rates other than specified and blank financial proposal shall be declared as non-responsive.

SR.	NAME OF WORK	Cost of Tender	Fixed call Deposit	NIT Amount	Completion Period	Financial Limit of Contractor
01.	Refurbishment of Prime Minister's Office at Islamabad.	2, 000/-	200, 000	9, 900, 800	01-Month after completion of Civil work	C-6 or Above EE-04 CE-10

(Executive Engineer)
Store & Workshop Division
Pak PWD, Islamabad.

PID (I) No. 7306/22

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:21 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	5:02 pm
Maghrib	7:09 pm
Isha	8:49 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 1126
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

VC AIOU visits regional campus Sargodha

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : "Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is taking various steps to further improve the quality of education. Consultation with all stakeholders is necessary to achieve the goals," said Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood yesterday at the Regional Campus of AIOU in Sargodha. He met with the tutors, examiners, and staff and said that providing all possible facilities to the students and improvement of the academic quality of AIOU are my top priorities.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the faculty members, principal officers, regional directors, employees, tutors, resource persons, examination, and other staff are the stakeholders of the university, and we all must work together to raise the quality of education of AIOU. Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmad Khan, and the Head of Sargodha Regional Campus, Dr. Zubair Ahmad Shah also accompanied the Vice Chancellor in this meeting.

Dr. Nasir along with his team visited the under-construction building of the University's Regional Campus. He inspected the construction work and directed the early completion of the project. The new regional campus of the university will provide state-of-the-art educational facilities to the students of the Sargodha region.

People's Party's lawyers forum paid tribute to Pakistan Army's martyrs

Kiran Asim

MULTAN : The Martyrs' Day ceremony, which was held at Yadgar Shauhada Cantt, where Pakistan Army and people from other sectors participated, the Pakistan People's Party's Lawyers Forum, also known as PLF is led by Sheikh Ghiyas, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, along with other lawyers.

During the ceremony, Sheikh Ghiyasul Haque said that the Pakistan Army is the security of Pakistan, the development of Pakistan and the protection of Pakistan's borders. In every disaster in every weather, Pakistan Army is the first to come forward and play its role to protect the lives of its people. Whether it is a festival or a special occasion, the soldiers of Pakistan Army are always standing on their borders to protect and ensure the safety of its people.

When the Indian Air Force violated Pakistan's borders in Azad Kashmir, the Pakistani Air Force shot down the plane. Sheikh-ul-Haq says that the morale of Pakistani forces is very high. During this event, Nagina Haraj Advocate said that the armed forces which are protecting every inch of Pakistan, wherever there are men, there we women also stand side by side with the forces of Pakistan.

Enemies should not think that Pakistan is a weak country, because Pakistan made a nuclear explosion, that destroyed the



peace of India. Pakistan is a nuclear and peaceful country. In the face of terrorism, the people have given sacrifices along with their forces. 45000 soldiers and officers have also been martyred.

As a lawyer, we will fight the case of Pakistan in every forum of the world. Pakistanis are a brave and lively nation that does not believe in terrorism, but whoever will volute the borders of Pakistan belongs to any religion, any color. Be it race or politics, we will crush it with the forces of Pakistan. In this event Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Captain Retired Saqib Zafar and also the people of Pakistan's security agencies, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan and the police were represented here by regional officer, international media representatives, civil society and civil administration had been attended.

Paintings exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Women are taking interest in paintings during exhibition entitled "ABSENT/PRESENT" at Art Gallery in F-6 Markaz, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Alibaba.com joins forces with TEXPO 2023

City Desk

KARACHI: Global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce platform Alibaba.com today announced that it will participate in the 4th International Textile Exhibition (TEXPO 2023) to be hosted by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) from 26-28 May 2023, with an aim of connecting Pakistani textile exporters with its community of more than 40 million buyers worldwide.

The three-day TEXPO 2023 is set to provide a platform for industry players to showcase their offerings to a global audience, establish valuable connections and explore collaborations. During the event,



Pakistani suppliers and manufacturers in the textile industry are welcome to visit the Alibaba.com showcase on-site to learn about the opportunities presented by B2B e-commerce and the digital tools provided by Alibaba.com that can help exporters go global.

With its commitment to

supporting local SMEs in the digital era, Alibaba.com has already witnessed the growth of many textile exporters in Pakistan. Among them are Aziz Ur Rehman and Sadia Aziz, whose baby apparel business has grown tenfold to surpass PKR 10 million in annual export volume in 2021 since joining Alibaba.com in 2020. Their e-commerce journey on Alibaba.com stands as a testament to the transformative power of digitalization and the vast opportunities available from the online export market.

Textile industry players looking to expand to international markets are encouraged to get in touch with Alibaba.com representatives at booth 1-55 during TEXPO 2023.

Women University of Multan holds awareness session on Productivity

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The linkage of academia and industry has a strategic role in developing critical skills required by industry (both production and service sector), generation, acquisition, and adoption of knowledge, and in promoting entrepreneurship (start-ups and spin-offs). In this regard, NPO, joined Women's university Multan community for the awareness session on Productivity with an objective of Economically Productive and Globally Competitive Pakistan.



The office of Research Innovation and Commercialization, The Women University Multan under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Uzma Quraishi, Vice Chancellor, in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) organized an awareness session on Productivity & walk with faculty and students at Katchery Campus, WUM. NPO is presently operating under the umbrella of the Ministry of Industries & Production (MoI&P), Government of Pakistan, and is an active member of Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo-Japan. The awareness seminar started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Dr. Kanwal Rehman, Director ORIC, WUM formally welcomed the guests. Dr. Saima Nasreen, research manager ORIC, WUM gave an overview of the NPO followed by the presentation by Mr. Ch. Moiz from NPO highlighting the role of organization as sole Government body undertaking Productivity with Quality Initiatives In Pakistan. In fact, this session paved a way to explore opportunities for capacity building and trainings for WUM Faculty and Students through APO Tokyo-Japan as the session focused on availability of such opportunities. Further, Mr. Saddarudin Gillani, Incharge, regional NPO, Multan himself and on behalf of Mr. Aftab Khan, DGM, NPO highlighted the objectives of session. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi presented shield to NPO representatives and appreciated the session for highlighting opportunity of using NPO platform to showcase research products and bringing them to market by filling the gap between industry need and academia

FGEI and ACT inked LoU for Educating Trans-Community

News Desk



RAWALPINDI : A formal ceremony for signing the Letter of Understanding (LoU) between Federal Government Educational Institutions (Cants and Garrisons) Directorate and a not-for-profit NGO "Aiming Change for Tomorrow" was held at FGEI Directorate, Rawalpindi to establish an institute for education and skill development of trans-community.

DG FGEI Major General Muhammad Asghar and CEO ACT, International Syed Mubashir Ali Shah Banoori alongwith other senior officials were present on this special occasion. CEO ACT appreciated the role of DG FGEI in the promotion of inclusive culture in FGEI (C/G) institutions.

In the end, DG FGEI recognized the invaluable role of ACT in providing opportunities to trans-community so that they become independent, respectable and responsible citizens of Pakistan. Named as "Gateway". (Empowerment of Trans-Community through Learning and Skill Development), the institute will pave the way for a productive and healthy change in society.

Salute to Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives for the glory of the country: Amir Khattak

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the Martyr's day Commissioner Division Engineer Aamir Khattak Said, Salute to those who sacrificed their lives for the glory of the country. Those who laid down their lives for the defense of the country and the enforcement of law are our heroes.

Our martyrs are our pride, their blood is involved in cultivating the soil of the holy land. The sacrifices of the martyrs for the motherland are unforgettable. The commitment of our young men will be stronger and more stable from the Day of Honoring Martyrs. Aamir Khattak Commissioner Multan

Training on the Fundamentals of Integrated Management on Health Emergencies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : A three training course on "Fundamentals of Integrated Management on Health Emergencies and Crises" held during 23-25 May in virtual mode with the support of Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI), COMSTECH, and the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Prof. Ehab Abab Kamal, Minister Advisor for Medical Education Affairs, Ministry of Health, Egypt and H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH addressed the session virtually. Ms. Semihah Abdullah Inan of SESRIC moderated the training. Most speakers of the training were from Egypt and Pakistan.

Topics like emergency versus crisis and disaster, how do emergencies and disasters affect people's health, health emergency, and crisis risk management were discussed by Egyptian speakers. Mr. Bilal Anwar, CEO, National Disaster Risk Management Fund, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan talked on adapting disaster risk management for public health systems, and the experience of NDRMF.

Attock Police paid homage to the eternal sacrifices of the brave heroes

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The relatives of martyrs of Attock Police led by District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan have also paid homage to the eternal sacrifices of the brave heroes, in which the parents, widows, orphans and other relatives of the martyrs were specially invited. The Chief Guest was DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, SP Investigation Attock Jawaria Jameel, Superintendent Jail Arif Shehzad Gill, DSP Azhar Shabbir, ASP Sundus, PRO Attock Police Muhammad Naeem along with police officers also participated. In the police line after salutation of the Yadgar-E-Shuhadaa police chalk and choband squad, prayers were offered for the martyrs. DPO presented flowers to the families of martyrs participating in the ceremony, loved the orphans and lit candles.

The political turmoil destroying the country's economy

T Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said the political upheaval and other factors have destroyed the country's economy.

The IMF's program is on hold, foreign exchange reserves are at around \$4 billion and Pakistan is due to pay \$3.7 billion next month, with the risk of default looming, he said.

In these circumstances, it will be difficult to provide relief to the public and

the business community in the forthcoming budget.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that Pakistan will somehow manage payments of three billion and seventy million dollars, but next year, Pakistan will need thirty-four billion dollars to repay foreign loans and interest.

It will be difficult for Pakistan to manage 34 billion dollars without the IMF programme, he added.

The business leader noted that the stock market has decreased by one thousand and forty-six points in two weeks,

while exports have decreased by 11.7% in ten months. Textile exports have decreased by two billion dollars and a decrease of six billion dollars is expected in the year's exports.

Mr. Butt said that a decrease of four hundred billion rupees has been recorded in tax revenue and there has been a thirteen percent decrease in remittances during the last ten months.

Production of major industries has fallen by 25% leaving millions jobless while interest rates are at 21% which is ruining businesses.

Presently, banks are not lending to the

private sector because they are getting 22% interest from the government which has been affecting the economic system.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that in the last ten months, there has been a decrease of 18% in oil imports, which is proof of the economic slowdown. Meanwhile, inflation has increased by more than 36%, which has increased the government's expenses. The government is under pressure to increase the salaries and pensions of government servants and hike the minimum wage that will increase the financial pressure.

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Justification of Military courts to deal with Anti-State elements

Pakistan started facing acts of terrorism soon after its decision to side with the US-led war against terrorism in September 2011. Since 2006, police stations, army posts, garrison centres, schools, colleges, parks, hotels, courts and even mosques were repeatedly attacked by terrorists. Hundreds perished in attacks against Lahore High Court, ISI and FIA offices in Lahore, Islamabad, Hyderabad and other parts of the country. FIA headquarters in Lahore, district courts in Islamabad, churches and mosques all over the country were repeatedly targeted with ease. There came a period of intense fear and uncertainty when schools across the country hired sharpshooters and snipers to protect children and teachers were asked to train in the use of weapons – when governments in different provinces started to confess that they don't have policing resources to protect all schools. Terrorists even if nabbed and arrested by intelligence and police were soon set free under a broader legal argument of "want of evidence" but in reality a number of factors behind the scenes were responsible including corruption of law enforcement agencies, bribery, incapable forensic, inefficient and disinterested prosecution and threats from terrorist outfits to prosecutors and judges. Case of Marriott Hotel bombing (2008) in which more than 50 died – including several diplomats and foreigners – and around 300 injured in the most horrific act of terrorism in the centre of Islamabad is a good example to understand the impotency of Pakistan's criminal justice system – when terrorists were finally arrested, with overwhelming

evidence connecting them with Marriott bombing, they were set free after several months of fruitless trial. According to very interesting data and figures shared by Ishaq Tanoli in his article which was published in July 2022, the country's superior and lower judiciaries are dealing with a huge backlog of 2.144 million cases as 4.102m cases were decided and 4.06m new cases were filed during 2021. The overall pendency at the start of 2021 before all the courts was 2.16m. The Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court and five high courts of the country disposed of 229,822 cases and 241,250 new cases were instituted during 2020 and pending cases stood at 389,549 before the superior courts on Dec.31 while the same tally was 378,216 on Jan 1, 2021. Similarly, 1,783,826 cases were pending trial at the start of last year before the district judiciary of the country and it adjudicated 3,872,686 cases and 3,822,881 fresh cases were filed during last year and total pendency stood at 1,754,947 before lower judiciary on Dec 31. According to the statistics gathered by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, at the start of 2021, 46,695 cases were pending before the Supreme Court and at the end of year they stood at 51,766 as 12,838 cases were decided while 18,075 new cases filed at the apex court in 2020. While on the other hand, military courts in Pakistan were set up in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on the Army

Public School (APS) in Peshawar on December 16, 2014. The brazen attack had left at least 144 dead, 133 of them children. Early January in 2015, an All Parties Conference (APC) had green lighted the proposed 21st Constitutional Amendment, which came into effect on January 6, 2015. It allowed changes to the Pakistan Army Act to extend its jurisdiction for speedy trial of cases under specified acts and provide the constitutional cover with a sunset clause of two years from the date of enactment. On January 9, 2015 Pakistan lifted the moratorium on the death penalty to pave the way for trials by the military courts. Official statistics suggest that – as of December 2018 – ever since their inception over three years ago, the roughly one dozen military courts handled 717 cases and finalized 546 of them. The courts awarded death to as many as 310 terrorists while 234 were awarded rigorous imprisonment of varied durations ranging from life imprisonment to 5-year imprisonment. Two accused had also been acquitted. Readers, the data and details mentioned above clearly shows the problems with our civil judiciary system and relatively better performance by Military courts. Don't forget to keep in mind that we are still dealing with war against terror and anti-state elements. Our Civil judiciary is already overwhelmed by huge number of cases so military court is a very good option to deal quickly with terrorist and anti-state elements. The accused have

the chance to appeal in higher civil courts so it completely eliminates the chances of injustice. Nation has seen what Riots and anti-state elements have done in GHQ, Lahore Corps Commander House, many other army installations and civil properties etc. What they have done that even our enemies could not do in 75 years. According to the Public Relations Department of the Pakistan Army (ISPR), Army Chief General Asim Munir, recently, visited Lahore and was briefed on the events of May 9 Black Day. ISPR said that the Army Chief placed flowers at the martyrs' memorial and paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the motherland. The Army Chief also visited Jinnah House and a military installation. On this occasion, the Army Chief said that legal action has been initiated under the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act against those responsible for the May 9 tragedy. He said that the strength of the Pakistan Army is its people, trying to create a rift between the army and the people is an act against the state, such an act will not be tolerated under any circumstances. General Asim Munir said that the enemy forces and their supporters are trying to cause chaos through fake news and propaganda, with the support of the nation, all such ambitions of the enemy will be thwarted. To deal with these elements via Military Courts is a very good imitative and is warmly welcomed by the nation. The culprits should be strictly punished so that no one ever dares to think about doing such malicious attempts in future.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Cross-cultural interaction to promote Pak-U.S. ties

Cross-cultural learning through a people-centric approach can prove helpful in promoting bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States, Ambassador to the U.S. Masood Khan said. In a meeting with a 25-member group of Grade 5 students from Janney Elementary School in Washington, the envoy desired to explore possibilities of having exchanges with counterpart schools in Pakistan. The students met the ambassador at the Pakistan embassy under the Embassy Adoption Programme (EAP), a joint collaboration between DC Public Schools and Washington Performing Arts. The visit was aimed at imparting skills to students necessary to succeed in an increasingly interconnected and culturally diverse world. Masood Khan said the Embassy Adoption Programme was an excellent initiative to promote multicultural relations that could have a far-reaching impact. He appreciated the students for their heartwarming presentation on Pakistan covering areas of art, geography, and sports. Some students opted to learn Urdu, while others concentrated on Pakistani arts and culture, presenting an incredible range of talent. They developed a 'Jeopardy game' series on Pakistan where quiz questions were based on Pakistani arts, national flowers, animals, and landscapes which was followed by a flawless Pakistani anthem performance that enthralled the audience. The chorus was led by grade 5 student Margaret Melia. As part of their capstone project, students prepared a collective artwork depicting Pakistan's diverse landscape, a football with students' names on it as well as a truck art miniature and presented them to the Ambassador. Masood Khan appreciated Ms. Sarah Buscher, Programme Coordinator from Janney Elementary School for her efforts in preparing the students so well. He also thanked Ms. Penelope Musto, Director of Education Partnerships Washington Performing Arts, and Ms. Atara Muhammad, in charge of Global Education DC Public Schools for providing the valuable opportunity for a very successful cross-cultural exchange. The program allows fifth and sixth graders to learn about the language, culture, history geography, arts & culture of their partner country. Teachers host their diplomat partners for classroom visits during the course of a school year.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

Allah has given us this country, Pakistan

Islamic scholars today are actively working to spread religion of Islam to Muslims and other human beings all over the world in the light of Quran and Hadith. And they are engaged in efforts day and night to convey the religion in their own style and in a beautiful way. In the statements of these scholars, there is absolute goodness and success for every person in the world, regardless of color, race and class. Quran teaching gatherings which are held for teaching the Quran and translating and interpreting the Quran. In these gatherings, teaching is usually done in the light of recitation, interpretation and tajweed of the Holy Quran. The importance of these gatherings is that through the teaching of the Holy Quran, the attendees receive spiritual, moral and intellectual training. In addition, these gatherings provide an opportunity for students to maintain contact with each other, which is very important for their academic and social development. Moreover, students learn about their religion through these Quranic lectures. Along with acquiring knowledge, one attains the purity and peace of one's heart. Attending such gatherings is a spiritual experience that enriches one's life. Quran gatherings are important educational and religious learning centers. These gatherings are usually held in mosques and during this time the people are taught the rules and regulations of the Quran through the recitation of the Quran, the interpretation of it, and the awareness of the greatness of the Quran is awakened in their hearts and among Muslims with each other. Feelings of love, respect and community are enhanced. Those gatherings in which Allah

is mentioned. Translation: Both Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA) and Hazrat Abu Saeed (RA) testify that we heard from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), they used to say that The group that engaged in the remembrance of Allah, the angels surround that congregation from all sides and Mercy covers them and Sakina descends upon them and Allah, mentions them in his Majlis (Ahmad, Muslim, Tirmidhi). "Thank Allah that Allah has given us this country of Pakistan. Allah has given countless millions of blessings in it. The person who has bread to eat today, clothes to wear, and a roof to live in." He has a good wife and a ride, even if it is a bicycle. His life is like the life of kings. That the same things used to happen to the earlier kings. He said that even today in the world, there are countries where people have life have no shoes to wear. Alhamdulillah! Today there is no one asking for bread. He said, "Don't turn away someone who asks. If he should come on a horse with a crown on his head. And thank Allah that Allah has made us givers instead of takers. "We should thank Allah for all the blessings that Allah has given us this country, Pakistan". In the past kings did not have electric bulbs? There were no electric fans. Today, in our blessings, all the parts of our body, our wife and children, our house, our employment, our resources, everything is pointing towards that we should be grateful to the Almighty Allah in every situation, so that Allah

may bless us more. If someone praises us, let us also thank Allah that Allah has hidden us by covering our sins with his veil. We have no perfection in this. Hazrat said that while traveling from one country to another, a woman was sitting on the next seat with her two and a half year old child and was feeding him. And at every morsel she says to her child. Say thank you. He would say. Mom: thank you. And so he repeated these words many times. Today the disbelievers have adopted our words. Today in our homes, what do our mothers not give us? Doesn't she feed us? Doesn't she do it for us? Have we ever said thank you or Jazak Allah to our mothers? If we do this, Allah will be pleased with us. Allah will bestow blessings. He said that a blind man who memorized the Quran came to me. He regretted that the mother from whom I was born, the mother in whose arms I grew up and with the prayers of my mother, I have memorized the Quran today. I have not seen her with my eyes in my whole life. So let us thank Allah for our eyes, our ears, our hands, our feet, our tongue for everything that Allah has given us all this. Given upon the same topic, thanking Allah for his blessings, a doctor, a religious scholar, was explaining in such away. What is the value and importance of human saliva and mentioned an incident that I saw a person in the hospital walking around with a bottle of water in his hand and repeatedly siphoning

water from this bottle. Sipping again and again. I inquired him from that person what is the matter that you keep sipping water from the bottle again and again. He mentioned his pain and replied that I do not spit, so my mouth is dry. It happens so I sip water from a bottle to keep my mouth hydrated so I don't feel sick. My body isn't producing saliva. Hazrat Maulana said: That spit which has no value and no one knows it well. And it is considered the dirtiest thing. This is also a great blessing of Allah, what would be the condition of man without it. Maulana said that we should be thankful to our parents that thanks to them, Allah has given birth to us in the house of a Muslim and in the mother's lap, Kalma Tayyaba was given. We could have been born in Hinduism, Christianity or any other religion. It is a great blessing to be born in a Muslim's home and to be blessed with Kalma. We have no perfection in this, thank Allah for it. He said that those who are the heads of their institutions. Let them thank Allah because they could have been among the people standing outside the gates paying duties. And those who turn away those who come for jobs from outside could have been among them. Who return people from outside? In the end, Hazrat Maulana said that we should all repent before Allah for our shortcomings. And remember that they will never turn away anyone who comes from their door. And we will not underestimate the blessings of Allah. We will become slaves. And they will become grateful servants of Allah.

Wood Fuel and Deforestation in Pakistan: A Case Study of Parachinar Ex-FATA

Zahanat Hussain belong to Parachinar which is lush green and one of the natural beauties on earth. Located at the bottom of the White Mountains (Koh-e-Sufaiad), the capital of Tribal District Kurram has been synonymous with being known as the whole District Kurram. The estimated population is almost half a million, residing in the region. The livelihood sources include mainly agricultural, public employment, and local business enterprises. The natural beauty of the region, if properly promoted and managed, has the potential to add to the revenues generated from tourism. The green hilly areas, covered by natural forests, add to the natural scenic beauty of the region. However, freezing and cold weather conditions are one of the main reasons for deforestation. People use wood for heating purposes in the winter. Additionally, due to the lack of public utilities, including electricity and gas, a huge amount of wood is consumed throughout the year as wood fuel. A successive demand has asserted upper pressure on the prices of wood fuel, which the poor community can hardly afford, drawing huge income sources out of the pocket of the poor community. Wood combustion for heating purposes is unavoidable. Though a major amount of money is spent on wood fuel throughout the year as a good some of the wood is required for the said purpose, which on one hand causes degradation and on another hand costs the poor for their living. With the lack of public utilities, especially gas, and electricity, people can merely afford LPG gas for the said purpose. Natural Gas is considered one of the important factors for the country's requirements as fuel and also the backbone for all human activities related to production in the modern era. Due to the high population in the country and their higher demands, the demand for natural gas bears increasing trend in Pakistan. Literature shows that Pakistan relies heavily on natural gas, which makes up approximately 50% of the primary energy mix. This share of natural gas has been supplied from the country's resources for use in power generation, domestic, commer-

cial, industrial, and CNG-fitted vehicles. According to the US government statistics, Pakistan's energy mix consists of 64% fossil fuels, 27% hydropower, 9% other renewables, and nuclear power. Pakistan is still far behind much of the globe in the development of renewable energy sources, while having a high potential for producing this type of energy. As Pakistan has many oil and gas reserves Sui-gas is the biggest natural gas field near Sui in Balochistan, it was discovered in late 1952. There are many other reserves of natural gas newly prevail for example in the districts of Karak and Hangu which are close to all Ex-FATA Merged Districts, particularly Kurram. It will bring comparatively very low costs for the government exchequer to provide gas facilities to these regions. Government can impose and earn revenues in the shape of utility bills from the regions of Ex-FATA. If these facilities are provided properly, the improvement in the living standard of the region is additional. This can save the region from deforestation as well where the gas and electricity can be used as substitutes for wood fuel. As mentioned earlier, the region is blessed with multiple natural beauties in the shape of mountains, forests, greenery, fountains, and lakes. The snowfall starts from December to March each year. All these can argue tourism, which has the potential to contribute to the local livelihoods, where the secondary economic activities from tourism will be developed. If we talk about the key findings and policy implications the provision of public utilities, especially natural gas, can save millions of trees to be cut for wood fueling. The huge amount of money spent every year on wood fuel would be saved, resulting in income saving for the poor. Tourism needs to be explored and smoothened which can result in creating local economies. Very expensive wood which was used for cooking and other purposes can be exported and put to best use as per the consent of the government. Supply of PNG (piped natural gas) can generate profit for the gross domestic product and make the lives of remote areas a bit more advanced and comfortable.

Azerbaijan's Independence Day

True leadership helped Azerbaijan to grow faster internationally: Ambassador Farhadov

Azerbaijan always supported Pakistan's stance at international forums: Rana Tanveer

Naveed Ahmed Khan

Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations had evolved into a robust and multi-dimensional partnership since the formal establishment of bilateral ties in 1992. He highlighted that both countries had a long-standing tradition of supporting each other on their issues of core interest. He exclusively talks to Daily The Spokesman on the occasion of Azerbaijan's Independence Day reception where he graced the event as the chief guest.

The event was held at Sheesh Mahal, Serena Hotel here in Islamabad and attended by Ambassador of Turkmenistan/Dean of Diplomatic Corps to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov, foreign ambassadors, Representatives of the Pakistani government, public, cultural, and business circles, high-ranked officers, media representatives, as well as Azerbaijan nationals residing in Pakistan.

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer recalled Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. He appreciated Azerbaijan's principle stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, noting that Azerbaijan had been a consistent advocate for the rights of the Kashmiri people as a member of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. While expressing satisfaction with the state of bilateral relations, the Minister



reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further strengthen and diversify its cooperation with Azerbaijan, particularly in the economic, trade, and cultural domains.

Ambassador Farhadov began his speech by expressing gratitude to the attendees for joining in the celebration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day. His Excellency emphasized the significance of May 28, commemorating the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 as the first democratic secular republic in the Muslim East.

Recalling the achievements of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic during its 3 decades of existence, Ambassador Farhadov highlighted the formation of the first Parliament and Government, the determination of borders, and the adoption of national symbols, such

as the flag, anthem, and coat of arms. Notably, recognizing equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of ethnicity and religion, and granting women the right to vote were remarkable milestones. However, the Ambassador acknowledged the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Bolsheviks in 1920, leading to the demise of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. It was only after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that the people of Azerbaijan re-established their independent state, building upon the traditions of their earlier republic.

Ambassador Farhadov expressed gratitude to the late National Leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, who assumed power in 1993 during a crisis and played a vital role in strengthening the nation's independence. The Ambassador highlighted the

ongoing celebrations of Heydar Aliyev's 100th birth anniversary in Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and other friendly countries. Under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan continues to flourish, with notable successes in various areas of national life.

The Ambassador emphasized the recent victory in the Patriotic War 2020, during which the Azerbaijani Army liberated territories from Armenian occupation within 44 days. Subsequently, the government initiated extensive restoration and reconstruction efforts, facilitating the return of Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees to their ancestral lands.

While talking about the Pakistan-Azerbaijan relationship, the Ambassador said, we share the history of deep-rooted friendship, brotherhood, and strategic

partnership between both countries. He highlighted and counted the various significant pillars of bilateral relations.

Ambassador Farhadov expressed gratitude to Pakistan for being among the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence in 1991. He underscored the mutual support between the two nations, both bilaterally and within international organizations. The Ambassador further emphasized on strengthening ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which have seen tremendous growth in various fields in previous years. He said the direct flights between the two countries, initiated in 2022, have facilitated increased tourism, with 50,000 Pakistani visitors to Azerbaijan in the same year. While the launching of the online ASAN visa system for Pakistani citizens has also enhanced people-to-people connectivity.

In recognition of the close ties, Azerbaijan exempted rice from import customs duty for rice originating from Pakistan, contributing to a nearly tripled trade turnover between the two nations.

At the end of the ceremony, Ambassador Farhadov expressed gratitude to all attendees for joining the celebration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day and emphasized the continued growth of relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Ambassadors and senior diplomats from the Central Asian States, as well as Turkey, participated in the cake-cutting ceremony, by adding a more jubilant atmosphere at the occasion.

Photos by Raja Farid



High Commissioner briefs UK Parliamentarians on Pakistan's concerns regarding G-20 Meeting in IIOJK

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON :Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan attended a meeting of cross-party British Parliamentarians convened by Debbie Abrahams MP, Chairperson APPG on Kashmir in the House of Commons on 24 May 2023.

The High Commissioner briefed the Parliamentarians about Pakistan's concerns over the controversial G-20 Meeting recently organised by the Indian Government in Indi-

an Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said by organizing this meeting in an internationally recognized disputed territory, India had tried to portray normalcy in the valley. However, he noted that the event not only highlighted the plight of the Kashmiri people under Indian occupation but also exposed the servility of that country.

The High Commissioner called upon the international community such as G-20 to uphold international human rights obligations and help implement the relevant UN

Security Council Resolutions on Kashmir. He strongly urged these G-20 countries to play their role in halting human rights violations and repealing draconian laws including demographic engineering in IIOJK.

The participants of the meeting included Debbie Abrahams MP, Chairperson APPG on Kashmir; Shadow Minister Barrister Imran Hussain MP, Senior Vice Chairman APPG on Kashmir; Shadow Minister Afzal Khan MP; James Daly MP, Co-Chairman Conservative Friends of Kashmir



UK; Rachel Hopkins MP, Vice Chairperson Labour Friends of Kashmir UK; Sarah Owen MP, Vice Chairperson APPG on Kashmir; Paul Blomfield MP; Jill Furness MP; Sam Terry MP; Alison Thewliss MP; Judith Cummins MP; Mohammad Yaseen MP; and

Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Self Determination Movement International.

The High Commissioner thanked the participants for expressing solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi celebrated the 52nd Independence and National Day

Spokesman Report

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi celebrated the 52nd Independence and National Day recently. Chief Minister Sindh Mr. Syed Murad Ali Shah graced the reception as the Chief Guest.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in Pakistan Mr. Md. Ruhul Alam Siddiqui, Consuls General of different countries including Bahrain, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, British Deputy High Commissioner, and other diplomats participated at the reception. Senators, Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, Special Assistants to Chief Minister Sindh, Senior Government Officials of Pakistan and Sindh Province, Vice Chancellors & Professors of different Universities, President and Secretary General and other office Bearers of FPCCI, KCCI and other Chambers and Associations in Sindh also attended. Eminent business personalities including Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive Officers, Managing Directors, Chief Operating Officers, Directors of different industries and companies, entrepreneurs

including women entrepreneurs, cultural activists, eminent media personalities and Journalists also participated the Independence and National Day reception of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in his speech warmly welcomed the Chief Minister Sindh Mr. Syed Murad Ali Shah and diplomats and all the distinguished guests to the reception arranged to celebrate the 52nd Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Independence and the National Day of Bangladesh is on 26 March, however due to the Holy Month of Ramadan this year, Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi has arranged the reception at a later date.

At the outset of his speech, the Deputy High Commissioner paid his profound tributes to the memory of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He also paid rich tributes to all the martyrs, who have sacrificed their lives for the Independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

Deputy High Commissioner S. M. Mahbul Alam mentioned that Bangladesh and Pakistan have huge potential for mutually beneficial bilateral relationships. He emphasized on the exploring the issues areas for wider and stronger cooperation between

the two countries.

Deputy High Commissioner elaborated on the success stories of Bangladesh and mentioned that under the charismatic and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has become a 'Role Model' of socio-economic development in the world. Bangladesh is currently among the five fastest growing economies in the world, ranking 35th in terms of GDP. He further added that Bangladesh has full filled all the criteria for the graduation to developing country from the LDC status and has been confirmed to be graduated from the LDC in 2026. The present per capita income of Bangladesh is USD2824.

Deputy High Commissioner further briefed that Bangladesh has completed or has been working on many mega projects such as the Padma Bridge, which is opened on 25 June 2022. The Padma Bridge is constructed with the own finance worth over US\$3.8 billion. He also mentioned few other mega projects such as the Metro Rail (opened on 28 December 2022), Karnaphuli River Tunnel-the first even under the river tunnel in South Asia, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Deep-Sea Port, Bangabandhu Satellite-1.

Mr. Alam further highlighted that Bangladesh is the largest delta in the world with over 500 rivers. Bangladesh is a green

country which is a production powerhouse. Bangladesh is the 1st in Jute export, 2nd in Jute production, 3rd in Freshwater fish production, 4th in Rice production, 7th in Potatoes production. Bangladesh, a country of 170 million population, is a self-sufficient country in food production.

Bangladesh is 2nd in RMG production and export. Over 12 million Bangladesh nationals live in over 180 countries and Bangladesh is 8th in Remittance receipt amounting over US\$25 billion a year. Bangladesh's foreign currency reserve reached up to US\$48 billion. Total annual Exports of Bangladesh is over US\$55 billion. Bangladesh has been working hard for the annual export of US\$100 billion by 2030.

Bangladesh will a trillion dollar Economy and the 9th largest consumer market in the world by 2041. Government of Bangladesh has been striving hard to implement "Vision-2041" to turn Bangladesh into an upper middle-income country by 2031 and Developed and Smart Bangladesh by 2041 and building a prosperous and climate-resilient delta by 2100.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner mentioned that Bangladesh has been excelling in all socio-economic indices. Bangladesh's policy for women

education and women empowerment is very robust. Bangladesh is a country of religious harmony. Bangladesh is a country of rich cultural heritage and tradition of thousand years. He added that Bangladesh believes in the holistic and all-encompassing development policies that the development of everyone and every sector in the society is the development of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a secular democratic country with traditional inclusive society. Rights of all from all strata of the society are well protected in Bangladesh. The media has been growing very fast in Bangladesh. The media has been enjoying freedom of expression. There are over 1,300 newspapers in Bangladesh.

Deputy High Commissioner added that Bangladesh the current primary enrollment rate is almost 100 percent, electricity coverage is 100 percent, and children Vaccination is 100 percent. The literacy rate is around 80 percent. There are over 170 universities and 112 medical colleges in Bangladesh. Bangladesh meets 97 percent of medicines produced by over 300 state-of-the-art pharmaceutical companies and exports to over 120 countries in the world. Bangladesh has been working for a 100 percent literate, technologically sound, digitally smart country.

Regarding the foreign policy

of Bangladesh, the Deputy High Commissioner mentioned that Bangladesh has been pursuing the foreign policy of "Friendship to all and malice towards none" since her Independence in 1971 as was postulated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which continues to provide the philosophical underpinning of Bangladesh's pro-peace foreign policy. Father of the Nation pronounced the peace and development-centric foreign policy, which remains the guiding principle of Bangladesh's diplomatic engagements today. In 1973 Father of the Nation was awarded the prestigious Julio-Curie Peace Prize.

Deputy High Commissioner mentioned that Bangladesh is the proponent of the resolution of "Culture of Peace" in the UN System. Bangladesh is 2nd in contributing the UN Peacekeepers. Following the footsteps of the Father of the nation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also pursuing the peace-loving development centric and widely engaging foreign policy. The Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has provided temporary shelter to over 1.1 million Rohingya of Myanmar nationality. This is an extraordinary example of humanitarian stand of the peace-loving people and the government of Bangladesh.

Deputy High Commissioner emphasized that the potential of trade and commerce and investment in Bangladesh is huge. Bangladesh has been working to establish 100 specialized economic zones across the countries. Items such as raw jute, tea, chemical fertilizer, garments, leather and lather products, plastic items, ceramic products, and pharmaceutical products and so forth are few of the export items, which Pakistan may import from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Missions in Pakistan have been engaging actively for the stronger relations between the two countries and for the promotion of trade and business between the two countries. Deputy High Commissioner mentioned that separate delegations from the Federation of Pakistan of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and delegation from Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) have recently visited Bangladesh. Other business delegations of 18-members, 46-members and 35-members also visited Bangladesh recently. Another delegation of 16 tanner-owners from Tanners Association in Pakistan (TAP) is expected to visit Bangladesh soon. Both the brotherly countries have been working for the mutually beneficial relationships and for the wellbeing of the two peoples.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,964.54	41,029.67
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,148.56	40,783.79
Index Value	Change
6,072,046,507	-65.13
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	26 May, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,627.20	+56.33
Percentage	Time
+0.74%	26 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,037.78	+273.13
Percentage	Time
+0.83%	26 May, 2:07 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
30,916.31	+115.18
Percentage	Time
+0.37%	26 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	201	203
Bahrain Dinar	762.21	770.21
Canadian Dollar	225.5	227.5
China Yuan	40.6	41
Danish Krone	41.39	41.79
Euro	330	333
Hong Kong Dollar	36.6	36.95
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	932.2	941.2
Malaysian Ringgit	62.42	63.02
New Zealand \$	176.98	178.98
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	744.58	752.58
Qatari Riyal	78.73	79.43
Saudi Riyal	82.6	83.4
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.73	27.03
Swiss Franc	316.34	318.84
Thai Bhat	8.28	8.43
U.A.E Dirham	84.6	85.4
UK Pound Sterling	381	384.5
US Dollar	308	311

SECP issues requirements for grievance handling mechanisms for the insurance sector



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued requirements for Grievance Handling Mechanism for the Insurance Sector to ensure effectiveness, robustness, and uniformity in the grievance handling function with the objective of protecting policyholders.

The Code of Corporate Governance for Insurers 2016 requires insurers to establish a grievance function.

Giving due consideration to the importance of detailed requirements for effective functionality of the grievance function in light of the historical trend of policyholder complaints, minimum requirements for the establishment and functioning of a grievance management process have been prescribed.

Accordingly, the issued requirements cover areas of formulation of grievance handling policy, maintenance of a centralised grievance handling system, acceptable modes for lodging complaints, bifurcation of complaints on the basis of criticality, timelines for resolution of complaints on the basis of criticality, communication with policyholders during the process of complaint resolution, etc., imparting awareness relating to the existence of grievance handling mechanisms and other available forums, monitoring for continuous improvement, and reporting and record-keeping of complaints-related data.

These requirements are in line with other financial sectors and international best practises and will be applicable to all insurers and takaful operators.

Business community pinning high hopes on FM's dialogue

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the business community is pinning high hopes on the 5th China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue held in Islamabad recently.

Pakistan, China and Afghanistan have agreed to combat terrorism and enhance cooperation in different economic fields which will have a positive impact on all the countries, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the three sides agreed to advance political engagement, counter terrorism cooperation and enhance trade, investments and connectivity under the trilateral framework which is a big achievement.



The FMs reaffirmed their desire to pursue

continuous and practical engagement and emphasised the need for enhanced coordination to counter-terrorism and deepen cooperation.

Regarding bilateral and transit trade, the FMs of Pakistan and Afghanistan stressed the importance of removing impediments to trade in order to advance the goal of enhanced regional economic integration and connectivity.

This will pave way for trade with central Asia, promote CPEC and Belt and Road initiative and help resolve economic problems of Afghanistan.

Separately, Afghan FM also met COAS Asim Munir and discussed issues of mutual interest including aspects related to regional security, border management, and formalisation of bilateral security mechanisms for improvement in the current security environment

eration between the two brotherly neighbours to effectively tackle the common challenges of terrorism and extremism and reiterated the need for full support and commitment from the Afghan side in matters of mutual interest.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Middle East has been in a state of conflict for decades due to which regional countries have missed out on many development opportunities and have not achieved sustained regional security.

Afghanistan's stable development also has positive implications for China and other neighbouring countries, he said, adding that China and Pakistan can coordinate their positions to jointly advance the situation in Afghanistan.

The business community wants these countries to develop more mutual trust and work together to promote regional peace, stability, and development.

Fatiha

GHARI KHUDA BAKHSH: A delegation of United Business Group (UBG) including S M Tanveer, Shahzad Ali Malik, Zubair Tufail, Zafar Bakhtawari, Khalid Tawab, Amir Atta Bajwa, Momin Ali Malik and Malik Sohail visited Ghari Khuda Bakhsh in Larkana and offer Fatiha at shrines of shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Motarma Benazir Bhutto, Murtaza Bhutto, Shahnawaz Bhutto and Nusrat Bhutto.



Photo: Online

Martyrs are the pride of the nation, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CDA organized a ceremony on the occasion of Martyrs Day at Pakistan Monument. Tributes were paid to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan in the ceremony, Chairman CDA Captain Noor Ul Amin Mengal, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, members of Islamabad Chamber, senior officials of the administration, and a large number of citizens participated in the ceremony.

On this occasion, Chairman CDA Capt. Nurul Amin Mengal said that the purpose of Martyrs' Day is to remember the sacrifices of the brave soldier who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country. We need to tell and teach this bright side of our history to the younger generation.

Speaking on the occasion, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the lives of the martyrs and their sacrifices are a debt to this nation. The way the Pakistani nation celebrated Martyrs' Day and paid tribute to the brave martyrs proves that we have never forgotten and will never forget the martyrs, ghazis and brave martyrs who protected the soil.

In the ceremony, The participants expressed their determination that no conspiracy can separate Pakistan army and people. Every individual of the nation stands behind their institutions.

We will not allow any compromise on the dignity of institutions. The participants supported strict punishment and trial under the Army Act for the accused of May 9 tragedies.

Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 6th Edition on May 31 and June 1, 2023

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : The 6th Edition of Pakistan's biggest corporate event, LEADERS IN ISLAMABAD BUSINESS SUMMIT 2023 (LIIBS), will take place on May 31 & June 1, 2023, at a local hotel in Islamabad. Curated under the theme of "The Big Rethink," this Summit brings together a spectacular array of national and international experts to re-think the conventional paradigms for the business world of the future.

LIIBS 2023 is jointly hosted by Nutshell Conferences Group and Martin Dow Group, in strategic partnership with the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), and Unity Foods Limited (UFL).

The Ministerial Keynote will be delivered by Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, Minister of State, Ministry of Energy, whereas Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Power, will grace the Summit as the Guest of Honor.

Ali Akhai, Chairman of Martin Dow Limited, will be gracing the event with opening remarks as the founding partner of LIIBS and Chairman of Pakistan's leading multinational healthcare group. His innovative, progressive, and forward-looking approach has been instrumental to the growth of Martin Dow. He has represented Pakistan on international platforms including the World Economic Forum (WEF). He has worked closely with global leaders to portray a positive image of the country and initiate compelling conversations to enhance Pakistan's reputation.

The two-day Summit will be bringing together more than 50 eminent and renowned panelists belonging to diverse

industries from across the globe. The primary agenda will entail discussions and solutions about the present and the future of digitalization, healthcare, HR, economic landscape, innovation, and investments through the 'Rethink' lens.

The Summit will have corporate and public sector leadership from across the world participating

Nutshell Conferences Group has always been a keen and active supporter of transformative initiatives and maintains a wide platform for the launch of ideas that can help Pakistan and other countries in the context of regional and global development. With an impressive lineup of eminent speakers from Pakistan and around the world, LIIBS 2023 is going to be an excellent showcase of ideal opportunities and innovative solutions, with the most inspirational leaders to learn from.

NBP is taking advantage of its extensive network across Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The National Bank of Pakistan has unequivocally recognized and commended the ground-breaking accomplishments of its Digital Champion campaign. The bank deeply appreciates its esteemed digital ambassadors whose unwavering commitment and outstanding efforts were instrumental in successfully directing NBP customers toward adopting digital banking. The campaign's resounding success is evidenced by the activation of over 250,000 debit cards through the mobile app in 8 months, which was made possible by a massive effort of 7500 NBP staff from 98% of the branches.

Expressing his views, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President and CEO (A), NBP, said, "At Nation's Bank, our main focus is to ensure that our staff is involved and motivated in achieving our goals. We



have initiated a digital transformation project to keep up with the latest industry trends and modernize our financial institution."

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Muhammad Hamayun Sajjad, SEVP/Chief Digital Officer, NBP, stated, "NBP is committed

to transforming the banking experience through empathetic digital solutions that prioritize financial inclusion. With a strong dedication to digital, NBP's staff guides customers toward basic digital banking services. In just one year, NBP has achieved impressive milestones, including a 100% YoY increase in NBP Digital App registrations, a remarkable 100% growth in debit card point-of-sale transactions, and over a trillion rupees' worth of digital transactions.

The success of the Digital Champion campaign is a clear indication of the bank's dedication through its staff to digital banking. The goal is to become a modern financial institution that offers clients products and services through digitalization.

Ongoing operation is a national security requirement

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the current operation in the country is necessary and a national security requirement.

COAS Asim Munir has not only saved the country from civil war but also frustrated unholy designs on India, Israel and the US, he said.

The dream of the enemies of Pakistan to ruin our country has been shattered by the timely action, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that not a single friendly country has raised any objection against the ongoing operation in Pakistan, but America is criticising it.

The plan of the international establishment to make Pakistan a satellite state of India and use it against China has been ruined, he observed.

Dr. Murtaza said that the current operation is not against any political party but a successful attempt to save the country.

The process of damaging CPEC and Gwadar, the plot to divide the army, rolling back the nuclear program and recognizing Israel have been dealt with effectively.

China is saving Pakistan from default but it will not invest heavily in our country until it is sure that Pakistan will not damage CPEC again, Chinese projects will not be rolled back, and the government which likes to dance to the tunes of the US and

Goldsmith family will not return to power.

He noted that PML-N and PPP are in favour of CPEC and they have been

punished for it and the international establishment was sure that in the presence of these two parties, Pakistan cannot be persuaded to act against China.

Now General Asim Munir has removed China's reservations and China is willing to work on development projects again, for which the Western powers have given the task of a failed politician to attack the military leadership.

He noted that the US is the biggest violator of human rights but it is showing concern over human rights in Pakistan.

Rights belong to the peaceful citizens and not liberal extremists and terrorists, he said, adding that the youth who participated in vandalism should be set free after minor punishments but those who instigated them deserve severe punishments.

Secretary Asian Sports Writers Federation Amjad Aziz Malik meeting with Governor Sindh

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Amjad Aziz Malik, Secretary Asian Sports Writers Federation called on Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori at Governor House.

In the meeting, promotion of various sports, role of Asian Sports Writers Federation and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Governor Sindh said that the services of sports journalists are unforgettable in the promotion of sports, because of which the fans are aware of the activities of their favourite sports.

He further said that Karachi Games were organised in the city after a long time, 42 sports were organised under Karachi Games. Amjad Aziz said that Governor Sindh's effort in promoting sports are commendable. He said that the doors of Governor's House have practically opened.

He also told Governor Sindh that they are conducting training program for young sports reporters in November. Amjad Malik further said that he has written 17 books on sports so far. Later, Amjad Aziz presented his book to Governor Sindh Tessori.

It should be noted that Amjad is also the President of Pakistan Sports



Writers Federation. General Secretary of PSWF Muhammad

Asghar Azeem, Vice President Ubaid Awand and EC member

Mehmood Riaz were also present at the occasion.

Sharjah edge Abu Dhabi on boundary count in D10 League thriller

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Muhammad Uzair Khan struck a swashbuckling half-century before bowlers kept Abu Dhabi batters at bay to script a close victory for the visitors over the boundary count in the 17th match of the ongoing Emirates D10 League.

Sharjah piled on a massive total of 121/6 despite a poor start as the visitors were reeling at 59/6 in the seventh after opting to bat first.

Following the debacle, Muhammad Uzair Khan partnered strongly with Muhammad Zahid Ali and took Shara-

jah to a commendable total courtesy of an unbeaten 62-run partnership.

Uzair Khan remained the core aggressor of the match-defining stand as he took the hosts' bowlers to the cleaners, smashing three boundaries and six sixes on his way to a quickfire 51 off just 15 deliveries.

Zahid Ali, on the other hand, stood firm on the other hand and remained unbeaten with his 10-ball 11, featuring two boundaries.

Sharjah's innings featured a total of 23 boundaries with Uzair Khan leading the charge.

Zeshan Ali Jnr led Abu Dhabi's bowling attack with 2/29 while Raja Akifullah

Khan, Muhammad Mohsin, Muhammad Zubair Khan and Irshad Hussain picked up a wicket apiece.

Set to chase 122, Abu Dhabi also accumulated 121 but for the loss of only two wickets and yet ended up on the losing side.

Abu Dhabi's openers - Mohammad Kamran Atta (5) and Naik Muhammad (19) - struggled against Sharjah bowlers and failed to provide a strong start to their side in the run chase.

Ali Abid then took charge of Abu Dhabi's pursuit and kept his side in the hunt with a sensational half-century.

He top-scored for the hosts with a

33-ball 60, which featured six boundaries and two sixes but failed to steer his side past Sharjah as both sides settled on the same score.

In response to Sharjah's 23, Abu Dhabi's innings featured only 16 boundaries despite Ali Abid's eight.

Falling short in the boundary count despite ending up head-to-head on the scoreboard, Abu Dhabi succumbed to their second defeat of the ongoing Emirates D10 League.

The close victory lifted Sharjah to the fifth spot in the Emirates D10 League points table while Abu Dhabi remained the second.

34th National Games 2023

Khubaib Foundation Team participated in 34th National Games 2023 on-going in Quetta won Gold and Bronze Medal, Players Photo with Khubaib Foundation CEO Mr Nadeem Ahmad Khan.



Bowlers, Salman aid Fujairah's triumph over Ajman in D10 League

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Fujairah's bowlers, led by Muhammad Rohid decimated Ajman's batting lineup before Salman Khan's gritty 42-run knock powered the leaders to a convincing six-wicket victory in the 18th match of the Emirates D10 League.

Put into bat first, Ajman's batting lineup failed completely and could only raise 76 runs before bundling out in the ninth over.

The sixth-placed side's batters struggled against a disciplined Fujairah bowling attack and none of them could make significant contributions with the bat with Rahul Chopra (19) top-scoring for the side.

Besides Chopra, Sagar Kalyan (14), Hashit Kaushik (13) and Abdul Shakoor (11) remained the notable run-getter for Ajman while the rest of their batters failed to make it into the double digits. Fujairah's Muhammad Rohid was sensational with the ball as he picked up four wickets for 24 runs in his quota of two overs, followed by Umair Ali Khan's 3/10 while Haider Ali made two scalps.

Set to chase a modest 77-run target, Fujairah comfortably steered to victory in the ninth over, thanks to a sensible knock by Salman Khan.



Azad Kashmir's 91-member team of athletes participating in 34 national games

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Under the auspices of Pakistan Olympic Association, 34 national games are ongoing; Azad Kashmir's 91-member team of athletes is participating in various events under the leadership of Director Sports Azad Kashmir Malik Shaukat Hayat Khan. AJK TEAM qualified for the second round. In the first match of men's table tennis, Asad Ali of Azad Kashmir defeated Shehzad of Pakistan Navy by 3.0. In the second match, Hasan bin Kausar of Azad Kashmir faced Pakistan Navy player Asim. Azad Kashmir's Hasan Bin Kausar defeated Pakistan Navy's Asim by 3.0 while Azad Kashmir's Aqeel Abbas faced Pakistan Navy's Ramadan in the third match, which Navy's Ramadan won by 3.2 and Azad Kashmir's fourth match. Khiladi Asad Ali faced Pakistan Navy's Asim, which was won by Azad Kashmir's player Asad Ali by 3.1. In the squad of Azad Kashmir players, the official of the sports department, Muhammad Yasin Khan, Deputy Director of Sports (Deputy Chief Administration), Ashfaq Ahmed Salharia, (Assistant Director Sports Jhelum Valley), Liaquat Uzair (Assistant Director Sports), Muhammad Rizwan Khan (Assistant Director Sports) are also with him.

ICC reveals prize money for World Test Championship winner

A Sports

DUBAI: International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced the prize money for the World Test Championship 2021-23 cycle with a total fund of \$3.8 million to be shared between the nine teams. The winner of the World Test Championship (WTC) final between India and Australia will get a whopping amount of \$1.6 million while the losing team will still earn \$800,000. The Grand Finale at The Oval in London from 7 June will not only decide the Test champions for the next two years but also the fate of a major chunk of around 63 per cent of the total prize pool of the outgoing WTC cycle.

The remaining seven teams will share \$1.4 million in a manner that South Africa earns \$450,000 for finishing third in the WTC standings, England bags \$350,000 for finishing fourth, Sri Lanka gets \$200,000 for finishing fifth. The bottom four teams, including Pakistan, pocket \$100,000 each.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan finished seventh on the standings of the outgoing World Test Championship Cycle with a below-par percentage of 38.1.

Babar Azam-led side won only four Tests, lost six and drew four out of their total 14 fixtures in the cycle. Interestingly, the prize money has not been changed from the last inaugural edition of the championship (2019-21) with a total purse of \$3.8 million.

Kane Williamson's New Zealand were also awarded \$1.6 million in Southampton in 2021 after they clinched an eight-wicket win over India in the rain-marred six-day WTC final.

Six former Yorkshire players sanctioned for racism by disciplinary panel

A Sports

Six former Yorkshire County Cricket Club players and coaches on Friday, have been sanctioned by the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) panel for a suspected use of racist language.

According to the ECB, the CDC has today published its decisions in relation to charges brought by the ECB against Yorkshire CCC and a number of individuals.

As per the latest development, former Yorkshire players Tim Bresnan, John Blain, Matthew Hoggard, Andrew Gale and Richard Pyrah were sanctioned for racism. Ballance, Bresnan, Gale, and Pyrah were fined as well as suspended from coaching and playing cricket for varied lengths of time, whereas Blain and Hoggard were only fined. Furthermore, all six players have been advised to attend a racism or discrimination education course at their own expense.

The sanctioned individuals are able to appeal the decisions before the end of business on Friday 9 June 2023.

The CDC has also confirmed that the sanction hearing for Yorkshire County Cricket Club, which has admitted four breaches of ECB Directive 3.3, will be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

These CDC sanction decisions have been made by an independent panel consisting of Tim O'Gorman (Chair of the CDC), Mark Milliken-Smith KC and Dr Seema Patel.

Earlier, former England captain and renowned commentator Michael Vaughan was cleared of racism charges by the CDC.

In light of the CDC decisions, Michael Vaughan was not found liable for a breach of ECB Directive 3.3, which states: "No such person may conduct himself in a manner or do any act or omission which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket or which may bring the game of cricket or any Cricketer or group of Cricketers into disrepute".

Valencia punishment for Vinicius Junior racist abuse reduced

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Valencia's punishment for their fans' racist abuse of Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior was reduced on Friday after the La Liga side appealed against it.

The Spanish side must close the south stand of their Mestalla stadium for three home matches instead of the five-game ban initially set by the Spanish football federation's Competition Committee on Wednesday.

The fine was also reduced from 45,000 euros to 27,000 euros (\$29,000) by the federation's appeal committee.

Valencia host Espanyol on Sunday in La Liga in a

vital match with both teams battling relegation, in which the stand will be closed.

Three Valencia fans were arrested after the 22-year-old Brazilian winger was abused last Sunday during Los Che's 1-0 win over Madrid.

Sports stars and other personalities across the globe have offered Vinicius Junior their support in the days since, including many in his homeland Brazil.

Earlier this week, Spanish police arrested seven people Tuesday over two incidents of racial abuse targeting Real Madrid's Brazilian star Vinicius Junior, including the latest one that sparked an international outcry.

The player was taunted by opposition fans since he joined Real in 2018 but the latest incident has kicked up a storm over whether Spain is doing enough to stamp out racism in football.

Early on Tuesday, police confirmed arresting three youths in Valencia for "insults and gestures with racist overtones" towards the player that amounted to "an alleged hate crime" during Sunday's match. The game was held up for several minutes and the referee wrote in his post-match report that shouts of "monkey" had been directed at Vinicius.

Police said the investigation remained open to iden-

tify further suspects.

In a statement, Valencia confirmed three fans had been arrested, reiterating its "strongest condemnation against racism and violence" and saying the club was acting against those involved "by banning them for life from our stadium".

Also Tuesday, Madrid police arrested another four men suspected of hanging an effigy wearing a Real Madrid shirt with Vinicius' number on it from a bridge in January.

The dummy was hung by the neck from a highway bridge near Real Madrid's training ground on January 26 ahead of their match against Atletico Madrid.

Moyank Patel to lead as USA name squad for Cricket World Cup Qualifier

A Sports

NEW YORK: The United States of America (USA) on Friday, named a strong 15-member under the leadership of Moyank Patel for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup Qualifier, scheduled to take place in Zimbabwe in June.

After securing the top position in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier Playoff, USA will head to Zimbabwe next month to look to wrestle their way to India for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup later in the year.

Led by Monank Patel, and sporting some familiar names across departments, USA have named 15 players that will travel to Zimbabwe for Cricket World Cup Qualifier that begins on 18 June.

28-year-old Aaron Jones will act as deputy to Patel while the USA squad



also features the stars from the Qualifier Playoff. Ali Khan, who led the wicket-taking chart with 16 scalps, including a stunning haul of 7/42 in the key clash against Jersey, will lead the pace attack. USA are placed alongside West Indies, Zimbabwe, Netherlands and Nepal in Group A.

USA Squad: Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones (vc), Abhishek Paradkar, Ali Khan, Gajanan Singh, Jasdeep Singh, Kyle Philip, Nisarg Patel, Nostush Kenjige, Saiteja Mukkamalla, Saurabh Netravalkar, Shayan Jahangir, Steven Taylor, Sushant Modani, Usman Rafiq.