

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Chairman Board of Trustees AAOFI called on Ishaq Dar

H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman Board of Trustees AAOFI, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, today. The Finance Minister welcomed H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and congratulated him for the holding of the First International Conference on Islamic Capital Markets in Pakistan. (Details on Page 8)



## PDM and PPP, MLN cannot give relief to people: Siraj UI Haq

Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq has said that if PDM and PPP cannot give relief to the people, then they should at least withdraw the increase in the prices of food items, petrol, electricity and gas in the budget. The parties had long marches against inflation before coming to power. The ruling parties cannot heal the wounds caused by poverty, unemployment and inflation to millions of people by blaming each other. (Details on Page 3)

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## Toddlers

RAWALPINDI: Toddlers wearing Pak Army costumes are participating in the tableau during an event in support of Pak Army at local school in city.



Photo: Online

## Imran will be tried in military courts for 'orchestrating' 9/5 attacks: Sanaullah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan will be tried in a military court over the May 9 vandalism.



Talking to a private news channel, Mr Sanaullah accused the deposed premier of "personally planning attacks" on military installations before his arrest, adding that to substantiate this claim, there was also evidence.

On Monday, Mr Sanaullah said there would be no relaxation for those who attacked military installations even if they had left the PTI.

Speaking to Dunya news program "On The Front", he said if other leaders distanced themselves from the party and condemned the May 9 attacks, they might be awarded relaxation. "Any person who was inside the red line of the Lahore's Corps Commander House will not be exempt from punishment," he added.

He went on to say that there were two types of those involved including motivators and doers. "PTI chief Imran Khan is among the motivators," he added. Upon being countered that Mr Khan was not inside the physical red line, he repeated Mr Khan was an instigator.

Mr Khan's wife Bushra Bibi was also among the motivators, he said. As for the treatment of PTI's women leaders in jail, he assured that women would not be ill-treated.

Upon Mr Khan's arrest before elections, he said Mr Khan could be arrested in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case and May 9 attacks cases as well. "He could be disqualified if he is convicted after arrest," he added.

# Public relief, economic development among priorities in next budget: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the provision of maximum relief to the masses and economic development would be among the Federal Government's priorities in the upcoming budget for fiscal 2023-24.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the budget proposals for the industrial sector, said the federal budget would also encompass the measures to enhance industrial growth as well as exports.

He said he would personally make sure that the proposals coming for the industrial sector were incorporated into the budget.

The prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to remove all unnecessary impediments in the increase of small, medium and large-scale industri-

al production. He told the meeting that the previous government deliberately obstructed the investment and industrial development in the country.

The previous government violated the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to save its rule, making 220 million of Pakistan bear its brunt, he added.

He said being a resilient nation; Pakistanis were gradually coming out of the economic difficulties.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the government, the whole nation, industrialists and the business community were working hard to improve the country's economic situation.

He said throughout the previous year, the miscreants inflicted damage to the country through "long or short" marches and sit-ins.

He also told the meeting that the incidents of May 9 not only created violence but also inflicted huge



economic loss to the country.

He said the government would help decrease industries' production costs by supplying low-cost energy, besides arranging easy bank loans for the small industries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed his Advisor Ahad Cheema to finalise the proposals from the industrial sectors and ensure their incorporation into the budget.

The meeting was joined through a video link by prominent industrialists and investors from all sectors. Besides federal ministers Ishaq

## PM rules out dialogue with 'arsonists & anarchists'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said dialogue was a key to evolving democracy, however categorically stated that it could not be held with 'anarchists and arsonists' in the garb of politicians.

The prime minister's statement came after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Friday appealed for immediate talks with state officials. Sharif said dialogue is deeply embedded in the political process, which helps democracy mature and evolve.

He said many political and constitutional breakthroughs occurred when political leaders sat across the table to craft a consensus. "However, there is a major difference here, the anarchists and arsonists who wear the garb of politicians and attack the symbols of the State do not qualify for a dialogue," he said.

The prime minister emphasized that such people should rather be held to account for their militant actions. He also termed it a prevalent practice even in developed democracies.

Dar, S Naveed Qamar, Ahsan Iqbal, Makhdoom Murtaza Mahmood and Engineer Khurram Dastgir, Minister of State Dr Musadik Malik, Advisor Ahad Cheema,

Special Assistants to PM Tariq Bajwa and Jahanzeb Khan, MNA Qaiser Sheikh, SBP governor, FBR chairman and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

## PAC summons NAB chairman for briefing on investigations, inquiries



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday summoned the incumbent National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman in its next meeting to get a briefing on the ongoing investigations and inquiries as well as recoveries from plunderers of the national wealth.

Presiding over the PAC meeting, its Chairman Noor Alam Khan directed the authorities concerned to expedite the process of recovery from corrupt elements.

The committee members called for the provision of

complete record and details of NAB's ongoing probes and inquiries.

"If NAB is reluctant to recover money from the looters then PAC may authorize the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to do the job," Noor Alam Khan stressed.

He said many corruption cases were referred to NAB during the last year, but none had reached its logical conclusion so far. The PAC also sought the record of expenses incurred on investigations of corruption cases. The chairman directed the authorities to complete the cases within the stipulated time.

## Jinnah House attack: Imran offers to join probe via video link

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday skipped an appearance at the joint investigation team (JIT) - constituted to probe the Jinnah House attack case as the former premier offered to be interrogated through video link.

According to details, the representatives of the former prime minister - Advocates Ali Ijaz Buttar and Naeem Haider Panjhuta - appeared before the investigation team and submitted a written response to the summons - issued a day earlier.

In his reply to the summons, Imran Khan cited "reports from credible sources" that he could be attacked during public appearances and while joining the investigation. He mentioned the he was also supposed to appear before the court today in this regard.

The PTI chief reiterated that he



was in the 'illegal' custody of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) the day events occurred. "I am fully cooperating despite registration of bogus cases", the reply reads.

He further said that he was ready to join investigation despite the 'violation of fundamental rights', adding that he was authorising Ali Ijaz and Naeem Haider to appear and participate in the investigation.

Khan also requested that he be allowed to join the probe via a video link from his house or sent a questionnaire containing precise ques-

tions/ queries for the purpose. "In the alternative, I am also available in person at Zaman Park," the reply reads.

A day earlier, the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) summoned PTI chief Imran Khan in connection with a probe into the Jinnah House attack on May 9.

The PTI chief was summoned by the JIT head Deputy Inspector General Kamran Adil at DIG Investigation Office Qila Gujjar Singh.

The Punjab government had constituted 10 separate JITs for probing into May 9 incidents. Khan had been nominated in different cases lodged at several police stations including Sarwar Road and Shadman.

On May 27, Punjab Home Department constituted a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe vandalism and arson at Corp Commander House (Jinnah House) in Lahore on May 9.

## Govt challenges SC bench hearing audio leaks commission case

ABC

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday raised objection over the Supreme Court bench hearing the audio leaks commission case.

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 about the judiciary, but the committee stopped working following orders of the apex court. The plea submitted by the federal government has raised objections over the inclusion of CJF Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ahmad and Justice Muneeb Akhtar in the audio leaks commission bench.

The plea stated that as per

the code of conduct, judges cannot hear cases related to their relatives, former CJF Iftikhar Chaudhry also denied being part of the Arslan Iftikhar case.

The federal government has sought the formation of a new bench in the audio leaks case hearing.

Last week, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial stopped proceedings of the judicial body and suspended the notification issued by the federal government.

The court issued its ruling on the petitions against the judicial body on audio leaks constituted by the federal government and issued notices to the parties.

## Awareness

QUETTA: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing an awareness seminar on breast cancer, mental health, and facilitation of persons with disabilities, at Governor House, on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## First Lady urges society's role to cope with breast cancer, mental health issues

## Bureau Report

QUETTA: First Lady Samina Alvi on Tuesday said that not merely the government rather everyone in society would have to play their role to cope with the issues like breast cancer, mental health, and disability.

The first lady, addressing a seminar held with the cooperation of the World Health Organisation at Governor House here, for creating awareness on breast cancer, mental health and disability, lauded the world health body's efforts for the elimination of breast cancer as well as the welfare of the differently-abled people.

The first lady said that the government was striving for concrete and practical measures to cope with the challenges of breast cancer and dis-

ability. Every individual in society will have to play their part in the prevention of the deadly disease, she added.

She also urged the women to carry out self-examination from time to time to ensure timely diagnosis of breast cancer as the disease could be treated easily if diagnosed at an early stage.

Earlier, WHO's Technical Advisor for Disability and Rehabilitation Dr Maryam Malik received the first lady and highlighted the objectives of the seminar.

Director of Pakistan Baitul Mal, Director of Women Development Department, WHO's Technical Advisor on Disability and Rehabilitation, and WHO head of Balochistan Dr Asfandiyar Sherani also addressed the seminar which also followed a question-answer session.

## Chairman Board of Trustees AAOIFI called on Ishaq Dar

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman Board of Trustees AAOIFI, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, today.

The Finance Minister welcomed H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and congratulated him for the holding of the First International Conference on Islamic Capital Markets in Pakistan in coordination with SECP Pakistan.



H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa lauded the

brotherly relations between Pakistan and Bahrain. He also appreciated the continuous support of Pakistan and stated that Pakistan has always been the closest partner from among the Muslim world. He also expressed his desire to start various social welfare ventures in Pakistan specially for capacity building and easy loan facilitation for entrepreneurs, specially for the women and the youth as Pakistan holds great potential in this regard.

The Finance Minister apprised H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

of the current Government's policies and programmes to support the youth and particularly women such as Benazir Income Support programme which is well-praised by the World Bank and also being followed in various African countries.

He also added that government is fully committed to support the lower classes through various microfinance schemes of such nature.

In the end, H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa thanked the Finance Minister for his support and cooperation.

## Pak-Italy JEC agrees establishment of joint framework encompassing multisectoral areas



## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman and Italy's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Maria Tripodi on Tuesday co-chaired the 5th meeting of the 'Pakistan-Italy Joint Economic Commission' (JEC) at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint framework to tackle climate change and cooperation in water management, hailing the establishment of an Italian Trade Agency office in Islamabad the next week, a news release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Sherry Rehman said it was a pleasure to co-chair the 5th meeting of the Pakistan-Italy JEC in Rome with the Deputy Minister.

She added that the establishment of the Italian Trade Agency office in Islamabad would boost bilateral trade. "We are building a common

framework with Italy to tackle climate change and improve water management. The trade partnership between Pakistan and Italy is stronger than ever. Our bilateral trade is to reach \$2 billion in 2022, and Pakistan's exports will cross \$1 billion," Sherry Rehman said.

The next JEC meeting would be hosted in Islamabad at a mutually convenient time, which we look forward to, she added.

While welcoming the finalisation of the 'Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic Passports', both sides reiterated their commitment to speedy negotiations to finalize the framework for Migration and Labour Mobility. Businessmen from Pakistan and Italy participated in the meeting.

The event concluded with the signing of an important 'Roadmap for Cooperation' covering climate change, trade and investment, heritage, culture, agriculture, higher education, technical cooperation and technology transfer in reference areas.

## The Central Concept of Islamic Finance is Socio-Economic Justices

That's Why Demand is Increasing with Awareness: Muhammad Zubair

## Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Zambia the south-Central African Country is ready to embrace the concept of Islamic Finance. Islamic Finance Industry potential is increasing day-by-day not only in Muslim dominated markets, although in non-Muslim markets. It is the positive gesture towards the growth of Islamic finance industry in Africa. The Market Penetration for Islamic Finance is more in East and West Africa, then in Central Africa. In south part of Africa South Africa was the pioneer for the Islamic finance in Africa and after Zambia has huge potential for Islamic finance. The adoption of Islamic finance will bring more opportunities for the socio-economic development of the country through foreign direct investments and internal resources



utilization. AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) working in Africa for the development of Islamic Finance Industry through consultancy and advisory and capacity building to emerging and potential markets. Now, AlHuda CIBE is devoted for the development of Islamic Finance in this market. The Zambian financial

market is well equipped with 17 local and international Commercial Banks, 27 Micro-credit, 7 Micro deposit taking intuitions, 6 leasing companies, few rural saving and credit bodies, 1 credit bureau and 1 development bank. These are institutions regulated by Central Bank of Zambia. Zambian Insurance market has 34 Insurance and Re-in-

urance companies regulated by Pension and Insurance Authority of Zambia. The market size and combination of local and international players reflect the spirit of financial adaptability of Zambian Market. The alternative financial products in the financial sector will play a significant role in financial diversity, inclusion and sustainable economic growth.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics during his visit to Zambia said that Socio-Economic aspects of financial industry together are the best solution for sustainable development of economy, and Islamic Finance is the best alternative. He also said that he with his dedicated team of experts is devoted to design ideal products for Banking, Microfinance, insurance, capi-

tal market and other financial institutions. AlHuda CIBE organized two days specialized training workshop on "Islamic Banking, Takaful and Islamic Microfinance", Central Bank of Zambia, Islamic Supreme Council of Zambia, Commercial Banks, Insurance and investment companies and microfinance institutions participated. It was a good gesture for from industry for the appetite of Islamic Finance in Zambia.

Islamic finance is not a religious product, it is an alternative for the interest oriented financial system, which is a hurdle for the growth of social aspects of human lives with economic growth. Islamic financial system reflects the equal distribution of wealth, uplifting of middle and lower middle class of society, entrepreneurship and sustainability in human lives.

## LHC turns down plea seeking to restore Nawaz Sharif as party head

## News Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday turned down a petition seeking to restore former prime minister Nawaz Sharif as head of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

LHC judge Justice Ali Baqar Najafi declared the petition inadmissible while upholding the objection raised by the registrar's office. The petition had been filed by a lawyer named Afaq Ahmed.

Imran Khan, Shaikh Rashid, Sirajul Haq, the Election Commission of Pakistan, federal government and the prime minister had been made party in the petition filed in the LHC.

## Imran Khan sends Rs10bn defamation notice to health minister over controversial presser

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan on Tuesday sent a defamation notice to Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel for alleging that traces of alcohol and cocaine were found in the former's urine analysis.

The former premier has sent the legal notice through his lawyer Abuzar Salman Khan Niazi under the Defamation Ordinance, 2002 over "dissemination and circulation of wrongful, baseless, false, misleading, erroneous, malicious and defamatory information" against Imran Khan during the minister's May 26

press conference. It said Mr Patel dishonestly alleged that the medical tests of the PTI chief showed traces of alcohol and cocaine in his urine sample and that the "mental stability" of Imran Khan was "questionable".

"How alcohol and cocaine consumption can be traced through a urine test?" it is one of the questions raised in the notice. It also highlighted that there were not details of a full trauma examination of the former prime minister.

"The report emphasises a lot on mental state of our client [Imran Khan]; however, no details of mental state examination have been provided," it

stated. The minister, the notice said, made the remarks "knowingly, consciously, willingly, deliberately and maliciously which is highly irrational and negates the principles of ethics and morals". It added that derogatory remarks were "also in violation of the standards and ethics which members of [the] Federal Cabinet must possess and display".

The notice said Mr Patel was "responsible and liable for the defamatory circulation and dissemination" which caused "a loss" to the PTI chief's "goodwill, injury to his reputation and adversely affected his honour". "Likewise, you have also caused

emotional trauma, mental agony, anguish and distress to our client," read the notice.

Mr Khan has demanded the minister to retract his comments and tender an unconditional apology, besides admitting that had committed a mistake.

It also asked the minister to pay "Rs 10 billion for defaming...and levelling false allegations" against the PTI chairman, adding that the money would be "donated to Shaoukat Khanam Memorial Cancer Hospital" for treatment of patients.

The minister has been warned of further legal action in case he fails to fulfill the demands within 15 days.

## Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that Education Ministry was ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to devise strategies that benefit students, teachers and parents in every province.

He was presiding over the 36th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) here on Tuesday.

Rana Tanveer Hussain in his opening remarks said that the meeting was going to play an instrumental role in developing synergies for providing access to education in all corners of Pakistan.

He reiterated that IPEMC's contributions were going to be significant in the enrollment of Out of School Children (OOSC) and multiple distance learning interventions.

He emphasized the importance of developing a framework for data sharing as well. He also assured the provinces that maximum facilitation would

be given to them for reaping benefits from these projects.

Secretary Education, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary welcomed the participants and provided an introduction to IPEMC and an overview of the core agenda of the meeting.

He informed the participants about the grants provided to provinces under ASPIRE project during the current and previous fiscal years to facilitate disadvantaged areas for educational access.

He informed the attendees about the flagship initiatives related to distance learning, Out of School Children, Curriculum reforms and foundation learning conferences of MOFEPT and how the provinces could contribute towards their implementation for optimum results.

The meeting proceedings started with a comprehensive overview of the National Distance Education Strategy comprising vision, learning goals and objectives was also carried out during the meeting.

# Women's University Multan Inauguration of Dar-ul Quran Centre: Dr Uzma Quraishi

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Uzma Quraishi inaugurated Dar-ul Quran Centre, Water filtration plant, Old Hall, Entrance gate and Parking shed and chemistry labs at Katchery campus. In this regard inauguration ceremony was held which was attended by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha, Registrar Dr. Qammar Rubab Dr. Sara Musadiq faculty and staff members. On the occasion Project Director Asad Ali Butta brief that Government of Punjab has funded these development projects under ADP program titled "Construction of Buildings of WUM". Sub-engineer Mr. Tahir briefly explain about the main features of different projects inaugurated in the university the estimated cost almost more than ten million. Addressing the ceremony Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi said Women University Multan has made it essential that students, faculty and staff of university consumed clean water that safeguarded their health profile.



This latest filtration plant has the ability to remove all types of contaminants and improve quality of water. New Entrance gate and parking shed has been built in the light to maintain separate entry for the incoming and outgoing traffic. She was briefed about the security measures entry process and other allied arrangements to facilitate the staff and visitors. The construction of the parking area will facilitate the parking of vehicle. VC Dr. Uzma Quraishi said that provision of facilities, beautification and academic excel-

lence of the university are the top priorities and university Management has leave no stone unturned in this regard.

While inaugurating Dar-ul Quran centre VC Prof. Dr Uzma Quraishi said that Quran is a complete code of life. The teaching of the Quran is a compulsory part of syllabus to disseminate knowledge and discipline among young generation. While visiting the old hall of university VC Prof Dr. Uzma Quraishi said that efforts has

been made by university from its own resources so that historical and cultural importance of this Hall would be preserved. Its renovation is completed now it would again be utilised to host important events of university. While inaugurating the upgradation of four research labs for PhD and M.Phil scholars at Department of Chemistry, VC Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi congratulated the HoD, faculty members, and students of the Chemistry department and lauded the efforts and devotion of the HoD and faculty members. She extended her full support in every aspect for the students and faculty of the university. She encouraged the students to make the best use of the facilities available in the University to utilize their talents.

Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha said the main objective of Women University is to provide better opportunities for higher education to the students. Chairperson Department of Chemistry Dr. Sara Musadiq said that these labs are upgraded with state of art equipment and tools and is part of the efforts to bring WUM at par with the advanced research institutions globally.

## Motorway Police recovered the stolen vehicle & two children



**Mian Rashid Asghar**

According to the reliable sources, stolen car recovered on Motorway M-14 & two children who ran away from the school were handed over to the Child Protection Bureau.

The immediate actions with due role of the Motorway Police are ongoing on to relief in the people. The Motorway Police recovered the stolen vehicle from Jhelum near M-14 Daudkhel. There was no person in the vehicle. On suspicion, investigation was conducted and it was found that Honda car model 2005 was stolen from Jhelum yesterday morning. The owner was contacted and provided with information about the recovery of the vehicle. Taking further legal action car was handed over the vehicle to Dawoodkhel police station. The search for the accused continues. During another operation near Chakri, the Motorway Police observed 2 children whose ages were 8 and 9 years respectively. The children could not give satisfactory answers when questioned. On which the children were transferred to Chakri camp. Later it was found that the children are studying in a madrassa in Islamabad and belong to Karachi. But the children could not provide the address or contact number of their family and madrassa.

In this situation, the children who ran away from the madrassa were safely handed over to the Child Protection Bureau Rawalpindi.

## Local political leadership announced support for the sit-in & justified their demands

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: The national alliance sit-in (Qumi atehad dharna) continues for the fourth day in tehsil Birmal area Azamwarsak of District Lower South Waziristan.



Local political leadership in the protest sit-in, District President Amanullah Wazir from PPP, General Secretary Imran Mukhlis, Noor Zaman Wazir from ANP, District General Secretary Asadullah Wazir from Jamaat-e-Islami, Khanzada Wazir from PTI and Murad Wazir from NDM, attended with a large number of them workers.

Addressing the sit-in, the speakers said that the local government should immediately resolve the legitimate demands of the people of Birmal Azamwarsak and take practical steps to solve them, they said that until the legitimate demands of the people of this area are not solved, the sit-in will continue.

It should be clear that the people of South Waziristan Lower District tehsil Birmal Azamwarsak staged a sit-in four days ago to meet their demands, which is still going on, their demands are as follows.

- 24 hours electricity supply should be ensured to tehsil Birmal
- The local people should be allowed to protect their natural crop pines and the herdsmen should be allowed to move their cattle without hindrance in the Spira hilly area of Pak-Afghan border.
- To install mobile towers in certain areas and provide 3G/4G services where there are mobile towers.
- Government educational institutions and health centers have been nonfunctional for a long time in different areas of Tehsil Birmal, so they should be functional.
- Compensation should be given to the families of those who were injured and martyred in various incidents.

The participants of the sit-in threatened that if the government and the district administration do not resolve our legitimate demands, so the sit-in will continue and Wana Gomal Road will be closed for all kinds of traffic.

## Five day anti-polio campaign drive in District Lower South Waziristan

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: A 5-day anti-polio campaign has been started in Lower South Waziristan district in accordance with the security plan of RPO Dera Division and strict instructions of DPO South Waziristan under full-proof security.



Special instructions of DPO South Waziristan, strict security has been provided to all teams and police mobiles and armored vehicles will be patrolling all days.

However, all police stations have been put on alert, additional personnel and special forces have already been ordered by the DPO to be ready 24 hours a day to deal with any kind of emergency.

# Successful Public Defense of PhD Scholars Ms Shazia Sana and Ms Bismillah: Dr Uzma Quraishi

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Two PhD scholars of the Department of Economics of the Women University Multan, Ms Shazia Sana and Ms. Bismillah, were recommended to be awarded doctorate degrees after successful public defense ceremony held today at Katchery campus. The chief guest of the ceremony was Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Uzma Quraishi.



The topic of thesis of scholar Ms. Bismillah was "Trade Liberalization and Fiscal Stance: A case study of selected developing countries" while other scholar Ms. Shazia Sana thesis title was "Monetary Transmission Mechanism and Exchange Rate policy: A case study of Pakistan". Both the scholars completed their research under the supervision of Dr. Shah Nawaz Malik and Dr. Ramzan Sheikh and external supervisor was Dr. Rehmat ullah Awan.

Addressing the ceremony Ms. Bismillah said that the main objective of this study is to make a functional analysis of trade liberalization and

fiscal stance.

For this purpose, causality between tax trade, government expenditure trade, external debt trade and official development assistance trade is examined of selected countries.

The results show that there is bidirectional causality between trade liberalization and financial stability in almost all countries, while the short-run causality is different in some group of countries.

The study suggests that policymakers can create policies of trade openness

that can increase tax revenues as well as government spending in developing countries. Later, there was a public defense of Ms. Shazia Sana, she said that the exchange rate channel is the channel that connects the domestic economy with the international economies.

For example, a rise in domestic interest rates makes local currency financial assets, such as rupees denominated bonds, rupees deposits, etc relatively more attractive than foreign currency denominated assets. Pakistan is currently under severe economic pressure, the exchange rate is going up and down rapidly, due to which the monitoring policy is also changing rapidly, which is having immense impact on our economy.

After the question answer session it was recommended by the participants to award doctorate degree to Dr. Shazia Sana and Dr. Bismillah. The HoD of Economics Department Dr. Hina Ali congratulated both scholars on their successful defense. The ceremony was attended by faculty members and students.

# Government is determined to bring economic prosperity to all sectors: PM AJK

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq has said that the government is determined to bring economic prosperity to all sectors of the economy. Addressing a consultative meeting on the upcoming budget, here at Jammu and Kashmir House, the prime minister said it would ensure the equal distribution of resources in various sectors including education and health. "Special importance should be given to education, health, tourism, agriculture, livestock and information technology,"

he emphasized to the government officials. He said, "continuity of providing facilities to the people should be maintained by presenting a balanced and people-friendly budget".

The meeting was attended by the Most Senior Minister Colonel (Retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Government Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Usman Chachar, Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi and Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah participated. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister said that the budget should be enhanced for every

department in order to achieve institutional stability and strengthen.

He said that the health and education sectors need to be specifically targeted. He said that in the budget it should be ensured the provision of balanced funds to all sectors, including hydraulic power, education, tourism, information, electronics, public health, physical planning, local government, electronics, livestock, agriculture, sports, information and agriculture. He said that a viable work plan should be devised to spend the surplus of the budget on the welfare of the people.

He said that we need to improve

our universities, colleges and schools. "When resources are given, they will deliver results, the same way, there is a need to improve the quality of divisional, district and tehsil level hospitals so that the people can get the best health facilities, new ideas are needed in the field of tourism, agriculture, live stock and information technology, so that the society as a whole can improve," he added.

Innovative ideas are encouraged in the new budget. Any idea will be encouraged which will bring overall benefit and increase convenience for people, he added.

# PepsiCo and Amal Academy Celebrate 10th Anniversary of the Amal Career-Prep Fellowship Program

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: PepsiCo and Amal Academy celebrated the 10th anniversary and the graduation 10,000 Fellows from the Amal Career Prep program today. The program has been supported by the PepsiCo Foundation since 2018, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo and is focused on supporting Pakistan's youth to acquire essential soft skills to enhance their professional grooming. This prepares them for the competitive job market and to initiate entrepreneurial ventures.

Amal Academy has empowered 10,000 fellows from over 130+ universities who have participated in the program in the last decade. Amal Academy has active relationships and outreach at 24+ partner universities where students have benefitted from the intensive trainings

designed to empower the next generation of changemakers. 88% job-seeking alumni have received employment offers or started businesses, with 62% Fellows who found employment reporting increase in average household income. Graduates have also shown 63% improvement in skills, including 72% improvement in initiative-taking, 81% in interviewing, and 60% in confidence and problem-solving. Apart from getting lucrative jobs, many fellows have led 1137 social impact/entrepreneurial projects. The overall impact shows that there are 115,000+ indirect beneficiaries, including new jobs created by graduates' entrepreneurial ventures.

The event was attended by prominent guests from academia as well as industry and business streams from across Pakistan. Dr Amjad Saqib, the founder and

Managing Director of Akhuwat who is one of Pakistan's most respected philanthropists, was also present at the occasion. A high-level thought-leadership panel discussion also took place which further highlighted the need for rigorous development of mechanisms that empower talented youth of the country to become competitive in the national and international professional arenas. The focus of the discussion was also on building holistic and lasting professional networks that can be used to leverage the surplus of talent that exists in the country.

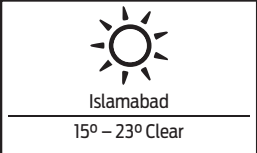
Speaking at the occasion, Ali Siddiq, CEO of Amal Academy said, "We are thrilled to celebrate this remarkable milestone. The partnership with PepsiCo has galvanized our mission and enriched the way in which we support our Fellows."



Anum Pasha, Senior Manager of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at PepsiCo, added, "PepsiCo is committed

to doing good for the communities we work with and in. We believe that by working together with Amal we have

steadfastly created more equitable and prosperous opportunities for Pakistan's youth."



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3: 19 am  
Zohr ..... 12: 05 pm  
Asr ..... 5: 03 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7: 12 pm  
Isha ..... 8: 53 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**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  
Cant Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80

**RIPHAH joins THE's Digital Universities Asia as a Technology Leader**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University participated in the prestigious event organized by the Times Higher Education (THE) under the title of "Digital Universities Asia 2023". The event was organized in Hilton Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Chancellor Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor- Academics Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan, and Director IT Mr. Sarfraz Ahmad Haroon joined the event as Higher Education Technology Leaders on behalf of Riphah International University. It is important to mention that Riphah International University is ranked among the Top 4 Universities in Pakistan by THE and is considered a rising institution, especially in terms of adaptation of new technologies and upgraded teaching methodologies. During the event, more than 250 delegates, policymakers, higher education experts, and digital leaders from across the globe gathered for two days of intense learning and discussion about the future of higher education. Concepts such as Metaverse Campus, Sustainable development of lifelong education, Digital transformation in the context of AI & Chatgpt, and Cloud Campus development were discussed.

**PDM and PPP, PMLN cannot give relief to people: Siraj Ul Haq**

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq has said that if PDM and PPP cannot give relief to the people, then they should at least withdraw the increase in the prices of food items, petrol, electricity and gas in the budget. The parties had long marches against inflation before coming to power. The ruling parties cannot heal the wounds caused by poverty, unemployment and inflation to millions of people by blaming each other. When PTI came to power, it held the PML-N and PPP governments responsible for the problem, now the current government is throwing all the debris on PTI, the fact is that all three have failed to deliver, the nation is watching.

The protocol culture has ended, neither the non-developmental expenses have been reduced, there are so many people in the cabinet that the Prime Minister may not even know their names. If inflation is not reduced in the budget, Jamaat-e-Islami



mi will organize the people of the whole country and protest. Only Jamaat-e-Islami can bring the country out of the current crisis. Getting rid of corruption and Islamic economy is the solution to the economic crisis. Instead of IMF, the path of self-reliance will have to be adopted. For economic improvement, progressive thinking should be adopted instead of regressive thinking.

He expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Islamic Homeopathic Medical Association. Siraj-ul-Haq said that the government should restore subsidy on electricity, gas and reduce the price of petrol by 100 rupees in the budget. In order to reduce unemployment, instead of retired officers of the civil-military bureaucracy, PhD scholars and other degree holders should be employed on vacant posts. Jamaat-e-Islami demands that the government stop foreign tours along with Zafar Moji and free electricity, gas and petrol facilities for bureaucracy and government officials.

The only policy of our governments in the past and still of Pakistani governments is to borrow, eat and later beg at the doors of international financial institutions and friendly countries for more loans. Pakistan needs to get rid of IMF, World Bank and American slavery. The country has to pay 75 billion dollars in foreign debt in the next three years. The nation is right to ask where these loans were spent.

**Trouble**

ISLAMABAD: Passengers are facing trouble in crossing the busiest IJP Road due to unavailability of over head pedestrian bridge, which needs the attention of concerned authorities.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

**Banking and Finance institute graduations in Multan end with high profile**

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Annual Graduation ceremony of the passing out students of the Institute of Banking and Finance of Bahauddin Zakariya University was held at Jinnah Auditorium.

Dean Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration and Director IBF Professor Dr. Shaukat Malik while addressing the annual graduation ceremony. Malik Shukat said that institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) is the best institute of the university and is producing very capable graduates. Playing its full role in development, in ten years IBF has developed a lot and thousands of students are studying business here.



And the institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) has organized a very grand graduation ceremony, and I came. The lack of faculty and staff of IBF will be made permanent soon and will provide full support according to all the needs of IBF. He first thanked his teacher Prof. Shaukat Malik, that thanks to him he is holding a high position today, adding that the students who are passing out today are very lucky to have teachers like Prof. Shaukat Malik. Students should work hard and honestly to get promoted, that is the only rule

to get promoted, my institution State Bank will try its best to give internship to IBF students. And similarly, (IBF) institute of Banking and Finance graduates will have adequate opportunities in jobs and they will also ask the entire banking industry to provide proper employment opportunities to IBF students because of the discipline, regulatory and punctuality developed here. It improves the skills of the students and it is essential for the success of any enterprise. The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Zarfana Kustafan, also addressed the event and assured full cooperation from his country to IBF, Zakaria University and Pakistan.

**Real estate sector demands fiscal reforms to save Pakistan's economy: RECA**

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Real Estate Consultants Association RECA DHA.I.R Officials while holding a press conference at National Press Club Islamabad have demanded from the government that the real estate sector can save the economy of the country and the government should reduce taxes. So that overseas Pakistanis can invest. Due to the uncertainty of the country, foreign investment has decreased a lot. The real estate sector contributed the most in getting out of the gray list of FATF. The highest revenue generating sector in the country is being neglected which is causing a lot of damage to the economy of Pakistan.

We want to play our role in improving the economy of Pakistan. These views were expressed by the president col. Asif Kiyani. Adil nawaz bhatti. Mussarat ijaz.



Farukh hameed along with other officials held a press conference at the National Press Club. RECA officials said that the real estate sector is the backbone of the country's economy, the role of the state is like a mother, the government should support the real estate sector because the government gets the most revenue from this sector.

This will help bring more dealers into

the formal tax net and promote transparency in the sector. Real estate agents want to pay tax to the government, but due to government policies, they have to face serious problems, there is a difference of up to 8% between the DC value and the FBR value regarding the property value, which stops the transfer of the property, which is suffering in the form of non-revenue to the government, the

government should refrain from further increasing the DC valuation in the next budget and maintain it at the current level as this increase will result in more tax revenue collection.

To increase productivity, reducing the tax burden on taxpayers will encourage more real estate agents to become filers and contribute to the country's tax revenue. The government should work with stakeholders to bring more taxpayers into the tax net. In response to a question, Secretary RECA Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that at present the real estate sector is suffering from severe pressure, which is the main reason for the transfer of capital from the country to foreign countries. It used to be that now the investors are also moving abroad very fast, in such a case the government should take a quick decision regarding the IMF agreement.

**Imran Khan exploited workers for his success: Javed Intizar**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan exploited workers for his success. Satisfied his desire for power by burying his ideology. Workers left the revolutionary party and fled. Imran Khan is reaping what he sowed. I will start the public communication campaign in Islamabad from June. Imran Khan forgot that no matter how fast a horse runs, it cannot go ahead of its head. Chairman Azad Awam Tehreek Javed Intizar said in a meeting with Ahliyan Bara Kahu that national and provincial After coming out of the assemblies, irreparable damage was realized to the country.



**QistBazaar Expands its Footprint with the Opening of 10th Facilitation Centre**

City Desk

KARACHI: QistBazaar, a leading Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) fintech company focused on serving the unbanked population, proudly announces the grand opening of its 10th facilitation centre in the bustling neighborhood of Gulistan-e-Johar. Situated in one of Karachi's most densely populated middle-class hubs, with an estimated 5 million residents within a 5-mile radius, this strategic expansion solidifies QistBazaar's commitment to empowering the masses and promoting financial inclusivity.

Rubina Kamardin, Head of Branches at QistBazaar, shed light on the company's motivation for establishing brick and mortar centres, stating, "While online e-commerce platforms may seem like an obvious choice to target the masses, the reality is that 80% of the Pakistani population lacks true literacy. We have a choice: either ignore them or help them embrace the new online world. These facilitation centres are designed to provide the necessary handholding support during this transition."

About QistBazaar: QistBazaar is a pioneering BNPL fintech company dedicated to serving the unbanked population of Pakistan. By providing accessible and flexible payment options, QistBazaar empowers individuals to make essential purchases without the need for traditional banking services. With a focus on financial inclusivity, QistBazaar aims to bridge the gap between the unbanked and the digital economy, fostering economic growth and empowerment nationwide.

**OPF and Overseas Pakistani Commission Punjab Departments are powerless: Musart Hussain**

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Overseas Pakistani in Canada, Musrat Hussain Siddiqui, says that the incident of May 9 is very sad. The people love the Pakistan Army and will continue to do so. There is no institution in Pakistan that has been empowered to solve the problems of overseas Pakistanis. Along with the institutions, the state is also not serious about solving the problems of overseas Pakistanis.

Both the Overseas Pakistani Foundation and the Overseas Pakistani Commission Punjab departments are powerless. Federal Ombudsman and Provincial Ombudsman Punjab are also powerless to bring justice to overseas Pakistanis. Institutions across the country are engaged in robbing overseas Pakistanis. NAB and anti-corruption institutions are increasing corruption instead of eradicating corruption. The current government has made the bribery market even hotter by making NAB laws.

The problems of overseas Pakistanis are going on in the courts for no reason and the institutions also advise to approach the courts, which is wasting time in the courts. We overseas Pakistanis think of a better future for Pakistan, but those who are the rulers in Pakistan Why don't they think so that Pakistan can develop and overseas Pakistanis come and live in Pakistan? Why doesn't the government understand that overseas Pakistanis are the backbone of the Pakistani economy who are playing their role in the country's development by sending money to Pakistan.

**Majax to set up game studio at Islamia University of Bahawalpur**



City Desk

BAHAWALPUR: Game District, an emerging mobile games leader company, will establish a game studio at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. This was agreed during the visit of Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor to Games District Office in Lahore today. On this occasion, the CEO Games District Mr. Saad Hameed briefed that his company has a project alliance with the world renowned companies like NFL, Hobbits, LEGO, and Outfit7 to produce outstanding mobile games.

Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that mobile games development companies are playing a significant role in Digital Learning & Information Technology and contributing in the economy. Both sides agreed to promote mobile games through mutual collaboration, and Game District will provide necessary equipment worth Rs.2 million to establish a mobile game studio at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Mr. Rizwan Majeed, Director IT, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Mr. Umair Majeed CEO Ditecs AI were also present on this occasion.

Mr. Rizwan Majeed said that during the recent years, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has shown tremendous progress in IT education and research, and federal, provincial as well as renowned IT companies are offering support to promote joint ventures in this sector.

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is already engaged with federal IT Ministry, Punjab Information Technology Board, Punjab Software Export Board, and other organizations on various projects. Vice Chancellor's visit to the Game District was also connected with the University's efforts to explore opportunities in the latest fields of information Technology.



## Pakistan showcased at the Global Pulses Conference 2023

**Spokesman Report**

SYDNEY: An event, "Showcasing Pakistan", was organized on the sidelines of the Global Pulses Conference 2023 in Sydney, Australia. The event was organized by the High Commission for Pakistan, Canberra in collaboration with the Global Pulses Confederation (GPC).

The GPC represents all segments of the pulses industry value chain from growers, researchers, logistics suppliers, traders, exporters and importers to government bodies, multilateral organizations, processors, canners, and consumers. The GPC Pulses Conference is the industry's largest global event which brings together key players from more than 50 countries.

Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri briefed the participants on the potential of Pakistan market. He underscored that Pakistan had a large



consumer market with around 240 million people with 64 percent of the population under the age of 30 years.

The High Commissioner highlighted the opportunities in the entire value chain of the food sector in Pakistan from researchers, growers, processors, importers, and exporters to consumers. He invited the businessmen from

Australia and other countries to benefit from these opportunities.

Welcoming the large delegation from Pakistan, the High Commissioner assured the Pakistani business community of full cooperation from the High Commission in exploring the trade and investment opportunities between Pakistan and Australia.

President of GPC, Cindy Brown highlighted the significance of the Pakistani market especially for the export of pulses and canola. The CEO of GPC Randy Duckworth also reiterated the significance of Pakistan as a global market.

Mr. Faisal Anis Majeed, a founding member of Global Pulses Confederation Young Professionals (GPCYP) appreciated the coordination between the Australian suppliers and Pakistani buyers. He also thanked the High Commission for organizing the event.

Mr. Azhar Shah from AUSTRALDE informed that Pakistan was a priority market for Australia.

He added that there had been an increasing exchange of business delegations between Pakistan and Australia after Covid-19.

The "Showcasing Pakistan" event was attended by a large number of delegates from Pakistan, Australia and other countries.

## Zulfiqar Ahmad Visits Manila to Attend Asia Gulf Cooperation Council Dialogue

MANILA, PHILIPPINES: The Secretary Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), Zulfiqar Ahmad arrived in Manila on May 30, 2023, to participate in the Asia Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) Dialogue on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The visit, scheduled for May 30-31, aimed to address crucial labor reforms and tackle issues related to migrant labor.

The Secretary, accompanied by Aakif Iqbal from the Bureau of Immigration, embarked on this important mission to discuss pressing concerns affecting workers and migrants in the region. The AGCC Dialogue provided a platform for key stakeholders to exchange ideas, share best practices, and develop strategies to achieve sustainable development goals with a focus on labor welfare.

During the event, the Secretary emphasized the significance of robust labor reforms to ensure the well-being and rights of workers, particularly migrant laborers who often face unique challenges. The discussion centered on improving working conditions, enhancing social protection measures, and promoting equal opportunities for all workers in the Asia Gulf region.

The Secretary also highlighted the importance of cooperation among AGCC member countries to address the systemic issues affecting migrant labor. By sharing experiences, knowledge, and expertise, the participating nations aimed to develop effective policies that would enhance the overall welfare of workers in the region.

## Maanu is the new star on Spotify Pakistan's RADAR

**Spokesman Report**

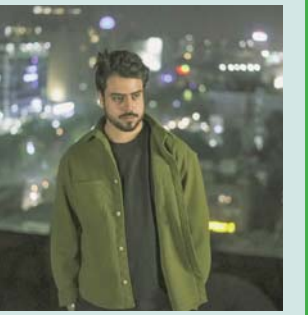
KARACHI: The talented artist, Maanu, who is gaining recognition for his ability to blend various genres, such as electronic, hip-hop, pop, and R&B, seamlessly, is the newest artist to be highlighted on RADAR Pakistan.

Islamabad, May 30, 2023 - Spotify's RADAR initiative, which spotlights emerging artists from around the world, has made a significant impact in Pakistan. It has helped support and elevate local talent to the next level of their careers by providing them with a global platform to showcase their music. In the second quarter of 2023, Maanu has been given the same opportunity to shine on this stage.

"I'm incredibly excited and grateful to be the next Spotify RADAR artist. It's a great chance to tell my story my way, and to work with the people I'm closest to in order to showcase it. Spotify has been a great partner to many artists like myself since arriving in Pakistan and is constantly striving to help us grow our fan base which matters the most", said Maanu while sharing his excitement.

"It's also a huge bonus that this announcement coincides with the release of my next album YIN // YAIN which listeners will get a glimpse of through the RADAR documentary. I hope to use the push given by the campaign to try and ensure this next album reaches as many people as possible."

"We're incredibly excited to amplify Maanu as the next RADAR Pakistan artist. His music has resonated well with Pakistani audiences and it's time to elevate his music to a global audience unlike ever before. Maanu will release his newest single exclusively with RADAR Pakistan which proves RADAR Pakistan to be the home for emerging artists across the nation. I can only imagine what lies ahead for Maanu, but for now, we're glad to be a part of his journey," said Khan FM, Spotify's Artist & Label Partnerships Manager for Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh.



## National Skills University Islamabad Shines Globally

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The National Skills University Islamabad has been selected for the UNESCO-UNEVO initiative for promoting systematic digital transformation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). A notification received from the UNEVO Center, Shenzhen Polytechnic China, states, "This letter is to formally confirm that the UNEVO Centre, National Skills University Islamabad, Pakistan, has been recognized as one of the key partners for the UNEVO Network Coaction Initiative 2023. We believe that your center's expertise and commitment will greatly contribute to the success of this project and help us achieve our shared objectives. By collaborating closely, we can bridge the digital skills gap and foster sustainable development in our regions and countries."

The Vice-Chancellor of National Skills University Islamabad described this participation as a recognition of the university in promoting skills education across the country and working with international partners. Other participating institutions in this initiative of transforming TVET education include Preah Kossamak Polytechnic Institute, Cambodia; Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore; Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia; Zhejiang Technical Institute of Economics, China. The leading institution for digital transformation initiatives is Shenzhen Polytechnic, China. All participating universities will jointly work to identify and share good practices related to the digital transformation of skills education and share on a unified platform. A meeting of all university leaders for this project will be held in Shenzhen Polytechnic, China.

It is important to mention that proceeding and conference of this digital transforming skills education initiative will be publicly accessible in Urdu, English, Chinese, and Khmer. It will be a unique opportunity for the Pakistani nation to learn about the global efforts of National Skills University Islamabad to promote skills education in our national language. It is important to mention that NSU was part of a similar initiative, the UNESCO-UNEVO Co-Action Initiative for the "Future Foresight Institutional Capacity for Post-COVID-19 World" project.

## Pak-Japan Relations

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Yasumitsu Kinoshita, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office called on Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works at his office on Tuesday.



Photo: APP

## TPL Insurance Limited to acquire assets and liabilities of New Hampshire Insurance Company's Pakistan's branch

**News Desk**

KARACHI: TPL Insurance Limited, a leading non-life insurance provider in Pakistan, today announced its Board of Directors' approval of a draft Scheme of Arrangement under Section 279 to Section 282 and Section 285 of the Companies Act, 2017. The scheme outlines the acquisition of the assets and liabilities of the Pakistani Branch of New Hampshire Insurance Company ("NHIC").

Upon approval by the High Court of Pakistan, the Scheme of Arrangement will facilitate the seamless transfer of NHIC's assets and liabilities to TPL Insurance. The successful completion of the transaction is subject to obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals, including the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's ("SECP") endorsement.

TPL Insurance Limited is a renowned non-life insurance company in Pakistan, renowned for its track record of growth and profitability. TPL Insurance has firmly established itself as a trusted partner in the insurance and insurtech industry.

## Centre for Labour Research convenes stakeholders to promote fair working conditions in the platform economy

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The platform economy has grown quickly in Pakistan in recent years. Given Pakistan's youth population (more than 60% under the age of 30) and nearly four million youth entering the working-age population every year, the platform economy can be an engine for employment growth in the country. Platform work can provide easier access to the labour market and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and those traditionally excluded from the labour market, such as youth, women, and minorities. The platform workers are currently classified as "independent contractors" and do not have access to any labour rights that are reserved for "workers" under the labour laws. Misclassifying these workers has consequences for the workers by restricting access to existing labour and social security rights and leading to worker exploitation.



Centre for Labour Research is working with the Fairwork Foundation, University of Oxford, UK, to promote the rights of platform workers. The Centre organized a stakeholder consultation workshop on 30 May 2023 to promote fair labour practices and decent work in the gig or platform economy.

The lead researcher and founder of the Centre for Labour Research, Iftikhar Ahmad, presented an overview of the platform economy and the need for regulation. He also gave a detailed presentation on regulatory best practices for legislation in the platform economy. This was followed

by a comprehensive discussion of the draft legislation that the Centre for Labour Research has been working on for the last one and a half years.

"As a government representative, I am pleased to see the Centre for Labour Research take proactive steps to address the needs of gig economy workers. We look forward to collaborating with the Centre and other stakeholders to implement this legislation and support the growth of the gig economy." Said Mr Azhar Malik, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of OP&HRD. Another government representative said that the "The

legislation drafted by Centre for Labour Research is a welcome development for the gig economy in Pakistan. It demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that platform workers are not left behind and are provided with the necessary protections and benefits they need to thrive in the industry."

Ms Zahida Parveen from the Pakistan Workers Federation and Dr Lubna Shehnaz Umer, a member of the Minimum Wages Board, Punjab, also acknowledged the importance of protecting the rights of platform workers and stated their commitment to working with the Centre for Labour Research to develop legislation that ensures fair working conditions for all workers, including those in the platform economy. The ILO representative, Mr Saghir Bukhari, also supported the idea of enactment of legislation and provided valuable inputs to improve the draft.

The Centre for Labour Research will continue to engage with all stakeholders to promote the rights of platform workers in Pakistan.

## 'A Conversation with Ms. Bette Dam, author of Looking for the Enemy: Mullah Omar and the Unknown Taliban'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized 'A Conversation with Ms. Bette Dam, author of Looking for the Enemy: Mullah Omar and the Unknown Taliban'. Diplomats, academics and students attended the event.

During her introductory remarks, Ms. Amina Khan, Director of CAMEA, highlighted the distinctiveness of Ms. Dam's work as a Western author, offering a fresh perspective on the subject matter. She emphasized that Ms.

Dam's nuanced approach of exploring all sides of the story contributes to a comprehensive and unbiased analysis, enabling readers to gain deeper insights into complex issues. Ms. Khan noted that this ability to embrace different viewpoints enhances the resonance and relevance of Ms. Dam's writing in the region.

DG ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, delivered welcome remarks. He appreciated Ms. Dam's work, stating that her work had helped demystify many aspects of Mullah Omar's life and mission which had remained shrouded in mystery. In particular, her research had provided fresh perspective on the indigenous origins of the

Taliban movement, factors for its rise in the peculiar circumstances of the civil war-ridden Afghanistan of the mid-1990s, the handling of 9/11 and its aftermaths by Taliban leadership, the troubled relationship between Mullah Omar and Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and the last days of Mullah Omar and his demise in Afghanistan.

Ms. Bette Dam gave a brief presentation on her journey as an investigative journalist in particular.

During the discussion, Ms. Bette Dam highlighted the extensive research that had been undertaken to delve into the intricacies of Mullah Omar's life, encompassing his

upbringing, formative years, development as a leader, the inception of the Taliban movement, and the final moments of his life.

Ms. Bette Dam also talked about Mullah Omar's perspective on the Taliban, revealing that he viewed the group as a neutral peacekeeping force with the intention to halt the ongoing conflict and chaos in Afghanistan. Contrary to prevailing beliefs, as highlighted in her book, Ms. Bette Dam challenged the narrative by emphasizing that Mullah Omar, the former Taliban leader, remained in Afghanistan until his death, refuting the misconception that he died in Pakistan.



Her remarks were followed by an interactive discussion. The participants' comments

focused on her key findings as well as problems related to the dominance of the Western

narrative and the difficulties it posed for objective journalistic reporting.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with 2 columns: Index Name, Current Value, Prev. Close, Day's High, Day's Low, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time.

High level delegation of ICCI visited Skardu to review the arrangements of ICCI Tourism Summit 2023

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce high level delegation visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, The delegation was headed by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari.



regarding the organization of the conference. He said that ICCI should cooperate for the improvement of the dry fruit industry in Gilgit-Baltistan.

abab Chamber Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that I am grateful to the provincial government for its cooperation in organizing the summit. Islamabad Chamber is trying to promote

tourism. The northern regions of Pakistan can become the central points for tourism in the region. We need to improve the infrastructure, hoteling industry, roads and other facilities are necessary for the promotion of tourism.

Zong 4G partners with Roshan Packages

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading digital company, has partnered with Roshan Packages Limited, one of the country's largest packaging manufacturers.



scope by providing next-generation business solutions that are crucial for sustainable business growth. We look forward to unlocking this potential with Roshan Packages Limited through this alliance."

digital solutions in businesses. Highlighting the benefits of technology in upscaling business operations, he commended Zong 4G's robust connectivity and diverse business solutions in helping to make this possible for various corporate sectors including the packaging industry.

No concession for those who attacked the state, insulted martyrs

T Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said that those who attacked the state and insulted martyrs for their petty political gains do not deserve any concession.



conspiracy by taking timely action, for which they deserve all the praise. The business leader said that the desperate politician, who has caused irreparable damage to the country, is not responding to the charges of planning to roll back the nuclear programme which has exposed his reality to the public.

SECP Chairman unveils commemorative stamp to mark silver jubilee of CDC Pakistan

Commerce desk

ISLAMABAD: To mark the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC), Pakistan Post has issued a commemorative postage stamp.



ations. Since 1997, CDC has been operating as an integral infrastructure institution, providing efficient, trustworthy, and innovative services to Pakistan's financial landscape. CDC functions as an infrastructure entity offering digital innovation.

On the occasion, the Chairman of SECP, Akif Saeed, recalled the exemplary contributions of CDC's



On this occasion, CDC CEO Mr. Badiuddin Akbar said, "CDC is committed in its resolve to continue playing the role of an enabler in line with its vision for effecting ease of doing business while introducing innovative solutions for all stakeholders in Pakistan's financial landscape."

Pakistan's first packaging alliance seeks green financing

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: CoRe (Collect and Recycle) the first multi-stakeholder packaging alliance in Pakistan has sought availability of green financing, 5-year tax holiday for recycling projects, incentivization for infrastructure amongst other recommendations to the federal government in the forthcoming budget 2023-24.

Pakistani Students took top positions in Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 Global Final Held in Shenzhen, China

146 Teams from 36 Countries and Regions Win Awards in this competition

PAKISTAN: The Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 Global Final concluded in Shenzhen, drawing to a close the seventh instalment of this competition. The first to be held in person since 2019, the event's culmination was a competition between finalists in 146 teams from 36 countries.

University while the team made of Fatima Shafiqe from Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro, Eman Yaqoob from Lahore College for Women University, Umar Raza from EAST-nu Islamabad and Muhammad Zubair from University of Engineering and Technology Lahore bagged the third prize in the same category, among other teams globally.

East & Central Asia said, "I would like to congratulate all the winning teams from Middle East. Digital talents and skills will be the foundation for the digital economy development- a key part of Middle East countries future plans and visions- and Huawei will continue to be committed to build the ICT ecosystem with a focus on local talents nurturing and bringing ICT education resources to more academies and universities in the region."



Pakistan teams, the teams from the UAE and Kazakhstan won the first prize in the Network Track while teams from Iraq, Jordan, and Bahrain won the second prize in the Network Track among other teams globally. Additionally, the team

from Saudi Arabia won the third prize in the Network Track among other teams globally, and the teams from Jordan and Kazakhstan won the third prize in the Cloud and Innovation tracks.

to provide a platform for global college students to compete and communicate with each other in the ICT field. As of the end of 2022, Huawei has cooperated with 2200 universities to build Huawei ICT Academies, helping to train more than 200,000 students each year.

