

Qazi Faez Isa on Friday said factually incorrect news should not be propagated after it was claimed that he had made a group within the apex court.

His statement comes after netizens started claiming that he had ignored CJP Bandial at the newly-appointed Federal Shariat Court chief justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman's oath-taking ceremony after a video surfaced on the social media.

Justice Isa said he had not formed a faction inside the top court, adding that he had been a victim of fabricated stories in the past. "Erroneous interpretations came forward on the media, and false news should not be spread as they caused unnecessary misunderstand-

Both the judges reportedly had a pleasant exchange on the occasion. CJP Bandial said, "May Allah bless the institution of judiciary and all other institutions too".

Rehman with him," he added.

An impression was given that

He was obliged to his post, he

said, to safeguard and defend

the constitution, adding that

he could not endorse anything

in contrast to his oath. "Creat-

ing a controversial narrative by torturing facts is damaging for

the institution," he added.

he ignored the CJP.

The plantation drive also saw the participation of other SC judges including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah.

Parvez Elahi arrested again despite getting

🐞 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday issued clear directions to include on priority, such projects in the upcoming development budget that help in ensuring import substitutions, expanding export volume, and bringing innovation in various sectors.

The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the development programme for the welfare and development of the country's youth.

Chairing a meeting here to review the budget proposals with respect to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2023-24, Shehbaz Sharif said that in the upcoming budget, stressed the need to give special

Xi's special

President

Erdogan's

inAnkara

😂 Spokesman Report

Xi Jinping's special envoy,

ident Recep Tayyip Erdo-

BEIJING: Chinese President

Ding Zhongli will attend Pres-

gan's inauguration ceremony

in Ankara on June 3, Chinese

Foreign Ministry Spokesper-

son, Mao Ning said on Friday.

Ding Zhongli, also Vice Chair-

man of the Standing Commit-

Congress (NPC) would partic-

invitation of the government of

Erdogan, the 69-year-old

AK Party, won re-election with

head of the Islamist-rooted

52.1 percent of the vote and

challenger Kemal Kilicdaro-

glu had 47.9 percent, Reuters

reported.

ipate in the ceremony at the

the Republic of Turkiye.

ing held here, she said that

tee of the National People's

Addressing a regular brief-

tion, professional training and job creation for the youth must be added in the programme.

budget 2023-24

He also asked for the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund to provide higher education to the youth.

The laptop programme should also be included in the upcoming PSDP to distribute free laptops among the top performing students to equip them with the modern technology skills, he added.

PM directs for preparing

export-oriented development

He said through the endowment fund, the youth should be given professional and higher education besides skilled based training in IT sector.

The prime minister also

parency while providing scholarships and education to the youth.

PM Shehbaz directed to continue the projects initiated under the Kissan Package while renewable energy projects should also be made part of the development budget.

The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the upcoming budget for projects to bring innovation in the energy sector.

He said all the slow moving ongoing projects under the PSDP that had lost their importance should be removed from the development budget.

All stakeholders of the relevant sectors and the allied parties should be consulted before

projects relating to higher educa- importance to merit and trans- including any development project in the budget and their proposals should also be considered, the prime minister directed.

Earlier the meeting was briefed in detail about the proposals for adding new projects in the upcoming fiscal year and progress on the ongoing projects.

It was informed that as per the direction of the prime minister, projects related to the agriculture sector, renewable energy, higher education for youth, professional

training and job raising schemes would be important part of the development budget.

The meeting was further told that the IT sector development and export boosting projects would also be part of the development budget.

that the Prime Minister Kissan Package and Youth Empowerment Programme that were included in the budget 2022-23 were yielding fruits now as over 60,000 youth were being provided internship in various government development projects whereas the production of wheat broke the 10-year record this year.

Shehbaz Sharif was informed

Photo: Online

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Advisor Ahad Khan Cheema, Special Assistants to Prime Minister Malik Ahmad Khan, Ataullah Tarrar, Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant officials.

bail in graft case



😂 🛚 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) rearrested PTI President Parvez Elahi from outside a Lahore court moments after he got discharged in the graft case, sources said on Friday.

Sources said the anti-corruption watchdog would shift the PTI leader to Gujranwala directorate as he had been wanted in another case lodged in the city.

Meanwhile, ACE Director General Suhail Zafar Chatha said the department would move the court against the verdict announced by the Lahore court. "The verdict has

ordered the release of the PTI leader if he had not been wanted in any other case. Judicial magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk announced the verdict which was reserved earlier. Mr Elahi was brought to court in an armoured vehicle amid tight security while his family members, including son Rasikh Elahi, were present in

Earlier, the court had

the court. The anti-corruption team has sought 14-day physical remand of the senior politician in order to interrogate him in the case. The judge announced the decision after hearing argubeen announced in contrast to ments from both sides.

Zardari, Shujaat discuss political situation

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supremo Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain discussed the country's political situation on Friday.

Mr Zardari called on Mr Hussain, during which both the leaders underscored the matters in line with the country.

The former president inquired about Mr Hussain's health. During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Chaudhry Sarwar, and PML-Q Sindh President Tariq Hasan were also present.

On Wednesday, the PML-Q proposed to convene an All Parties Conference (APC).

The sources divulged the PML-Q intends to negotiate with the political leadership of the country to get the country out of the political crisis.

On Monday, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) naib emir Liaquat Baloch held a meeting with PML-Q supremo Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

During the meeting, Mr Hussain acknowledged the severity of the events that unfolded on May 9, emphasised that condemnation alone is insufficient.

Govt approves Rs 1,100 bln envoy to attend development budget for next fiscal year: Ahsan Iqbal inauguration

🐞 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the government had approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget for the upcoming fiscal year aimed at achieving the required goals of economic growth.

Addressing a news conference here, he said out of the

utilized under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2023-24) and Rs 150 billion under the public-private partnership to execute different development schemes.

Initially, he said, the Finance Ministry had proposed Rs 700 billion for the PSDP 2023-24 which were extremely insufficient. "So we made a written request to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to increase the amount of development budget to achieve luxury items and obliged friends for showthe economic growth, and the PM has ing artificial growth, but the trade deficit approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget."

presented a development budget of Rs that has eaten away all the foreign exchange 1,000 billion, and when the incumbent reserves," he added.



total budget, Rs 950 billion would be government came into power last year its size came down to Rs 550 billion. "Now after a period of five years there will be a development budget of Rs 1,100 billion, which reflects our priority for the national development."

Today, he said, the country was facing economic difficulties all because of the failed policies of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) government, which during its last year allowed \$ 84 billion import of mounted to \$ 50 billion.

"It was the turning point that pushed In 2018, the minister said, he had the country into the severe economic crisis

Pakistan rejects int'l media reports about 'mistreatment of May 9 culprits'

the international media reports about human rights violations with regard to the arrests of miscreants involved in the May 9 violence, wherein military installations including Jinnah House in Lahore came under attack.

Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada said that like every civilized country in the world, action against the May 9 culprits was a legal require-Pakistan.

lances on fire after unloading patients, and burnt schools, hospitals and memorials of the martyrs".

"For the desecration of the monuments and burning of the Jinnah House, and Radio Pakistan and its rare historical heritage, these goons are under investigation and will be punished according to the law of land," he stated.

The minister said such a crime was unpardonable not only in Pakistan but across the globe, citing the elements involved in the attacks on Capitol Hill in the United States and the London riots were punished which was not termed human rights violations by the Western media.

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday rejected

In a statement, Federal Minister for Human

ment and also a matter of national security for He said that on May 9, the "PTI [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf 🗍 goons attacked nation-

al and private properties, sensitive military installations and state symbols; set ambu-



The Spokesman

Moot

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with a delegation of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran headed by Mr. Mohammad Naeem Mir at FBR (HQs) on Friday.



Marriyum, German Ambassador agree on bilateral cooperation in film, art, culture

跨 🛛 Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Germany have agreed on bilateral cooperation in the fields of film, art and culture.

The agreement was reached in a meeting of German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, said a press release issued here on Friday.

During the meeting, a discussion was also held on a proposal for cooperation with the University of Babelsberg and the University of Televi-

sion and Film Munich. for about the Film and



ment of Pakistan and the incensions given for filmmaking in tives given under the policy. Pakistan, she said. She said that the govern-

ment was desirous of showing from German institutions for the beauty, culture and civili-Marriyum Aurangzeb zation of Pakistan to the whole art, and culture for Pakistani ter. apprised the German Ambas- world through screen tourism. students. Foreign filmmakers should

between German and Pakitries and stani private educational institutions," she said. The minister appreciated the services of

German NGOs GIZ and Hans Seidel Foundation in Pakistan. She also expressed her gratitude for the German assistance of 18.4 million Euros to

the flood victims in Pakistan. Germany's promise to provide 84 million euros in aid to the International Conference on Climate Change was another proof of Germany's friendship with Pakistan, the minister maintained.

The volume of bilateral trade is 4 billion dollars which needs technical training in film, to be increased, said the minis-

> She opined and AllamaIabal and Goethe were common

with the establishment of Iqbal-Goethe Art and Culture Center in Berlin, the people of the two countries will come closer to each other.

She appreciated the German media for reporting the situation in Pakistan in an objective and impartial manner which was commendable.

A delegation of the German Journalists Association was expected to visit Pakistan next month, the minister told the German Ambassador.

In the meeting, matters of mutual interests and increasing bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The German Ambassador appreciated the efforts of the Information Minister for the

'Serious negotiations' can only be held with PM Shehbaz Sharif, says **Rana Sanaullah**

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that "serious negotiation" can only be held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The interior minister's statement came after the PTI chairman made an offer of holding political dialogue and constituted a seven-member "negotiation committee".

Meanwhile, Sanaullah, in an interview with a foreign media outlet yesterday, urged Imran Khan to call Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directly and engage in productive discussion instead of focusing on forming committees if he truly desired dialogue.

to talk to politicians and is only creating committees. If he really wants negotiations, he should call the prime minister and sit down for a conversation," Sanaullah said during an interview.

He went on to say that during the attack on Jinnah House, the miscreants took away laptops and other important items containing sensitive information.

The interior minister rejected holding dialogues with PTI and said that negotiations are always held with politicians but not those who promote violence. He added that Imran Khan made fake cases to pronounce death penalties on his political opponents during his

"Imran Khan is still not prepared government.

PM leaves for Turkiye to attend Erdogan's inauguration



😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday departed here for Turkiye on a two-day official visit to attend the inauguration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday.

In the second round of elections held on May 28, Erdogan received 52.14 percent of the votes, beating his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who and common destiny. won 47.86 percent.

President on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan on his re-election," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote on Twitter before emplaning for Ankara. At the airport, the Turkish Ambassador in Islamabad Dr Mehmet Paçaci saw off the prime minister.

In his tweet, the prime minister said the fraternal ties between Pakistan and Türkiye were set to deepen further in line with their shared resolve

He said the upcoming 7th Meet-"Leaving for Türkiye today at the ing of the High-Level Strategic Coopinvitation of my brother, H.E. Presi-eration Council in Islamabad would

"Film. art

Culture Policy of the Govern- benefit from special conces- be promoted by cooperation assets between the two coun- promotion of film and culture.

PRCS Chairman visits NDMA, briefs about relief activities

The minister sought support

culture can

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari held a meeting with Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik wherein the two discussed areas of mutual cooperation and collaboration.

In the meeting, the similarities between the two institutions were discussed, emphasizing their shared goal of serving humanity without any bias or discrimination.Both organizations agreed to boost mutual cooperation and efforts regard- Aid, Climate Change Adapta-

risk reduction and relief and rehabilitation in the wake of any calamity or disasters. Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen Inam Haider Malik said that PRCS has been providing outstanding services to the

ing preparedness, mitigation,

victims of natural disasters, tragedies, and accidents and NDMA would fully support the rehabilitation of flood victims and the reconstruction of infrastructure.

On this ocassion, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the PRCS, such as Disaster Management, First



tion, as well as projects like the ed allocating a dedicated desk Road Safety, Mobile Health for the Red Crescent withfacilities, provision of clean in National Emergencies drinking water, promotion Operations Center (NEOC). of voluntary spirit, and Cash Both organizations decided Transfer Program. to collaborate on centraliz-Chairman NDMA suggest- ing the early warning system, Ramadan.

oping a scientific database mechanism, and implementing a geotag mechanism. Lieutenant General Inam

conducting gap analysis, devel-

Haider Malik emphasized the need for increased cooperation between the NDMÂ and PRCS to provide maximum support to flood victims during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. He acknowledged the tradition of both organizations in supporting the nation during difficult times and praised the PRCS for its commendable efforts in providing relief goods and rations to flood victims during

Three PTI

😂 🛚 Bureau Report

in corruption cases.

leaders served

call-up notices in

corruption cases

FAISALABAD: Three Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

up notices by the Anti-Cor-

leaders have been served call-

ruption Establishment (ACE)

The ACE Punjab issued

call-up notices to three PTI

leaders including former

provincial minister Khay-

al Kastro, former Water and

Sanitation Agency (WASA)

vice chairman Sheikh Shahid

and market committee chair-

man Abrar Rasheed Dhillon.

The ACE sought records

from the WASA MD regard-

man Sheikh Shahid's tenure.

ed to transfers and postings

in WASA during Shahid's

tenure were also sought.

ing the contracts signed

during the ex-vice chair-

Moreover, records relat-

Security forces killed two terrorists in an exchange of fire in Dosli general area

腾 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: According to the ISPR on 01 June 2023, fire exchange took place between terrorists and security forces in general area Dossali, North Waziristan District.

Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and sealed all possible escape routes. During the ensuing fire exchange, two terrorists were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens.

Pakistan to kick off barter trade with Iran, Russia and Afghanistan

ted online by the trader or their

authorized agent through the

online system to the regulatory

collector," the notification said.

The trade of goods under a

The ministry has identi-

exported to Afghanistan, Iran

and Russia including milk,

vegetables, rice, salt, pharma-

😂 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The federal government on Friday notified a 'Business-to-Business (B2B) Barter Trade Mechanism' for trade with Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia, ARY News reported.

In this connection, a notifi-B2B Barter Trade arrangement cation was also issued by the will be allowed on the principle Ministry of Commerce, allowof "import followed by export" and export would meet the value ing state-owned enterprises and private sector entities to engage of imported goods. both in the import and export

of goods. The development comes two months after the federal Cabinet approved a policy to promote barter trade for increasing Pakistan's regional trade. "Application for authoriza-

tion of import and export of er and leather apparel, footwear, goods under the B2B barter steel, and sports goods. trade facility shall be submit-

The government has notified the products to be imported from Afghanistan, which include fruits and nuts, vegetables and pulses, spices, minerals and metals, coal and its products, raw rubber items, raw hides and skins, cotton, and iron and steel.

From Iran, Pakistani importers are allowed to import fruits, nuts, vegetables, spices, minerfied some 26 goods that can be als and metals, coal and related products, petroleum crude oil, LNG and LPG, chemical prodcream, eggs and cereal, meat ucts, fertilizers, article of plasand fish products, fruits and tics and rubber, raw hides and skins, raw wool and articles of ceutical products, finished leath- iron and steel.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

dent Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to attend provide the right avenue to take the his inauguration ceremony. I will momentum of our strategic partnerconvey our warmest greetings to the ship forward.

Former Punjab CM Usman **Buzdar quits politics**

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Usman Buzdar on Friday announced that he is quitting politics in the aftermath of the May 9 events.

Addressing a press conference, the PTI leader condemned May 9 events and asserted that he was and will always stand with the Pakistan Army.

Usman Buzdar called on all stakeholders to set aside their egos, exit their parties and reach a consensus. He also asked the authorities to release all those who were innocent from jail.

"I request all stakeholders to exit their parties and think for the better in a press conference.

It is pertinent to mention here that several PTI leaders and lawmakers — including Fawad Chaudhry, Shireen Mazari, Imran Ismail, Ali Zaidi, Aamir Mehmood Kiani, Malik Amin Aslam, Mahmood Moulvi,

Another group of Pakistani pilgrims welcomed in Makkah

😂 News Desk

MAKKAH MUKARMA: Durat ul Mashair hotel in Makkah extended a warm welcome to yet another group of over 330 Pakistani pilgrims, who were greeted with the captivating display of traditional Arabic culture accompanied by the mesmerising beats of the daff.

Director Hajj Faheem Khan Afridi, along with Director Moavineen e Hujjaj Sajjad Yildrim and other esteemed officials, orchestrated a memorable reception, immersing the pilgrims in the vibrant ambience of Arabic culture through an enchanting display of Arabic culture.



Aftab Siddiqui, Fayyazul Hassan Chohan among others — have left the former ruling party following the May 9 vandalism.

In a similar political happening last night, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president and former chief minister resigned from party positions.

Addressing a presser, PTI leader said that he had already condemned the attacks on military instalments future of Pakistan," said Buzdar said on May 9 after the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan.

Pervez Khattak said that he will decide on his future plans after consultation with colleagues. "What happened on May 9 was not good for the country and it should not be repeated," he said.

Jibran Nasir returns home, confirms family

🐞 News Desk

KARACHI: Prominent lawyer and activist Jibran Nasir returned home after almost a day-long "absence", said police on Friday night.

Police said his family confirmed his return, adding that a team of police would call on Mr Nasir shortly. "They will get information on where he had been taken [after absence]," police added. Taking to Twitter. he wrote, "I am back safe owing to prayers and efforts of friends and colleagues especially journalists, lawyers and bar councils, civil society, and politicians. The struggle that kept you stand by me will continue".



Saturday, June 3, 2023

The Spokesman Pak government arrange the safe return of Aafia Siddiqui: Dr Safdar Hashmi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami protested in Multan on the appeal of Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Sirajul-Haq for the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui. Dr. Aafia's crime is love for Islam and Pakistan.

Today, her six-month-old child is missing, she herself is imprisoned in the American jail. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed's efforts for her release are commendable. Because of Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Fauzia Siddiqui has met her sister after twenty years in American.Jail. These views were expressed by Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr.



Safdar Hashmi in his address at the protest demonstration in Multan. He further said that the black night arrange the return of Aafia Siddiqui to

of oppression is about to end. The Pakistani government should

solve this problem. It has become clear from Mushtaq Ahmed Khan's statement that Pakistan government has to play its role for his release.

A large number of workers of Jamaat-e-Islami, Jamiat-e-Talabe-Islami and Jamiat-e-Talabe Arabia participated in the demonstration. Addressing the demonstration, Nazim Islami Jamiat Talaba Multan Abuzar Ghafari said that Dr. Aafia is the honor of Pakistan and we will not remain silent until she returns to Pakistan.

The protestors also raised slogans of America's friend, is a traitor, also chant slogans of release Aafia.

Ethiopia appreciated the efforts of President ICCI for improving relations between two countries

🐞 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Ethiopia has appreciated the efforts of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce for improving relations between the two countries and for starting direct flight operations. Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jamal Baker Abdullah presented the shield of honor on behalf of his government during his visit to Islamabad Chamber yesterday. On this occasion, the Ambassador of Ethiopia said that his government appreciates the efforts of President Islamabad Chamber.

President Islamabad Chamber has rendered valuable services for the strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia and especially for the improvement of trade relations. This year, the delegation's visit improve trade relations between Pakito Ethiopia under the leadership of stan and Ethiopia.



President Islamabad Chamber laid the foundation for efforts to take the relations between the two countries to new heights. He said that steps are being taken by both sides to further

Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that I am deeply grateful to the Ethiopian government, and ambassador for acknowledging our efforts to improve the relations between the two coun-

Sardar Attique chaired A high level meeting on political situation of Azad Kashmir

whole Africa. District Admin

tries. In fact, it is an honor for the entire Islamabad Chamber and the business community that our efforts have been recognized at the government level. He said that Ethiopia is very important for Pakistan in Africa. In the last one year, due to the efforts of Islamabad Chamber, the relations between the two countries and the interest of the business community in each other have increased enormously.

On this occasion, the Ethiopian Ambassador acknowledged United Business Group Pakistan Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari for his valuable services for the improvement of Pakistan-Ethiopia relations. On this occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari said that Ethiopia is the most important country in Africa with one and a half billion population. Ethiopian Airlines direct flights will give Pakistan access to the

started crackdown against curb high street vendors and hoarding: Umar Jahangir

Malik Ibrar demanded increase the education budget in the upcoming budget 2023 😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Central President Malik Ibrar Hussain has demanded a substantial increase in the education budget in the upcoming budget 2023-24.And he said that the private education sector should also be facilitated in the budget, where more than 65% of the children are under education.

In his statement issued here yesterday, Malik Ibrar Hussain said that every year the budget is presented in the month of June, in which the important sector like education



is always neglected. It is important that the government increases the education budget significantly this time.

He said that In these situations, the government should bring the private education sector together and support them to bring out-of-school children to school. Currently, 65% of children are studying only in the private sector. But the entire budget is spent only for the children of government educational institutions, there is no science lab or other facilities in the private sector, which is creating discrimination in the nation.

Complete Project of Nadarabad Flyover will be completed by 30 Fune 2024

😂 🛛 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak has ordered the early completion of development projects and said that the construction of Nadiraabad flyover should be accelerated. The Punjab government has released funds for several projects in view of public convenience. Transparency should be made a standard in the completion of projects. On this occasion, XEN Highways Ghulam Nabi,



while briefing Commissioner Aamir Khattak about the projects, said that more than 3 billion Work on Nadirabad flyover is progressing rapidly

The process of land acquisition of phase 1 is going on at a cost of one and a half billion rupees. The work of the first bridge has been allotted in Phase 1. The first phase will cost Rs 1 billion and will be completed by August 31. After this, the process of land purchase for phase two will be started. The complete project of Nadarabad flyover will be completed by 30 June 2024.

Good governance the hallmark of our government: says Chaudhry Anwar Haq

😂 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Parliamentary party meeting of the members of like-minded group was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in chair. The group, comprising of 19 members, expressed its full confidence in the leadership of the Prime Minister. The participants of the meeting were unanimous on the issue of the expansion of the cabinet and increasing number of ministers. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq said that good governance was the hallmark of our government.

He said that timely completion of the ongoing development projects and resolving the problems being faced by the ordinary citizens at their doorsteps were his government's top most priorities.

The government is keen to improve education and health sectors", pe PM said, adding that concrete steps would be taken to ensure qual

腾 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

GHAZIABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim President Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan to Mujahid Awal House in Ghaziabad, Muslim League-Nawaz Azad Kashmir President Vice President Raja Mush-Raja Iftikhar Ayub at Mujahid Awal House.

consultation was held Ahmad Khan asked for time Awal late Sardar Muham- sion.

Shah Ghulam Qadir, Senior regarding the political situ- for the future action plan. ation of Azad Kashmir, the This meeting will be of great taq Ahmad Minhas and latest situation of Occupied importance for the election former Assembly candidate Kashmir, and the by-elec- of Central Bagh Constitution of Central Bagh constit- ency. After the meeting, uency. President Muslim Shah Ghulam Qadir visit-A detailed meeting and Conference Sardar Attique ed the Mazar of Mujahid e also present on the occa-

mad Abdul Qayyum Khan. Major Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Raja Muhammad Munir Khan, Sardar Abdul Wahid Khan, Raja Tabarak Ali Khan and others were

🐞 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the district administration has started a crackdown across the district to curb high street vendors and hoarding. They are imposing heavy fines by inspecting and ensuring the implementation of official rates. The Deputy Commissioner said that in the month of May, 23 cases were registered against the wholesalers and 12 accused were arrested while a fine of more than 12 lakhs was imposed.

He issued orders that all shopkeepers should be required to display the rates of government rates and heavy fines would be levied for violation.

Flour getting expensive, size of roti shrinking

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Wednesday that flour is getting more expensive across the country while the size of roti sold in ovens and hotels is getting smaller.

If the private sector is allowed to import cheap wheat, it will reduce the price of flour in the market, providing relief to the masses facing merciless inflation, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a state-

are up to 70 percent cheaper in India and imports from neighbouring country can substantially reduce food inflation and provide relief to the people.

He said that imports from India should be allowed, and the ban should be imposed again when inflation is controlled in the country.

He demanded that the government should import food from India to overcome the food security problem and end all taxes until the country's agricultural production situation improves and

ment issued here today that food items returns to normalcy.

The business leader said that since the Russian attack on Ukraine, European and other countries have been imposing sanctions on Russia, providing financial support and military hardware to Ukraine, but at the same time, they are also doing business with Russia.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that due to record inflation in the country, millions of people have given up one meal and put other important issues like health and education on the back burner.

The prices of food items are increas-

ing, but instead of giving any relief to the people, the rulers remain stubborn, which is unfortunate, he observed.

In the last ten months, the government has spent one billion dollars on the import of wheat and 818 million dollars on the import of pulses, but the price of these items could not be reduced in the market because the mafia is controlling the whole system.

He said that if the private sector is allowed to import at least one million tonnes of wheat from Ukraine, its price can be reduced on the open market.

UAJK fosters entrepreneurship with Apiculture Training Workshop

腾 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) and the Department of Zoology at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) joined hands to organize a two-day Apiculture Training workshop, which concluded on Friday (today). This workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge



of mug making, offering them a potential occupation that fosters self-sufficiency.

Renowned apiculture his guidance. expert, Raja Shakeel Ahmed, graced the event with his Department of Zoology, presence and shared his Prof. Dr. Nuzaht Shafi, the extensive experience with the Director of ORIC, Prof. Dr. eager participants. Empha- Abdul Rauf Janjua, and sizing the importance of the Director of Finance, adopting apiculture, Ahmed Dr. Bilal Ahmed Abbasi, highlighted its potential to attended the event and delivnot only reduce unemploy- ered motivational speeches. ment in the country but They encouraged particialso significantly increase honey production. Participants were enthralled by his to generate their own reveexpertise and gained valuable insights into the various tance of personal growth and aspects of apiculture under financial stability.

The Chairperson of the pants to apply the skills they acquired during the training nue, emphasizing the impor-

ity education in schools, colleges and universities."Funds will be allocated to ensure quality treatment facilities to people in all state owned health care facilities at district and Tehsil level", he said.

Sajida Fayaz passed away after a short illness

腾 Sohail Anjum Malik

ISLAMABAD: Every living thing has tasted the bitter taste of life and death. Among the creatures created by Allah, how many people are there who have made their name in charitable works by following the path given by the Lord of the Universe for the welfare of God's creation. They say that even after the soul is gone, her name lives on, such a brave, fearless and pioneer of women's rights. Wife of late former Member Punjab Assembly Haji Muhammad Afzal Malik-Mother of Muhammad Faisal alias Batu, former Chief Councilor Azarar Afzal Malik, maternal grandmother of Birmingham entrepreneur Fawad Afzal Ms. Sajida Fayyaz met Khaliq Haqiqi after a short illness.

Etihad Group organizes a Grand 2nd Balloting & **Early Possession Event**

recently organized a 2nd Balloting and Early Possession Event for its Etihad Town Phase 2 project (Technically Approved as Arcos Housing Scheme), one of the most prestigious real estate developments in the region. The event took place on Saturday (May 27), and provided an unforgettable evening filled with excite-ment, esteemed guests, and captivating performances.

The first balloting process took place in March 2023 and the recent event was a fulfillment of the Etihad Group's belief in making dreams a reality by delivering the Etihad Town Phase 2 project, and conducting the balloting and possession process, within the predetermined timeline. Managing Director & Main Sponsor Chaudhry Munir, Group Directors & Sponsors Raheel Munir, Sohail Munir and Faisal Munir acknowledged the efforts of Eithad's management for pulling off a flawless event.

Hosted by the charismatic and renowned actor, Vasay Chaudhry, the event commenced with inspiring speeches from distinguished stakeholders of the group.

Project Sponsors of Etihad Town

LAHORE: The Etihad Group Phase 2, Faisal Khokhar & Nabeel Khokhar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chaudhry Muhammad Shakil, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sheikh ShujaUllah Khan, Head of Project Sales Asim Bhatti, Head of Development Taimur Khan and other Etihad Group's Management team graced the event with their presence. Their valuable insights provided attendees with an in-depth understanding of the project's vision, progress, and prospects.

Following the speeches of the above-mentioned dignitaries, guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner, and the evening culminated in a mesmerizing musical performance by the talented singer, Falak Shabir

Project Sponsor Faisal Khokhar stated that the event was an exclusive opportunity for investors, buyers, and stakeholders to witness the remarkable progress of the exceptional Etihad Town Phase 2 project. In addition.

On the occasion, COO Sheikh ShujaUllah Khan expressed his hope that the event served as a testament to the commitment and dedication of the Etihad Group in delivering a world-class development that exceeds expectations.







SERVICES

Islamabad 15º – 23º Clear

Namaz	Timings	
	3: 17 am	
Zohr	12: 06 pm	
Asr	5: 04 pm	
Maghrib	7: 13 pm	
Isha	8: 55 pm	
EMEDGENCY		

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) Bomb Disposal 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 44511229266044 & Rescue Services Motorway Police .. Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596 . 9270601-20 Rawalpindi

ENOUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	
MH	
MH	
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	
RGH	
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International .	

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-4
CDA	9208301-0
Met Office	9250360
RDA	555586
TMA	577088
Cantonment Board	9270151
Islamabad Metropoli	
Corporation	920922
Detelses Terres	02002

9209224 otohar Town 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-89266316	
Wapda Islamabad9217579-80	
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249	
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi0331-5022125	

Man killed brother, injured his wife over domestic dispute 跨 🛛 Raza Nagvi

Workers are the backbone of country's economy: says Turi

😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Overseas Pakistani & Human Resource Development Sajid Turi chaired the "Performance Review Meeting of WWF" on 1st of June, 2023. Workers Welfare Fund officials attended the meeting. Turi emphasised on expediting the development projects currently in the pipeline spread all over Pakistan.

welfare informed that the Management of WWF is focusing on Workers Welfare activities especially with reference to scholarships, death & marriage grants besides creation of better facilities for workers facilitation in terms of their living and access to basic facilities of life," he directed.

The Minister was of the view that the time was ripe Workers Welfare Fund

"Waseem Warraich Director other emphasised on projecting the major accomplishments made for ease of workers by Workers Welfare Fund through better use of both electronic and print media. The Minister was of the view that performance review of Workers Welfare Fund developmental projects, education and other welfare would be a regular feature so that improvement in these areas could be made for better facilitation of the workers.

Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Civil Society are shouting slogans during Takreem-e-Shuhada-e-Pakistan rally at Jinnah Avenue to show solidarity with Pak Army,



Completed the under construction Mother and Child Hospital in a Specified Time: Capt Saqib

Hashoo Foundation Committed to Strengthen Academia-Industry Linkages



😂 🛛 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: To foster academia-industry linkages and strengthen the concept of using knowledge as resource, Hashoo Foundation has signed an MoU with Igra National University. Through this partnership both organizations will be working closely to benefit students, enhancing their professional skills and knowledge.

Ms. Ayesha Khan, Country Director, Hashoo Foundation and Prof. Dr. Shah Jahan, Vice Chancellor Iqra National University signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from both organizations.

Ms. Ayesha Khan, Country Director Hashoo Foundation, said that we believe in the power of learning and using knowledge to produce actionable input for the betterment of individuals and communities. Hashoo Foundation has always impacted the lives of youth by providing them with opportunities of capacity building, career development, and education.

Prof. Dr. Shah Jahan, Vice Chancellor Iqra National University said that this partnership will help students in capacity building, hands-on trainings and capacity building. They will get to understand the trends and requirements of industry and upscale their skill set and knowledge. On the other hand Hashoo Foundation will get to benefit from the vibrant energies, commitment and contemporary knowledge of students.

Role of FETPs in Disease Surveillance and Prevention /Control of Diseases' online session held at NIH

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Islamabad in collaboration with Japan-FETP, organized a special online session on the "Role of FETPs in Disease Surveillance and Preven-



tion / Control of Diseases".

This session was originally initiated with the good communication and collaboration between Pakistan Center for Disease Control(CDC) of NIH and Embassy of Japan in Islamabad during the challenging time of COVID-19.

The main aim of the session was to highlight the crucial role of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in disease surveillance, prevention, and control. As FETPs are designed to train public health professionals in the field of epidemiology and enabling them to support the development and enhancement of surveillance systems for timely detection and reporting of diseases.

Mr. Hitoshi Kikawada, a member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, former State Minister of Cabinet office in charge of Policies agains COVID-19, was the chief guest of the session. Fellows from the FETPs, health experts, partners also attended. In his video message, Mr. Kikawada, stated that we have faced pandemic of COVID-19 for more than three years and have understood that infectious diseases have changed our economies and societies dramatically and overcoming infectious diseases has become one of the most important issue of the human beings. He also said that Japan has dealt with COVID-19 successfully. Japan has contributed in the universal healthcare with ODA for a long time and through these experiences, Japan can play more active role in medical areas in Asia. In this sense it is wonderful that Japan and Pakistan have been working in these medical areas, he mentioned. During the session, representative from CDC Pakistan and Dr.Tomimasa Sunagawa, MD Director, Center of Field Epidemic Intelligence, Research and Professional Development, National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Japan gave lectures, focusing on disease outbreak investigation and the strengthening of the surveillance system for the timely detection and reporting of infections. They also emphasised the significance of tracking disease trends and implementing prompt interventions and preventative measures.

ATTOCK: A man has shot and dead his elder brother while injured his wife over domestic dispute in village Peershahi in Bhattar Police station remits in Fatehjang town of Attock on Friday.

Police while quoting the family members of the deceased has said Danvial has strained relation with his elder brother Shan over domestic issues as they live in the same house.

On Friday after brief exchange of hot words, Danyial has took out his pistol and shot his elder brother dead. As his wife come to save her husband he also opened firing at her resultantly she was critically injured.

The accused managed to escape from the scene after bloodbath. Police registered a case against the nominated accused and launched further investigation.

😂 🛛 Asim Tanveer

has said

MULTAN: The Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar has instructed to completed the under construction Mother and Child Hospital Bahawalnagar in a specified time and has termed it as a project of great public importance which is being completed at a cost of Rs. 6385 million . He has also directed to remove the obstacles in the construction of Bahalangar Medical College and to complete the rehabiliwill be taken against officers tation work of highways from who are negligent in timely Chishtian to Haroonabad to completion of projects. He Fort Abbas and from Bahadircte authorities to improve langar to Arifwala and from Manchanabad to Dhakpatan offices and asked the officers soon. Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar

Deputy Commission-(Retd) Saqib Zafar stress to er Bahawalnagar Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhawan briefed the of the "Grow More Cotton" tary Specialized Health Care meeting. Additional Chief campaign and called it a Secretary South Punjab national cause. He said success Khan and Deputy Commis-Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar said of this campaign will yield sioner. The Additional Chief hundred percent utilization more cotton and in this way Secretary reviewed the service



of the funds released for the will help to make the country projects be ensured and action economically prosperous.

Later, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Retd) Saqib Zafar inspected DHQ Hospital, under service delivery in health construction Mother and centers and government Child Hospital and Bahawalnagar Medical College along to monitor the process. Capt. with Secretary Primary and Secondery Health Care Mehr emphasized on the success Muhammad Hayat and Secre-South Punjab Afzal Nasir

delivery process including the availability of medicines, sanitation situation in DHQ. He inquired after the health of patients under treatment and also asked about the facilities provided to them. The Additional Chief Secretary directed to improve the service delivery and cleanliness situation in the Hospital.

Speaking on this occasion, Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar said that development projects of Health Department of Bahawalnagar are being completed on priority basis and all available resources and manpower is being utilized to ensure round the clock provision of medical facilities to the public. No negligence will be tolerated in provision of health facilities, he added.

Earlier, when Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar reached the DC office, a smart squad of the police presented him with a guard of honour.

Nutrition International, Federal, and Punjab governments launch NourishMaa Campaign

腾 City Desk

LAHORE: Nutrition International joined hands with the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and Punjab Health Department to launch a campaign - NourishMaa. This collaborative effort aims to promote maternal nutrition in the province by enhancing the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers (HCPs) and frontline health workers (FHWs) in two selected districts of Punjab.

extends across generations, making it macronutrient and micronutrient deficrucial for Pakistan to urgently address this issue," emphasized Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, Director General Health, Government of the Punjab. Dr. Ilyas praised the NourishMaa Campaign for its collaborative efforts, forming valuable partnerships with the Department of Health and professional medical associations to reach public and private healthcare



providers

The latest National Nutrition Survey "Maternal malnutrition's impact 2018 (NNS-2018) indicates that the ciencies are alarming amongst women of reproductive age (WRA, 15-49 years). 14.4% are underweight while 24% are overweight. There is a very high prevalence of anemia (42%) in this age group. Similarly, the nutritional status of adolescent girls (10-19 years) is also worrisome. The NNS-2018 highlighted more than 55% suffered from

anemia. The high rate of malnutrition

among WRA as well as adolescent girls, combined with underlying complications emerging from early marriages, closely spaced pregnancies, and maternal malnutrition aggravate a vicious cycle of high morbidity and mortality, leading to adverse maternal and child health outcomes. The NourishMaa campaign initiated to complement the Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy 2022-27, aims to help address these issues by leveraging the critical role of among WRA.

HCPs and FHWs.

Speaking at the occasion, Asim Shahzad Qureshi, National Program Manager, Maternal Newborn Health and Nutrition, Nutrition International stressed the crucial role of HCPs and FHWs in improving maternal nutrition, especially through improved nutrition counseling. "Over the past 20 years, Nutrition International has successfully worked in partnership with the Government of Pakistan on various programs to improve the health and nutrition status of the country's women, adolescent girls, and children", he added.

Representing the MoNHSR&C, Dr. Khawaja Masuood Ahmed, National Coordinator Nutrition and National Fortification Alliance said that Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy Pakistan 2022-27 was developed to support optimal nutrition, health, and well-being of all women in Pakistan, as well as prevent all forms of malnutrition

Entrepreneur Program for Students



腾 Report by Sultan Bashir

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony to launch the entrepreneurship program for students in collaboration with ICCI (Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry) was held at ICG, F-6/2 to create awareness among the students about entrepreneurship and career building.

The chief guest of the occasion was Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President islamabad chamber of commerce and Industry.

Mr. Bakhtawari has been a student of ICG, F-6/2 as well during his early education.

Ålso present on the occasion was Director Model Colleges, Prof. Aftab Tariq.

The ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by a Naat. The ceremony was conducted by Ms. Anosha Khan from the English department.

The Principal ICG, F-6/2 Prof. Sabah Faisal presented a welcome address in which she highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship opportunities for students especially females. She thanked the chief guest to guide and enlighten the students about new ventures for employment.

The chief guest, Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari addressed the students and expressed his pleasure to visit his alma mater and his wish to give something back to the institution that played a vital role in his success. He announced the establishment of a new computer lab for ICG F-6/2 in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce.

Entrepreneurship is the process of developing, organizing, and running a new business to generate income and bring a positive contribution towards society.

At the end, the vote of thanks was given by Director Colleges, Prof. Aftab Tariq, highlighting the importance of education and entrepreneurship.

As a token of appreciation, the chief guest was presented with the college crest and a bouquet of flowers by the principal. The ceremony ended with the National Anthem.

Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, June 3, 2023

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Poliovirus confirmed as 'possible link' with Afghan disease

he Pakistan Polio Laboratory, National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed that two environmental samples collected from the Peshawar district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have tested positive for wild poliovirus.

According to the lab, the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has been found in sewage samples collected from Naray Khuwar and Larama collection sites on May 9 and 16 May 16, respectively.

It added the isolated viruses are genetically linked to the virus cluster circulating in the neighbouring Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. Federal Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel has said that the two endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan are united in their fight against polio and both countries will not rest until they eradicate it.

"The Pakistan Polio Programme is maintaining a robust surveillance system, which is evident from the prompt detection of the virus in sewage samples recently," he said. "We will continue to hunt and eliminate the virus wherever we find it to protect our children from a disability-causing disease."

The minister added that poliovirus on any side of the border is a threat to children everywhere, and parents must continue to ensure that their children under five receive the life-saving polio drops in all campaigns.

Dr Shahzad Baig, the Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, said Pakistan has collected environmental samples from 114 sites in 80 districts every month to test for WPV1.

He added that the presence of the virus in the environment is a cause for concern, but not unexpected since last month was the high-travel season of Eid.

"The Polio Programme has mounted swift responses to all virus detection in the past and will continue to do so in the future to prevent poliovirus from finding a home in under-immunized children," he said.

The NEOC coordinator added that the Pakistan Polio Programme is working in close coordination and

Corruption becomes common in the country

mentioned in our everyday life and in the statements of politicians,

he Spokesman

when did the mention of corruption become common in the country? It is not possible to accurately assess it, but one of the earliest corruption scandals in recent political history is the Independent Power Plants (IPPs) scandal in Pakistan

An endless cycle of corruption was initiated by launching expensive power projects, which began in 1994 when the commission decided to install furnace oil-fired projects through IPPs instead of increasing production of cheap hydropower. When the oil mafia managed to get its claws on the land of Pakistan, the production cost of electricity went from rupees per unit to Rs. Electricity rates were controlled by subsidizing to prevent riots

The echoes of heavy commissions and kickbacks were also heard in these projects for a while. Till 1996, there was 3000MW of surplus electricity in the system, but it was yet to provide electricity to the large population of the country.

In recent days, the provision of electricity on political grounds started to foreshadow the future crisis, the song of Mere village has been electrified dozens of times a day and the assembly members kept auctioning electricity without any planning to get votes.

projects, the rows of poles continued Electricity load-shedding took the

form of crisis in 2008, increasing load-shedding reached from sixteen to twenty-two hours, industries began to be locked and lakhs of workers became unemployed.

According to survey report, due to load shedding, the economy suffered a loss of fifteen thousand billion from 2008 to 2014, while about five million skilled workers and workers associated with small and

The 72 megawatt Khan Khawar project was to be completed at a cost of 5 billion rupees, on which 10 billion rupees were spent, the machinery was so substandard that it could not give the desired results yet. The 130MW Dabir Kharwar project and the 96MW Jinnah hydropower project are unable to generate enough power despite being completed at a three-fold increase in cost.

Zeeshan Hassan

large industries became unemployed. provide electricity due to the lack of The most terrifying aspect of the ener- checks and balances, but financial gy crisis was that forty percent of inves- corruption definitely reached its peak, is still going on.

power crisis was given in 2002, short to grow and the electricity went down. and long term policy was announced to deal with it. According

> to this roadmap, 6130 MW of cheap electricity was to be generated by 2009. It was said that if this electricity is generated by 2020 Not only will additional electricity be availaits rates will also be coming crisis, work on energy projects

could not start until 2006. After that, a series of rental power

plants started, new projects could not

he word corruption is He didn't even think of starting new tors Left the country. The warning of the names of bureaucrats, consultants, ministers and prime ministers started appearing in billions of scandals. What happened to? This column cannot afford the details, but a glimpse of it can be presented.

The 969 MW Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project was to be completed in 2009, but the construction of Neelum Jhelum was completed in 2018, during which the cost of the project increased from 84 billion ble in the country, but rupees to 500 billion. 55 billion rupees were collected by levying tax per unit, extremely low. Despite warnings of the the project built with the money of consumers, the auditor general revealed numerous irregularities.

The 72 megawatt Khan Khawar project was to be completed at a cost of 5 billion rupees, on which 10 billion rupees were spent, the machinery was so substandard that it could not give the desired results yet. The 130MW Dabir Kharwar project and the 96MW Jinnah hydropower project are unable to generate enough power despite being completed at a three-fold increase in cost.

Diamer Bhasha Dam of 4500 megawatts was inaugurated 3 times. This project was to be completed in 2015 at a cost of 900 billion rupees. The project will be completed in 2030 at a cost of 2,800 billion rupees. This corruption story of making the country dark in the name of sharing lights



a

collaboration with the Afghanistan Polio Programme and the provincial EOC to ensure high-quality vaccination at all border crossings and to identify and plug any remaining immunization gaps.

Pakistan has reported only one polio case and nine positive environmental samples so far this year, while three human cases and 23 positive environmental samples have been reported in Afghanistan.

We will build a shrine

Siddiqui, who was chi 24 years ago, was anxiously changing sides in the waiting room of the prison FMC Carsville in Fort Worth, Texas. She was impriswaiting room.

The female prisoner, the elder sister when I see my younger sister today after 24 years, will I be able to face her? Will I be able to answer her questions? What did I say to her? If she tell me something about herself? will I be able to hear it all? In the random waves of the deep sea of these thoughts, there was a heart-rending shock when the prison security staff asked Dr. Fawzia to come with them.

The earth and the sky were still. In this semi-dark gallery of the prison, there was only footsteps. She was the first member of the family after 24 years, thousands of miles away from her sister, who was going to meet her in a few moments. To hug her. She brought the message of new determination, give her by hugging her, by loving her told her that the mother whom you are like that could happen.

And so all the dreams of 24 years were shattered when Dr. Fawzia was The case was discussed. And thus the asked to sit on this side of the wall and

r. Fawzia Siddiqui, the of the thick glass. An old, thin, weak. tomed to this environment. As if her elder sister of Dr. Aafia And a woman with a weak, staggered gait, a broken tooth, a white scarf and picked up from Kara- a khaki prison dress will come, then it will be the daughter of Pakistan, Aafia Siddiqui.

But remember that you can't even show her pictures of children. Because oned since. With her, a dervish charac- we are the pioneers of human rights ter of Pakistani politics, Senator Mush- around the world where all these things taq Ahmed and American lawyer Clive are meaningless. We have made all these Stafford Smith were also present in this rules, laws and regulations for the third world.

Then the time came. When after 24 Fauzia Siddiqui, was thinking that years, this oppressed and subjugated woman imprisoned in this corner of the world came for the first time. Aafia came walking in a dignified manner without



any excitement. She sat in front. And in this meeting of two and a half hours, she told a brief account of the events that happened to her. Then she told me that courage and never to be disappoint- I miss my mother very much. Why was ed by the mercy of Allah. Which was to she not brought? Now where is she? I a lot, by patting her back. But nothing remembering has returned to her Lord while remembering you.

Then she asked about the children. meeting time was over. She turned her wait and was told that she now listens back and went to her specific cell. As remains are not washed away in an loudly, after some time on the other side if she had become completely accus- ocean.

heart was telling her that she would never be able to get out of here. It has become so familiar that she is now afraid of freedom.

When will the doomsday come? No one knows except the Lord. But this scene was nothing less than the doomsday. Sooner or later this imprisonment of life or prison will end. But one day the field of Mehshar will be settled And some people have already reached there. From Bush to Musharraf. But One character will stand there. And from them, one by one, the oppressed will be counted.

The rest of us who are still alive..we will build a mausoleum..Aafia Bibi..we promise that your funeral will be the biggest funeral in the history of Pakistan.. We will raise our voice as much as possible for you after death. But not now. Because right now we are all busy in the war of Maryam Nawaz, Asifa Bhutto and Bushra Bibi. At present we are busy on the fronts of the endless wars of political egos. We don't even have enough time for you. That we can raise your voice on any forum.

Because we are telling the nation that Maryam used to press clothes in jail with a frying pan. The sanctity of Bushra Bibi should not be violated. We are thinking that Sulaiman Shah's daughter has been arrested.

When you sob and die. Then we will all come out.. And we will come out in full force. . Till then... You know... Your family knows. A few faithful ones know. And God knows. We will build a magnificent shrine for you. If your

Tax evasion by illicit cigarettes traders causing Pakistan to lose Rs. 240 billion annually

Abid Saeed

PSOS, the third largest market research company in the world with its presence in 90 markets, recently conducted a market assessment of illicit cigarette brands in Pakistan. A survey of 1000 shops in 10 districts across Pakistan (Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Hyderabad, Peshawar, Bahawalpur, and Sukkur) was conducted to check and analyse the availability and prices of locally manufactured tax evaded brands and smuggled brands while ascertaining estimated market shares through their visits.

This research was conducted in the wake of huge increase in Federal Excise duty in the Finance Supplementary Act approved in February 2023. Government increased 154% in tier1 excise rates while tier ii excise rates increased by 146%. This drastic excise increase was reportedly aimed to generate additional revenues to meet IMF conditions.

Locally manufactured Tax Evaded cigarette brands and smuggled brands do not ensure compliance with the stipulated requirements of Government of Pakistan which include printing of Graphic Health Warning, Underage warning, mentioning retail price and manufacturer's name.

Furthermore, these brands do not comply with the brand licensing regime of FBR neither do they have the mandated track and trace stamp. These brands also violate the Federal Excise Act and the Sales Tax Act.

As per the findings of IPSOS research, overall market share of legal cigarettes brands is 52% with PTC's share of 40% and PMI holds 12% share of it. While the whopping 48% remaining market share is with illicit cigarettes brands. Locally manufactured tax evaded brands hold 38% illegal market share while smuggled cigarettes brands hold 10% of the illegal market.

Trace stamp on different cigarette brands, and it was found

more than 83% of the brands collected from the sample were being sold without the Government mandated Track and Trace Stamp.

According to the report, over two thirds of the cigarette brands are being sold below the government's Minimum Legal Price (MLP), exposing the failure of authorities enforce tax laws effectively. Two-third of the cigarette brands were found to be selling below the minimum legal price.

The survey found huge price disparities among Locally Manufactured Tax Evaded brands, smuggled brands and legal duty paid brands of cigarettes. Minimum Price of Duty Paid brands was PKR 150. However, locally manufactured tax-evaded brands and smuggled brands sell for as low as PKR 30 and PKR 60 respectively flouting the MLP of PKR 127.4.

In the report, as per market share Jan 23' figures from retail audit and predictions for June 23' from different verified sources, the implications of the excise increase showcased that market share of legitimate industry has decreased by more than 10% and the volume has entirely shifted to the illicit sector due to downtrading by consumers due to availability of less expensive illicit brands.

According to the report the Federal Excise hike has caused a 33% increase in illicit market share and smuggling of cigarettes due to subsequent downtrading by consumers. Illicit Market share hence has increased from 36% in 2022 to 48% in 2023.

The report showcased that law enforcement has been unable to effectively control the production, smuggling, and sale of illegal products.

According to multiple resources the report stated that the total tobacco sector in Pakistan sells 83 billion sticks annually. This means that 48% or approximately 2 billion cigarette packs are evading the tax net. This evasion of tax is causing the National exchequer to lose Rs.240 billion The report assessed the implementation of Track and annually. The further shift of consumers to illicit brands will lead the authorities to miss their tax collection goals.

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Saturday, June 3, 2023

International

President Uzbekistan Address to Second Central Asia-European Union Summit

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Address at the Second Central Asia-European Union Summit His details address is presented for the interest of the readers. President said that: -

I am pleased to welcome all participants of the next Central Asia-European Union leaders' meeting.

I would like to echo the words of thanks to the President of Kyrgyz Republic distinguished SadyrNurgojoevichJaparov for excellent organization of the summit and traditional warm and cordial hospitality extended to us in Cholpon-Ata – one of the most scenic places in our region.

I express special gratitude to the President of the European Union distinguished Mr. Charles Michel.

Your commitment and full support for the development of a constructive political dialogue and multifaceted cooperation with the countries of Central Asia to large extent determine the efficiency of our contacts.

Dear colleagues!

Less than a year has passed since our first open, trust-based and productive meeting in Astana.

During this short period of time, we have jointly done a lot of work.In November last year, together we held a high-level conference in Uzbekistan on regional connectivity, focusing on the promotion of projects in the following areas:

- Digitalization;

- Transport communications;

- Energy and water management, including those under the framework of Global Gateway Strategy of our European partners.

A number of major regional projects have been launched to establish a sustainable energy system in Central Asia; and on vocational education.

I would like to emphasize the outcomes of the following events: - the Civil Society Forum in Tash-

kent in March

Almaty and the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction Eurasian continent. and Development in Samarkand, held last month.

These events have once again demonstrated positive and qualitative changes in our dialogue with the European partners.

Today, Central Asia is a center of gravity and space for new economic in these world-famous art centers. opportunities for leading European companies and banks.

And we here are talking



stan.

While the last year the trade turnover increased by 20 percent, since the beginning of this year, we are witness ing almost 70 percent growth.

The portfolio of promising projects to create high-tech production and new jobs with leading European companies and banks exceeds 20 billion euros.

Our strategic partners include the world's leading corporations such as Siemens, Linde Group, CLAAS, Airbus, Basf, EDF, Alstom, Total, Orano, OTP Group and many others. I would like to emphasize that the implethe Second Economic Forum in mentation of joint projects will radically change the industrial map on the

In the humanitarian sphere, we have implemented two unique projects in partnership with the Louvre and the New Museum in Berlin.

For the first time, we have extensively presented the richest cultural and historical heritage of our entire region Dear participants of the summit!

Despite the complex geopolitical situation and growing negative trends investment and technological partner- in the global economy, the Central number of issues, such as: Asian countries are demonstrating steady growth.

following areas of mutually beneficial cooperation that, in my opinion, should be given priority.

First is trade. Uzbekistan is interested in drastic expansion of trade relations with the European Union, primarily in establishing sustainable trade and logistics chains and creating effective tools for supporting mutual supplies.

Granting GSP+ beneficiary status to Uzbekistan has become a stimulating factor for the wider involvement of domestic manufacturers in foreign trade activities, while improving the quality of the goods produced.

We are interested in extending these conditions for a new period.

We believe that extending this preferential regime to all countries in the region will increase the industrial potential and competitiveness of our economies.

As an example, I can underscore the readiness of our exporters to export over 500 items of industrial goods worth 4 billion euros to the European market.

At the same time there are a

sustainable economic growth.

It is important to combine the efforts of our countries for the development of transport and communication connectivity between Central Asia and Europe, primarily through the formation of the so-called Middle Corridor-the Trans-Caspian Transit Corridor

Notably, this project was thoroughly analyzed at the recent meeting of the EBRD's Board of Governors in Samarkand.

Unfortunately, the main problem remains unresolved, which is the lack of coordinated approach to improve the competitiveness of this route.

Today, we need tariffs beneficial for businesses, which generates the main volume of cargo traffic.

According to analysis, the current tariffs and charges on this route are 1.5 times higher than, for example, on the North-South routes.

Not less important are the issues of developing transport, logistics and port able energy to 25,000 megawatts, infrastructure in line with the estimat- increasing its share from the current ed growth in cargo traffic, as well as the 14% to 40%. improvement of the technical condi-

all necessary conditions for the operation of the Bank's regional office in

The Spokesman 5

Uzbekistan. Fourth, we count on close partnership with the European Union in digital connectivity.

According to studies by the World Bank, further expansion of high-speed Internet access will lead to a proportional increase in GDP and exports of our countries.

We support the "Team Europe" initiative and propose to developa joint Digital Agenda for Central Asia.

Fifth, addressing climate-related challenges. This is mainly about improving the sustainability of ecosystems through targeted regional projects using advanced European knowledge and technologies.

In addition, today green energy is an actively developing sector in Uzbekistan

By 2030, we intend to increase the power generation capacity of renew-

Today, my colleagues have elab ed on environmental issues.

- specific projects for modernization of infrastructure and reconstruction of historical heritage sites,

- expansion of geography and frequency of flights;

- development of joint tourism products, and simplification of visa procedures

Seventh, investment in youth education.

The branches of seven European universities are successfully operating in Uzbekistan. However, this is not enough.

We are planning to establish partnerships with leading universities of the EU countries in near future and introduce joint educational programs, primarily in technical specialties.

We are also in favor of resuming regular meetings of education ministers and university rectors in our format.

We propose to consider the possibility of expanding support for research and educational projects for Central Asian region as a part of the Horizon Europe Program.

Dear colleagues!

The key area of our interaction is to strengthen cooperation against new challenges and threats to security.

Today, we are effectively implementing joint programs on border security, countering drug trafficking and terrorism.

In recent years, more than two hundred regional events were held. With the assistance of European partners, thousands of highly qualified specialists have been trained, border checkpoints have been modernized,

We believe it is necessary to develop new partnership programs in combating extremism and radicalism, human trafficking, organized and cybercrime, as well as border security.

To this end, we propose to hold an expert-level conference "Central Asia-European Union: a New Agenda for Security Cooperation".

The Afghan problem is at our focus. Unfortunately, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating rapidly.

According to the United Nations, currently millions of Afghans are on the brink of survival.

In this regard, we urge our partners not to reduce the volume of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. We are ready to continue to provide for these purposes the use of logistics hub in Termez.

We propose to continue regular consultations of our special representatives to develop common approaches to address topical issues of resolving the situation in Afghanistan and its peaceful development.

ship aimed at:

- creation of modern industrial facilities

- introduction of "green" energy, - development of "smart" agriculture,

- formation of an extensive transport and logistics infrastructure.

My colleagues have shared with us some statistical data that I am not going to repeat.

Nevertheless, I would like to emphasize that there is every reason to expect a doubling of these figures until 2030.

I will briefly dwell on Uzbekistan's cooperation with EU countries.

Following your historic visit to Uzbekistan, Mr. Michel, contacts at all levels have significantly enhanced. We have held meetings with the leaders of France, Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic. We have opened our embassies in Budapest and Stockholm. I plan to visit Italy next week.

Our trade with the European Union is growing steadily thanks to the GSP+ beneficiary status granted to Uzbeki-

According to the latest estimates of EBRD's analysts, economic growth in the region as a whole will stand at 5.2 percent this year and 5.4 percent next vear.

European experts estimate that Jzbekistan will record 6.5 percent average annual growth rate.

In addition, by 2030, we intend to double the GDP and incomes of the population, and join the ranks of upper-middle-income countries.

The main factor in achieving this goal will be a policy of rapid industrialization, including the attraction of foreign investment into the manufacturing industries.

I would like to emphasize the importance of further support by our European friends and partners for our national development programs and the irreversible reforms strategy.

Distinguished heads of delegations! Given the proposed agenda of the summit, I would like to highlight the

- setting up in our region a network of modern laboratories, standardization and certification centers for products in accordance with the EU requirements;

increasing the knowledge and capacity of our exporters in terms of operating in the European market;

carrying out activities aimed at raising awareness of the European companies about the trading opportunities with the countries of our region. Unfortunately, we have not made

visible progress on none of these areas vet

In order to address these matters, we propose to jointly develop a Comprehensive Support Program for the exporting and importing companies of our countries.

In addition, an early finalization of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Uzbekistan and the European Union will contribute to achieving this objective.

Second, the formation of interlinked transport corridors as a key factor for

tion of the roads.

In this regard, we believe it would be proper to create an effective mechanism for using the potential of the Trans-Caspian Corridor. This means regular meetings of executives from our countries' transport agencies.

I would also like to note the importance of studies conducted by European partners on the formation of sustainable transport corridors between Europe and Central Asia.

Third, innovative and technological partnership.

I have already provided some details about our capacities and common plans.

I believe it is time to consider holding annual industrial-technological exhibitions as part of the "Central Asia-European Union" Economic Forum.

Given the current realities, we are interested in launching, together with the European Investment Bank, special tools of financial support for relocation of capacities of leading European companies to our countries

We reaffirm our readiness to create

Given the urgency of the problem, we invite the European Union to co-host the First International Climate Forum to be held this autumn as a part of the Samarkand Solidarity Initiative for Common Security and Prosperity.

We are also interested in the active involvement of our partners in a project to establish the Central Asian University of Environmental Studies and Climate Change.

Sixth, the development of tourism. It is noteworthy that this industry is recovering rapidly from the pandemic and showing consistently high growth rates.

Nevertheless, Central Asia's enormous tourism potential is far from being fully exploited.

We propose to jointly develop a Program for Promotion of Sustainable Tourism in Central Asia and present it at the anniversary session of the General Assembly of World Tourism Organization, to be held in Uzbekistan in October this year.

This program will cover:

Dear heads of delegations!

Today, my colleagues have put forward important initiatives aimed at deepening practical cooperation between Central Asia and the European Union.

I believe it is of vital importance that each proposal be carefully studied by our experts. In this regard, I believe it would be expedient to develop and adopt a separate Road Map to capitalize on our meeting.

I also support the proposal to make our contacts regular.

I am grateful for the support of our initiative to hold the first summit in this format in Uzbekistan next year.

I am convinced that the outcomes of this meeting will serve as an additional impetus for strengthening the relations of friendship and partnership between our countries, will contribute to ensuring peace and stability, sustainable development and prosperity in the region.

Khurram Dastgir inaugurated second International Solar Energy Meet Expo

🐞 🛛 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Energy, has said that the renewable energy is the need of the hour and the government is allocating resources and putting in sincere efforts to mitigate the carbon footprint in the country.

Khurram Dastgir Khan said this while inaugurating the second International Solar Energy Meet (ISEM) Expo and IEEEP IREM Expo, Pakistan's premium Solar Energy, electronics and electrical exhibition, at Expo Centre Lahore on Friday.

The Federal Minister said that the government is encouraging the proliferation of the clean and green energy solutions. "This event is a step towards the future of the renewable and wind energy, which will reduce the power cost of the consumers," he said, adding that government will soon launch a project for the manufacturing of solar panels in the country.

He said that such exhibitions can go a long way towards achieving the goal of clean and

green energy vis a vis reducing the carbon footprint in Pakistan. He said that despite financial constraints the government is considering to waive off duty on the import of solar panels and the related equipment to promote the use modern technology.

Ms. Sania Awais, Managing Director Punjab Power Development Board said during the inauguration that commercial and domestic consumers should ensure the use of solar energy to deal with the power crisis in Pakistan

Ahmed Saleh Baabood Chairman, White Paper Summits said that such expos are important for the development of energy sector in Pakistan. "This expo is an ideal meeting place for global and local stakeholders, executives, leading industry experts, manufacturers and suppliers, decision makers, policy makers and government officials who were shaping the future of the solar energy sector in Pakistan," he said.

White Paper Summits in a strategic partnership with the



Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEEP) is also organizing a conference where expert speakers will share their case studies, technical presentation and latest insights on the problems and solutions addressing the power

and renewable energy sector of Pakistan.

IEEEP IREM Expo will focus on Power Transformers, Power Technology, Capacitors, Batteries, Heavy Duty Cables, Power Distribution Equipment, Wind Energy, Hydropower, Bioenergy, Bio Gas, BioFuel, Hydrogen, and B2B networking to facilitate GeoThermal Energy, Solar Energy and more

The sessions will be attended by the IEEEP members and Technical Delegates. The conference will include active Q&A sessions, networking programs

much needed access to a wealth of industry leading knowledge, information exchange and actionable takeaways.

Local and international energy and power sector experts, primarily working in renewable

power with focus on solar power generation, are attending this prestigious event.

More than 150 stalls are booked including over 30 by the international exhibitors after the government of Pakistan's favoring policies towards solar power generation which attracts the foreign investors to come to Pakistan. Besides, over 120 local exhibitors will also be displaying their products during the three days Solar show.

The organizers are expecting over 8000 attendees during the three days event and including the top international and local exhibitors, acclaimed technical expert speakers. The event will provide unlimited business networking opportunities, besides B2B deals.

The premium events are organized by White Paper Summits, one of the leading business Event Organizers (Summits, Exhibitions and Trainings) in the Middle East region with its headquarters based in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The regional office of White Paper Summits is established in Karachi, Pakistan.

Economy/Commerce

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share **Index Fluctuation**

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
41,352.98	41,266.77		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
41,403.43	41,237.41		
Index Value	Change		
3,024,677,337	+86.21		
Percentage	Time		
+0.21%	2 Jun, 2023 5: 00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
7,607.28	+117.01		
Percentage	Time		
+1.56%	2 Jun, 4: 35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change		
33,728.84	+667.27		
Percentage	Time		
+2.02%	2 Jun, 12: 59 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
31,524.22	+376.21		
Percentage	Time		
+1.21%	2 Jun, 3: 15 pm GMT+9		
Open Market Forex Rates			

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	202	204	
Bahrain Dinar	758.24	766.24	
Canadian Dollar	228	230	
China Yuan	40.18	40.58	
Danish Krone	41.16	41.56	
Euro	321	325	
Hong Kong Dollar	36.39	36.74	
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56	
Japanese Yen	2	2.08	
Kuwaiti Dinar	927.05	936.05	
Malaysian Ringgit	61.94	62.54	
NewZealand \$	173.16	175.16	
Norwegians Krone	25.67	25.97	
Omani Riyal	740.5	748.5	
Qatari Riyal	78.37	79.07	
Saudi Riyal	80	81.2	
Singapore Dollar	220	222	
Swedish Korona	26.36	26.66	
Swiss Franc	314.07	316.57	
Thai Bhat	8.21	8.36	
U.A.E Dirham	82	83	
LIK Pound Sterling	375.5	380	

Fall in value of dollar in open market is temporary: Mian Zahid

🐞 Tarig 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 said on Friday that a reduction of 18 rupees in the value of the dollar in the open market is temporary.

The Spokesman

According to government instructions, credit card payments will now be made from interbank instead of open market, as a result of which the demand for dollars will be transferred from open market to interbank and due to the increase in payment pressure, the rate of dollar will increase in interbank.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the new directions will reduce the rate difference between the two markets, which had reached to around Rs30.



Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that increased

while overseas Pakistanis will also incentivize to relief to the people in this situation. send money through banking channels and the government will have more dollars than before.

The business leader said that in the next six months, the government also has to pay about 10 billion dollars of imports by the private sector on a 365 days loan, which is a serious problem.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the drastic reduction in the prices of petroleum products, cooking oil, flour and LPG will reduce inflation which has crossed 38 percent. The government is making plans to provide relief to the public and the business community in the coming budget, which are welcome, but in the current financial year, the FBR is facing a revenue shortfall of Rs440 billion.

The success of the IMF's latest review and chances of a tranche are slim, which raises the interbank dollar value will benefit exporters, question that how will the government give form of cash through banks.

The lender is not happy with the breach of the agreement and has stopped paying the loan instalments. The current government has accepted all the strict conditions of the international organization for the revival of the program, but IMF is not satisfied.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the ongoing political unrest in the country, the economy is being negatively impacted, and record inflation has made life difficult for the people. In these circumstances, the present government is trying to manage the economy and provide relief to the people.

The Prime Minister is also trying to give all possible relief to the people. Instead of selling cheap goods through utility stores, the government should increase the purchasing power of the poor by providing targeted subsidies in the

Korean delegation calls on **Secretary BOI**

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A South Korean delegation, headed by Mr. I-jae Jang, Secretary Ministry of Environment, Korea held a meeting with Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani, Secretary, Board of Investment (BOI) and discussed ways to enhance Korean investment in Pakistan.

Talking to the delegation, Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani emphasized the importance of boosting foreign investment to overcome Pakistan's current economic challenges

He said that there is a need to attract more foreign direct investment from Korea for which the BOI would facilitate the Korean side for producing an investment friendly environment.

Secretary BOI said, "We value the friendship of Korean people and government. We welcome their participation in in close collaboration with the Pakistani Pakistan's economy," adding that it was side to resolve Korean investors issues on

Budget Proposals

the duty of BOI to mitigate the sufferings of investors, especially the foreign investors.

Appreciating the continued support by the BOI, the Korean Secretary Environment Mr. I-jae Jang wowed to work

priority basis.

He said that the Korean companies were not only investing in Pakistan but also contributing in the Pakistan's economy

Director General BOI (Investment Promotion) Nadeem Basheer was also present on the occasion.



Rehmat Ali Hasnie

honored as CEO of the

Commerce Report

KARACHI: Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President and CEO (A) of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), has been recognized as the CEO of the Year by the CEO Club Pakistan. The prestigious award was presented to Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie by Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Governor Punjab during a grand ceremony held at the Governor House in Lahore on 31st May 2023. Mr. Ijaz

also present at the occasion.

diversified experience in

With over 25 years of

sheet. The growth of the bank's balance sheet has also been coupled with marked growth in the various profitability indicators and at the same time the continued efforts of economics research, capital the bank to serve the nation.

markets, investment bank-

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Industrial Association Muhammad Ahmed presenting shield to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar after a meeting in which budget proposals were given to the government.



ing, treasury, and credit markets, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie has been an instrumental figure within the banking sector in Pakistan. Since assuming the role of President and CEO (A) NBP in May 2022, he has exhibited exceptional leadership and strategic vision, propelling NBP to new heights to become Pakistan's largest bank in terms of balance Nisar, President and Founder of CEO Club Pakistan was

-		
US Dollar	299	302

Panah's important letter to Chairman Finance Committee Salim Mandviwala

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Panah wrote a letter to Chairman Finance Committee in the Senate Saleem Mandviwala that Panah's team briefed him in the finance committee about the health and economic harms of sugary drinks, saying that sugary drinks are linked to many fatal diseases, including heart disease. At present, Pakistan has come to the third place in the world in diabetes patients and the speed with which this disease is increasing, Pakistan is number one with fastest growth of diabetes worldwide.

Pakistan is spending 2.6 billion US dollars on the treatment of this disease. This situation is very alarming and the health as well as the economy of Pakistan is being badly affected. We have told you that World Bank and WHO suggests to increase taxes on sugary drinks to reduce their consumption. You had agreed with

FPCCI's years of relentless policy advocacy paid off: Irfan Sheikh

😂 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound satisfaction that FPCCI's years of relentless policy advocacy initiatives for the barter trade with Russia, Iran and Afghanistan has borne fruits.

It is pertinent to note that the implementation date of the SRO. 642 dated June 1, 2023 of the ministry of commerce has been set with an immediate effect; i.e. June 1, 2023 - enabling the traders to start utilizing the mechanism right way.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh acknowledged the efforts of his predecessors and industry leaders in this giant stride; namely, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President FPCCI and Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI and currently VP, SAARC Chamber (SCCI).

Photo: Online

ity.

Nuclear power is not as important as economic power

🐞 T Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (R) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Friday that the world has changed. Now, becoming an economic power has become more important than becoming a nuclear power.

abilities to promote the economy; otherwise, the country will end up bankrupt, he said.

today, Aslam Khan said that we have always tried to compete human development, he with the military power of observed. enemy countries. We also tested nuclear bombs despite international pressure when India We also have to use all our carried out nuclear explosions.

Pakistan has always focused on competing with India in military capabilities, but we In a statement issued here have never tried to compete with them in economic or

> Now, India has become the the world, while Pakistan has been running around the world



for eight months for a billion dollars to avoid bankruptcy.

He said that the neighbouring countries are developing at fifth-largest economic power in an amazing speed, while the condition of the people in Pakistan is getting worse day by day.

Andrew Schofer appreciates CBD Punjab's economic development initiatives

🖒 Bureau Report

I AHORE: US Deputy Chief of Mission for Pakistan, Andrew Schofer visited Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) on Friday, in a bid to learn about the projects and development plans initiated by the author-

The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission was accompanied by a delegation from the U.S. Consulate General Lahore, including U.S. Consul General William K. Makaneole, Political and Economic Chief Kathleen Gibilisco, and Cultural Affairs Officer Paul Garr.

The distinguished envoy was warmly welcomed by the CEO of PCBDDA, Imran Amin and other senior officials of the authority, including COO, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Executive Director Commercial,

Business Development, Ali Waqar Shah and Director Architecture, Sameer Aftab. The delegation led by the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission was comprehensively briefed about the projects of PCBD-DA Punjab. CEO of PCBDDA, Imran Amin expressed his gratitude

Mohammed Omer, Director

for the appreciation from the U.S. Embassy. He highlighted the achievements of the authority in transforming Punjab into a vibrant hub for commercial activities and emphasized the importance of international collaborations to further accelerate this economic growth.

The visit of U.S. officials will serve as a platform for a constructive dialogue between PCBDDA and the U.S. Embassy, facilitating an exchange of ideas and best practices to enhance the business ecosystem in Punjab.

New study reveals Track and Trace system kept illegal trade of tobacco products at 15%

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Health activists have appreciated Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's directives to curb down illegal trade of tobacco products in Pakistan. In a press release shared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the health activists mentioned that Federal Board of Revenue's Track and Trace system 15%. This system should be implemented in all companies to achieve mentioned that during pre-budget seasons, tobacco industry uses blown up percentage of illicit trade to influ-

taxation according to the rate of inflation.

Malik Imran, country head, Campaign for tobacco-free kids (CTFK), mentioned that tobacco induced disease causes an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP. He said that an industry which is causing such unprecedented level of damage to public health and econohas kept illicit trade from going above my, brazenly claims that any damage control move is against Pakistan's interest. Imran mentioned that every further benefits. The activists also budget season, tobacco industry uses the illicit trade excuse to ensure that tobacco taxes are not increased.

Imran mentioned that tobacco ence the policymakers from raising industry should not have any prob-



lems paying the additional taxes because it never pays them from its own coffers. Tobacco companies have increased their net-of-tax prices. Due to over-shifting, the excise tax share in retail price remains at 51.6%, lower than the widely-accepted benchmark of 70%.

Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said that tobacco is the largest silent killer in Pakistan as above 170,000 people die due to tobacco use each year. He explained that increased prices bring a decrease to production and consumption which decrease the health cost burden. Although there has been 31.7% decline in production declared by TI in fiscal year 2022-23 compared to the previous year which is win win condition, keeping in view of aim of tobacco control to decrease consumption coupled with increase in revenue generation.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager (SPARC) said that the

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former tobacco industry claims that it does state-of-the-art research to present solutions to Pakistan's economic woes. In reality, the only state-ofthe-art thing the tobacco industry produces is the killer products that are jeopardizing Pakistan's health and economy. It is a fallacy to think that Pakistan can prosper while tobacco products are at large.

Khalil mentioned that the Track & Trace System of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) provides an excellent opportunity for the government to tackle the issue of whatsoever ever of taxes and illicit trade, which needs to be extended to all other cigarette manufacturing companies currently not integrated.

Sports Saturday, June 3, 2023

The Spokesman

WSF World Jr Squash C'ships teams announced

😂 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Young squash stars from 33 national federations would descend on Melbourne, Australia, for next month's WSF World Junior Championships from July 18 to 29, following the confirmation of squads.

Athletes from all over the world would compete in the WSF World Junior Championships, which will take place at Melbourne Sports Centres (MSAC) and include junior men's and women's individual championships, as well as the junior women's team championship, said a press release.

Across the two individual events and the women's team event, there have been

245 entries. Hosts Australia, winners of three

women's world junior team championships, as well as boasting five individ-

ual winners (three women and two men) would be hoping for a repeat of the last time they hosted the event, in Sydney 1995, when Rachael Grinham, Emma Major, Kate Major and Narelle

Standing in their way would be formidable opponents, though, with likely top seeds Egypt winners of the last seven time since 2005. women's junior team championships,

to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the individuals, the North African nation would be hoping to reclaim

the men's title, with Netherlands' Rowan Damming ending a run of three consecutive wins for Egypt last year in France, while Amina Orfi will look to secure an 11th consecutive champi-

Tippett lifted the women's team trophy. onship for her country by defending her women's individual title. Elsewhere, Scotland return to the team event for the first

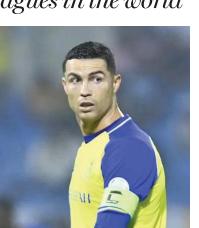
The Competing National Federations,

which have not been held since 2019 due 2023 WSF World Junior Squash Championships- Men's Individual Championship: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, China, India, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Macau-China.

Women's Individual Championship: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong-China, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Macau-China, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand.

Women's Team Championship: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, England, Hong Kong-China, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, USA

Ronaldo says Saudi League can be among top five leagues in the world



腾 🛛 A Sports

RIYADH: Saudi Pro League has the potential to become a top-five league in the world if they can rope in more big names, said star footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who has just completed his first season at the Saudi League after an extravagant deal with Al Nassr in December last year, maintained he enjoyed his time in the Gulf nation and confirmed that he "will continue with the team" next season.

"I am happy here, I want to continue here, I will continue here," Ronaldo said in an interview with the SPL.

"And in my opinion if they continue to do the work that they want to do here, for the next five years. I think the Saudi league car

Winning the Junior Punjab Championship for Multan is an honour: Anees Khan



Asim Tanvee

MULTAN: Winning the Junior Punjab Championship for Multan is an honour. Rana Nadeem Anjum. Junior Punjab Badminton Championship winners Abdullah Tahir and Kashmin Nadeem along with their coach Anees Khan were given a grand welcome by Sports Department Multan on their return to Multan. Divisional Sports Officer Multan Rana Nadeem Anjum welcomed the winning players and coach with flowers Farooq Latif District Sports Officer Multan also accompanied them. Speaking on the occasion, Rana Nadeem Anjum said that winning the Junior Championship is a matter of pride for Multan.

Sports Department Multan is determined to provide the best facilities to the talented players so that they can work hard in their respective fields with complete freedom and make Pakistan famous. He also congratulated coach Anees Khan and said that Anees Khan is a hardworking and There are competent coaches who are training the players with their tireless efforts and the best results are coming out. He urged the successful players to work hard to make Pakistan famous and assured of his full cooperation.

World Bicycle Day holds immense significance

跨 🛛 Tahir Malik

LAHORE: World Bicycle Day holds immense significance as it promotes the vital role of cycling in addressing various global challenges. In Pakistan, the efforts of President Syed Azhar Ali Shah and Secretary General Moazzam Khan Klair of the cycling federation are commendable. Cycling in Pakistan can effectively tackle health issues by encouraging physical activity, combat environmental degradation by reducing carbon emissions, and contribute to controlling traffic congestion. Moreover, promot-



ing cycling as a mode of transport can help conserve fuel and decrease the nation's dependency on fossil fuels. By focusing on these aspects, Pakistan can witness improvements

Joe Root becomes fastest to 11,000 Test runs



Javeria Khan, Noreen Yaqoob, Saima Malik lead Challengers to final

😂 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Half-century from Javeria Khan and three-fers by Noreen Yaqoob and Saima Malik led Challengers to a thrilling sevenrun win over Dynamites at the State Bank Stadium on Friday. This was Challengers' second successive win in the one-day phase of the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament and the first defeat for table toppers Dynamites

The win means both Challengers and Dynamites will meet again in the final of the tournament on Sunday, 4 June

After being put into bat, Omaima Sohail-led Challengers managed 160 for enced right-handed opening batter Javeria Khan balls, hitting six boundaries. The only notable partfrom Javeria and Fareeha Mehmood (29, 50b, 2x4s) as the two added 75 runs for the fifth wicket.

For Dynamites, Nashra Sundhu bagged two wickets for 25 from nine overs.



ing pair Khadija Chishti (15, return back to the hut as 37b, 1x4) and captain Sidra Amin (36, 53b, 7x4s) provided a 43-run start to the innings. After the departure seven in 45 overs. Experi- of Khadija, Aima Saleem soon followed Khadija both batters were dismissed top-scored with 83 off 126 by left-arm spinner Saima as Dynamites were 48 for two in 14.2 overs. At that nership in the innings came moment of the match, experienced all-rounder Aliya Riaz joined Sidra Amin in the middle and both knitted

26 runs for the third wicket. After the departure of Sidra, Aliya held one end topped the table with three intact, but at the other end, wins from four match-In turn, Dynamites open- the batters continued to es. Challengers ended up ria Khan (Challengers)

Dynamites lost the remainin 40.3 overs. four fours and three sixes.

ing seven wickets for 79 runs and were bowled out for 153 Aliya put up a fight with matches. 61 off 76 deliveries, hitting

For the winning team, Saima and off-spinner Noreen bagged three wickets apiece. Another off-spinner Omaima took two wickets for 28.

At the conclusion of the round matches of the one-day phase, Dynamites

taking the second spot with two wins from four outings, while Muneeba Ali-led Blasters ended at the third spot with one win from four

Scores in brief Challengers beat Dyna-

mites by seven runs. Challengers 160-7, 45 overs (Javeria Khan 83, Fareeha Mehmood 29; Nashra Sundhu 2-25)

Dynamites 153 all out, 40.3 overs (Aliva Riaz 61, Sidra Amin 36; Noreen Yaqoob 3-21, Saima Malik 3-29, Omaima Sohail 2-28) Player of the match - Jave-

National Cricket Academy (NCA) hosts National Players for **Specialised Camps**

😂 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Thirteen spinners and 11 fast bowlers will camps at the National Crickmonth in a bid to develop a Championship. deep and strong core ahead will also be involved in the and 16 till 21 June (for fast bowlers).

The men's national selection committee has invit- extended periods, a requistan men's, Shaheens and train under the guidance of will also help in inculcatnational team's and NCA's coaches.

These camps will help the they are aware of the expecselectors in jotting the best tations of the national side as they continue their jourpossible squad for Pakistan's two-Test series in Sri Lanka ney. This will also help the undergo specialised men's in July, which will be national side's first assignment in the et Academy in Lahore this third cycle of the World Test side's players.

Separate camps for spin of an exciting and challeng- and fast bowlers will help the ing season. Fourteen batters bowlers to bowl longer spells continue to feature in them. in specially tailored sessions two camps that will run from that along with enhancing Mohammad Nawaz (reha-10 till 15 June (for spinners) their skill level will test their fitness under tough weather conditions. Similarly, the batters will get to bat for

ed players from the Paki- site for the upcoming tour. Having players from U19 sides and they will across the rungs together

invited players: Spinners - Abrar Ahmed, ing The Pakistan Way in the upcoming players, so Ali Asfand, Arafat Minhas,

the camp.

Faisal Akram, Mohammad Junaid, Mehran Mumtaz, Mubasir Khan, Noman Ali Qasim Akram, Sajid Khan, youngsters to benefit from Sufiyan Muqeem, Usama the experience of the senior Mir and Zahid Mehmood bowlers-Aamir Fast

The players who have been Jamal, Arshad Iqbal, Faheem granted No-Objection Certif-Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Ihsanuicates to participate in Counllah, Mohammad Hasnain, ty cricket or other leagues will Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Naseem Shah and bilitation for finger injury), Shahnawaz Dahani

Batters – Abdullah Sarfaraz Ahmed (personal Shafique, Haris Sohail, commitments), Babar Azam Haseebullah, Hussain Talat, and Mohammad Rizwan (both are traveling for Hajj) Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ulhave been exempted from Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Haris, Moham-The following is the list of mad Huraira, Omair Bin Yousuf, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel and Tayyab Tahir

be a top-five league in the world," he added.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner asserted that if more renowned faces joined the league, it would take the league's status to new heights.

"If they are coming, big players and big names, young players, 'old players', they are very welcome because if that happens, the league will improve," stated the 38-yearold.

Ronaldo's assertion came amid heated speculations about Lionel Messi, Karim Benzema and Luka Modric's prospective moves to the Saudi League.

World Cup winner Messi is all set to leave PSG after their last Ligue 1 fixture on Saturday, confirms the team's coach Christophe Galtier on Thursday.

The Argentinian forward is likely to play in Saudi Arabia next season under a very lucrative deal, a source with knowledge of the negotiations told AFP.

Similarly, Ronaldo's former teammates at Real Madrid, Benzema and Modric, are also believed to be closing in on attractive deals from Saudi clubs.

"The league is very good but I think we have many opportunities to still grow. The league is competitive. We have very good teams, very good Arab players." added Ronaldo, who holds the records for most international goals and appearances.

"But they need to improve a little bit more the infrastructure. Even the referees, the VAR system, should be a little quicker." he concluded.

LONDON: Former England captain and star batter Joe Root on Friday, became the fastest batter to complete 11,000 Test runs amid his side's ongoing one-off Test against Ireland.

Veteran Joe Root achieved the milestone when he completed 52 runs before Tea on Day 2 of the ongoing four-day Test against Ireland.

The right-handed batter is only the 11th batter overall to accumulate this many runs in the longest format. India's batting great Sachin Tendulkar leads the chart with a whopping 15,921 runs in 200 Tests.

Joe Root is also the fastest batter in terms of innings to reach the milestone in just his 130th match, surpassing West Indies' batting great Brian Lara, who took 131 matches to achieve the same feat.

Former England captain Joe Root is also the fastest English batter to reach the milestone bettering his preceding captain Alastair Cook, who amassed 11,000 runs in 161 Tests.

Joe Root, however, failed to convert his brilliant half-century into a hundred as he fell briefly after Tea when Andy McBrine castled him. He scored 56 from 59 balls, laced up with four boundaries and a six.

Meanwhile, England lived up to their aggressive 'Bazball' style with the bat as they piled up a massive 524/4 in response to Ireland's 172 before declaring their first innings in the final session of the second day.

Ollie Pope and Ben Duckett were the stars with the bat for England; scoring a double century and a hundred respectively.

Pope top-scored for England after the fastest double century at Lord's and finished at 205 off 208 deliveries, hitting 22 boundaries and three sixes.

Duckett, on the other hand, was equally impressive but was unlucky as he fell just 18 short of a double ton; scoring 182 in just 178 deliveries including 24 boundaries and a six.

Hameed, Haider star as leaders Fujairah sink Emirates Red in D10 League

ABU DHABI: Haider Ali shone with the ball with brilliant figures of 2/7 before Hameed Khan's 42-run knock lifted Fujairah to a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Emirates Red in the 40th match of the Emirates D10 League.

Set to chase a modest 76-run target, Fujairah, in response, raised 81 for the loss of just three wickets with 20 balls to spare, courtesy of a magnificent second-wicket partnership between Hameed Khan and Hafiz Almas.

The duo of Hameed and Almas recovered Fujairah's pursuit from an early setback and stitched a match-defining 56-run partnership for the second wicket.

Hameed and Almas dominated Emirates Red bowlers amid their vital stand and scored at a brisk rate until Ammar Badami got the prized wicket of Hameed Khan in the sixth over when the table-toppers needed just four more runs.

Hameed struck three boundaries and as many sixes on his way to top-score for Fujairah with an 18-ball 42.

PCB calls 38 players for specialised camps at NCA

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Thirteen spinners the National Cricket Academy in Lahore this month in a bid to develop a deep and strong core ahead of an exciting and challenging season.

Fourteen batters will also be spinners) and 16 till 21 June (for fast bowlers).

The men's national selection the upcoming tour. committee has invited players from the Pakistan men's, Shaheens and U19 sides and in inculcating The Pakistan Way NCA's coaches.

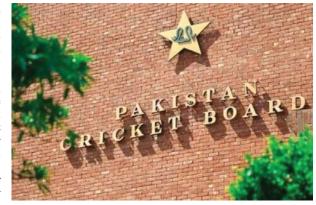
selectors in jotting the best help the youngsters to benefit

possible squad for Pakistan's two-Test series in Sri Lanka in July, which will be national side's and 11 fast bowlers will under- first assignment in the third go specialised men's camps at cycle of the World Test Championship.

Separate camps for spin and fast bowlers will help these bowlers to bowl longer spells in specially tailored sessions that along with enhancing their involved in the two camps that skill level will test their fitness will run from 10 till 15 June (for under tough weather conditions. Similarly, the batters will bat for extended periods, a requisite for

Having players from across from the experience of the senior the rungs together will also help they will train under the guid- in the upcoming players, so they ance of national team's and are aware of the expectations of the national side as they contin-

These camps will help the ue their journey. This will also



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side's players. The players who have been bilitation for finger injury), granted No-Objection Certif-Sarfaraz Ahmed (personal icates to participate in Councommitments), Babar Azam ty cricket or other leagues will and Mohammad Rizwan (both are traveling for Hajj) have been continue to feature in them. The exempted from the camp. following is the list of the invit-

Spinners - Abrar Ahmed, Ali Asfand, Arafat Minhas, Faisal Akram, Mohammad Junaid, Mehran Mumtaz, Mubasir Khan, Noman Ali, Qasim Akram, Sajid Khan, Sufiyan Muqeem, Usama Mir and Zahid Mehmood

Haris Rauf, Ihsanullah, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Naseem Shah and Shahnawaz Dahani

Batters - Abdullah Shafique, Haris Sohail, Haseebullah, Hussain Talat, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Huraira, Omair Bin Yousuf, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel and

Tayyab Tahir

Fast bowlers - Aamir Jamal, Arshad Iqbal, Faheem Ashraf,