

Business moot

ANKARA: Chairman Pak Yatirim and President DEIK Neil Olpak calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Chairperson of Turkish firm Limak Holding meets Shehbaz Sharif in Ankara: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said that Chairperson of the Board of Turkish firm Limak Holding Ebru Ozdmeir called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Ankara to explore available opportunities in the construction, infrastructure and energy sectors.

In a tweet, the minister

said, "Ms Ozdmeir will be coming to Pakistan with a delegation soon to directly interact with the relevant stakeholders and finalise the joint ventures to contribute to expanding trade and investment between Pakistan and Turkiye."

Marriyum said that Ebru Ozdmeir also shared the details of the unique and inspiring project Global Engineer Girls, an international philanthropic

initiative to inspire the next generation of female engineers and provide girls and women with education, mentorship and career opportunities.

She said that the initiative, in Pakistan, would educate and enable girls and women to gain experience and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Meanwhile: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday

invited the Turkish investors and businessmen to expand the investment in diverse areas of Pakistan.

He was talking to a delegation of Anadolu Group comprising of CEO coca cola CCI, Karim Yahi, Coca cola CCI chief strategy office Atilla Yerlikaya and Coca Cola CCI Head of public policy Taylan Coban which called on him here.

The prime minister encouraged the Anadolu

group for bringing investment in Pakistan and providing job opportunities to the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister is on a two-day official visit to Turkiye to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi and Pakistan Ambassador in Turkiye Dr Yousuf

Govt provide business, investment- friendly environment in country through upcoming budget

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday assured the participants that despite economic challenges, the government is determined to provide a business and investment friendly environment in the country through the upcoming budget of Fiscal Years 2023-24.

"In order to attract more companies and investments in Pakistan and put the country's economy on a positive trajectory soon", he added.

Federal Minister for Finance said this while in a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange led by Farrukh Hussain Khan, MD/CEO PSX, said a press



release issued here.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq

Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRMCA Ashfaq Yousif Tola, Governor SBP, Chairman FBR, and senior officers from Finance Division, FBR, and PSX attended the

meeting.

The delegation appreciated the initiative of the Finance Minister for taking on board all the stakeholders while preparing the budget

for upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-24.

The delegation also brought to the notice of Finance Minister various challenges being faced by the capital markets and investors and presented recommendations to the Finance Minister to be taken into account in the upcoming Federal Budget.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar acknowledged and appreciated the role of PSX in providing a reliable, orderly, liquid and efficient digitized market place for investors in Pakistan.

The delegation expressed sentiments of gratitude to the Finance Minister for taking on board all the leading businesses and investors before drafting the upcoming budget 2023-24.

Hospital's medical practitioners' issues to be addressed: ED PIMS

City Desk

ISLAMABAD : A delegation of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on Saturday met with the Executive Director, PIMS, Professor Dr Rana Imran Sikandar and discussed matters related to medical practitioners, working with the federal capital's major hospital.

During the meeting, the ED PIMS assured the delegation that the increase in salaries of PGR and Medical Officers is under consideration keeping in view the prevailing high inflation situation.

He listened to the concerns of doctors on the increasing incidents of attacks on them in the hospitals.

He said that issues related to the functioning of the hospital's air conditioning system will be addressed by June 30.

The delegation led by PMA PIMS President Dr Mushtaq expressed the hope that immediate steps will

be taken to ensure the safety of doctors in the hospital by taking concrete steps.

The delegation discussed the matter of promotion and increase in salaries of medical officers of PIMS besides making PGR's duty hours on a specific-hour basis system.

The PMA members stressed the need to make more learning opportunities for trainees on emergency laparoscopic procedures.

The matter of upgradation of the PIMS dialysis center was also discussed with the ED PIMS besides improving services at the PIMS cafeteria and making a regulatory body.

The ED PIMS assured to resolve all outstanding issues of doctors to the delegation led by PMA PIMS President Dr Mushtaq and other members, including Dr Waqar, Dr Hashir Iqbal, Dr Khalil, Dr Waseem, Dr Asad, Dr Ahmad, Dr Saleem, Dr Qasim, Dr Ameen, Dr Sania and others.

Govt sets GDP growth target at 3.5% for FY24

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD : The government on Friday set the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth target for the fiscal year 2023-24 at 3.5 percent, with sectoral growth of 3.5 percent in agriculture; 3.4 percent in industrial; and 3.6 percent in services.

This was informed in the meeting of Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal here, said a press release.

The chief economist presented an economic outlook for 2023-24 in the meeting, saying that it shall result in an orderly rebalancing between the economic growth, and current and fiscal account balances.

However, he also raised caution about the global slowdown, increased interest in developed countries, and elevated commodity prices that may hinder the economic plans.

The minister highlighted that the government inherited the economy facing a number of challenges on external and internal fronts causing massive fiscal constraints.

Therefore, he advised the provincial

governments and Federal Ministries/ Divisions to use caution and efficiency in devising their development projects.

He also informed participants that the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives had worked out a 5Es strategy (Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment, Energy, Equity), which should serve as a guiding post for designing our development program.

He added that Annual Plan 2023-24 and Public Sector Development Plan (PSDP) 2023-24 shall focus on prioritizing projects at the advanced stage and token allocation should also be avoided.

Chief Economist apprised participants about economic performance achieved during fiscal year 2022-23 and growth projections for fiscal year 2023-24.

He said that during 2022-23, due to high inflation, caused by unfavorable external environment, floods and import compression measures, only marginal economic growth was recorded. Lastly, he highlighted significant improvement in fiscal and current account balances, which he termed as a positive sign for revival of growth during 2023-24.

Coalition govt believes in supremacy of Parliament, law: Minister

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch Saturday said that the coalition government of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has believed in the supremacy of Parliament the rule of law and standing with the institutions.

He termed those people as dangerous in society who consider their personal interests higher than the interests of the state and disrupt the state to achieve their personal interests.

He expressed these views while addressing the Pillars of Pakistan Awards 2023 ceremony organized by the Journalist Foundation at the Ministry of Science and Technology.



The federal minister acknowledged the services of the journalist community for strengthening democracy.

He said that the journalist community was playing a key role in reforming the society and strengthening the voice of the oppressed.

He said that the previous government enacted legislation to control the media while the PDM government believed in the values of independent and free journalism. The federal minister said

that independent journalism thrives with economic security and urged the owners of print and electronic media to formulate such economic policies for journalists that secure the future of journalists and their children.

At the end of the ceremony, Federal Minister Agha Hassan Baloch awarded the Pillars of Pakistan Award 2023 to ALKhidmat Foundation Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam University Professor Dr Tassawar Hayat and former Director of Sports Wah Cantt Muhammad Taufeeq for their services.

Earlier, Central President Journalist Foundation Zulfiqar Malik, General Secretary Razaqat Hussain and General (ret'd) Abdul Qayyum Malik expressed their views on the occasion.

PML-N demands Karachi deputy mayor's slot for 'supporting PPP'

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has demanded the slot of Karachi deputy mayor as a condition for 'supporting' Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Mayor election, scheduled to take place on June 15.

Politicking for the slot of Karachi Mayor was underway as Pakistan People's Party - which emerged as the largest party in the City Council with 104 chairman seats - held negotiations with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) - which has 14 seats.

During the talks, the PML-N demanded the slot as a condition for 'supporting' PPP in Mayor election. Responding to the demand, the People's Party said Bilawal Bhutto will decide the

candidates for mayor and deputy mayor.

The total number of seats in the City Council is 371 and the mayor needs to enjoy the simple majority in the council, which is 186 members.

Earlier, the ECP announced the schedule of the mayor and deputy mayor election in Sindh.

As per details, the election of mayor and deputy mayor will take place on June 15 while the nomination paper can be submitted by June 9-10.

The ECP schedule stated that the Returning Officer will check the nomination papers on June 11 and the finalized list of candidates will be released on June 14.

On June 16, the Returning Officers will announce the results whereas the successful candidates will take oath on June 19.

Party position

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the results of all the union councils (UCs) of Karachi.

According to details, the PPP emerged as the largest party in the City Council with 104 chairman seats. It later got 34 seats reserved for women, five each for minorities, labour and youth, and one each for disabled and transgender persons. The party has 155 members in total.

Meanwhile, JI won 87 chairman seats in the local government (LG) elections, after which it got 29 reserved seats for women, four reserved seats each for youth, labour and minorities, and one reserved seat each for transgender and disabled persons. The total number of JI in the City Council is 130.

Gwadar district declared 'tax-free zone'

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Saturday declared Gwadar district as a tax-free zone, urging the Centre to grant the region a similar economic status.

In a statement, the Balochistan government said that Gwadar will be from services and excise tax, and any tax on property

transfers, urging the federal government to grant the region a similar economic status.

Senator Kauda Babar, who belongs to district Gwadar, lauded the provincial cabinet's decision as a welcome step.

The Senator said the cabinet's approval of Gwadar as a tax-free zone was the fulfillment of a long-standing

demand. He further urged the federal government to provide relief in federal taxes.

Kauda Babar expressed his belief that the status of a tax-free zone is likely to revive the true spirit of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), stimulating activity at the Gwadar port and attracting further investment.

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AJK PM hosted a luncheon in honor of Sindh Governor

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Addressing the ceremony, the Prime Minister said that establishment of the rule of law and good governance would be ensured in Azad Kashmir.

He said that cultural traditions soften hearts and bring people closer to each other. Expressing his desire to kickstart cultural exchange programs he said, "It is my earnest desire to start a cultural exchange program with the four provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan, in which elected members of the assembly and other delegations are sent to promote mutual harmony".

Referring to the prevailing political harmony in the region, the PM told the visiting governor that the entire political leadership of Azad Kashmir was present there to welcome him.

The Prime Minister appreciat-



ed and thanked Governor Sindh for organizing a literature festival in Azad Kashmir and for highlighting the culture of the region.

Addressing the luncheon, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori congratulated Chaudhry Anwar Haq on being elected as the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and thanked him and the

entire political leadership of Azad Kashmir for their excellent hospitality.

Governor Sindh said that there was a lot of talent in Azad Kashmir which needs to be promoted.

Former Prime Ministers Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan, Sardar

Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Leader of Opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar, President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Party Sardar Hasan Ibrahim, Khawaja Farooq Ahmed and others were present on the occasion.

Trade Expo Barcelona

Delegation led by Mazhar Hussain Thathal Convener National Trade & Business Development sub-committee Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, representing the Pakistan business community in Spain and the trade show General Secretary presented the honorary shield to the members of delegation from Pakistan Sajid Mehmood, Asad Abbas & Muhammad Imran in the business trade Expo Barcelona, Spain



Farewell ceremony in the honor of the outgoing DG of Information AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: A grand farewell ceremony was organized by Chief Executive of Jammu and Kashmir Daily Aamir Mehboob in honour of the outgoing Director General of Information Azad Kashmir Raja Azhar Iqbal at Grand Marquee Islamabad today.

Besides President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, the farewell ceremony was attended by former ministers, bureaucrats, office bearers of National Press Club Islamabad and senior journalists hailing from across Azad Kashmir and Pakistan.

It was for the first time in the history of Azad Kashmir that

an officer had received recognition on such an unprecedented level at the time of his retirement.

Speakers on the occasion paid eulogizing tributes to the outgoing Director General of Information and hailed him for playing a remarkable role as a bridge between the media and the government.

Appreciating his professionalism and bureaucratic skills and contribution, the President AJK Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that Raja Azhar Iqbal was retiring after outstanding service. "Raja Azhar Iqbal is a professional bureaucrat, we still benefit from his skills", he said, adding that he had used his skill effectively to promote the govern-



ment's image as well as highlighting the issue of Kashmir. The Chief Editor of Jammu and Kashmir Daily Aamir Mehboob said that the services of Raja Azhar Iqbal would be remembered for a long time. Information Secretary Ansir

the modern challenges besides preparing an excellent professional team which was ready to deal with all kinds of challenges.

Addressing the event, Director General Information Raja Azhar Iqbal said, "Public relations is a difficult task but today I feel elated to be retiring from this challenging job".

"All my brothers from the journalist community have an equal role in my success as that of my official team that worked with me day in and day out", he said.

The DGPR thanked the President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry for his appreciation and said that he had always guided him and appreciated his good work.

Education officers speed up admission campaign in schools: Zahida Batool

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Director Public Instruction (DPI) Secondary Education South Punjab Ms. Zahida Batool said that under the direction of Secretary Schools Education South Punjab Rana Saleem Ahmad Khan, the special admission campaign for children in schools is going on in full swing, 95% of the target of admission campaign has been achieved in the schools of South Punjab till June 2. DPI Secondary Education Zahida Batool further said that instructions have been given to the CEOs of Education and other education officers of all the districts of South Punjab to speed up the admission campaign in schools and ensure the achievement of 100% target.

So that no child misses out on education. Till June 2, 2023, 36 lakh 63 thousand 476 students have been enrolled in schools of 11 districts of South Punjab. Zahida Batool further said that the best educational facilities are being provided by the government of Punjab. The students are being trained on the best lines. The teachers are paying special attention to the character development of the children. In government schools, students are provided with the best opportunities for education as well as co-curricular activities.

Abdul Majid Senior Photojournalist appreciates Ms Saadia Sehar



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: According to the sources, Abdul Majid Senior Photojournalist appreciated Ms Saadia Sehar, Pakistan's first employed female photojournalist emerged after the death of her husband, who was also a journalist.

Ms. Saadia continued her efforts to build a career in broadcast media and completed her masters in mass communication with flying colors. She is now working as a journalist, feature writer, video journalist as well as a photographer for Geo News. She is surely an inspiration for many young girls to come forward as broadminded because Pakistan needs journalists having capacity to accelerate socialization in the country to observe etiquettes in people's norms and values.

She pointed out that journalism is the eyes and ears of a society where a free press means a free nation.

Media liberates the society from outlaws and imbalances.

A true Journalist has no fear but Allah Almighty always because it fights against the law breakers who make imbalance in the society.

Without free and fair journalism there emerged no concept of a society, she further viewed.

CTD Punjab arrests 6 terrorists affiliated with banned outfit

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested 6 terrorists allegedly associated with the banned outfits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 39 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 40 suspected persons were interrogated and 6 terrorists allegedly affiliated with the banned outfit were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Shoab Rafiq, a member of the banned organization Hizb-e-Tahrir, Muhammad Baqir Mehndi, a member of Sepah Muhammad Pakistan, two members of the Baloch Liberation Army, Zahir Shah and Muhammad Shahzad, Muhammad Afzal, a member of Jamaat-ul-Harar, and Asif, a member of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, he said.

The spokesman said that 415 grams of explosive material, 1 hand grenade, 1 IED bomb, 6 detonators, 6 feet of safety fuse wire, 2 feet of Prima Card, 4 prohibited books, 31 pamphlets of banned organization, 9 stickers, 2 flags, a receipt book, 3 mobile phones and 49680 rupees in cash have been recovered were recovered from the possession of the terrorists. He said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations and other religious places. The police have registered 5 cases against the arrested alleged terrorists in Lahore, Gujranwala, DG Khan, Sahiwal and Rawalpindi and shifted them to an unknown location, spokesman added that 238 combing operations were conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 11041 persons were checked, 33 suspects were arrested, 28 FIRs were registered and 20 recoveries were made.

Spokesman Counter Terrorism Department Punjab Said

Tax on freelancers should be abolished: PAFLA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The government should remove the tax on the income of freelancers who are earning precious foreign exchange for the country through working on different projects for foreign clients.

In a budget proposal sent to the government and relevant authorities, the Pakistan Freelancers Association (PAFLA) demanded the government for removing the variable tax rate ranging 1% on return filers to 2% on non-filers against every income transaction received by freelancers in their bank accounts.

CEO PAFLA Tufail Ahmed Khan said a majority of the freelancers in Pakistan work on different platforms of freelancing which also deduct their fees at different rates, on the other hand, various money transfer services also charge an amount from the freelancers, hence all these factors reduce their overall income significantly.

Freelancers fetched an amount of \$400 million in the last financial year 2021-22. This year, the freelancers are likely to match this value by the end of the current financial year as per estimates.

The government should direct commercial banks to provide free services to freelancers in the country so that they could directly maintain their accounts in Pakistan's banks instead of receiving their income through indirect channels from different countries.

PAFLA demanded the government to allocate a dedicated workstation for freelancers at IT parks and Special Technological Zones which will help them avail the subsidize and fast internet services, and opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange with the professionals of their respective fields.

Also, the government should push more banks to introduce forex accounts allowing them a credit facility for doing major projects with foreign partners. Also, banks should offer special saving accounts for freelancers to maintain their credit history and avail services of auto and house financing.

ECP Releases schedule for local government election in Punjab

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Election Commission of Pakistan has released the schedule for the local government election in Punjab. The aspirants participating in the local government election in Multan district will participate in the Electoral Group according to the schedule set by the Election Commission. It can be managed by creating it. Public notice for submission of election group applications as per schedule 5th June 2023 Dates for submission of application form one by head or representative of election group are 6th June to 12th June 2023. Incomplete information is relevant on the basis of form one. The last date

for returning applications to the Electoral Group is 19 June 2023

The last date for submission of re-applications for investigation by the head or representative of the electoral group is 26 June 2023. The last date for publishing the certified certificate of registration of the electoral group Form III is 27 June to 03 July, 2023. The dates for filing petitions against objections raised by the Designated Officer to the registration of the Electoral Group are 04 July to 10 July 2023. The last date for appeals decisions by the Election Commission or its Designated Officer is 17 July, 2023. Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays shall not be included in them. Candi-

dates wishing to enroll in the Electoral Group may obtain the said form from the offices of the following authorized officers.

Ghulam Abbas, District Election Commissioner 1 Multan, (District Council Multan), Office District Election Commissioner Al Saeed Manzil Pir Kho Rasheed Colony, City Hospital Road Multan, Javed Iqbal District Election Commissioner 2 Multan, (Metropolitan Corporation Multan) Office District Election Commissioner Al Saeed Manzil Pir Khurshid Colony, City Hospital Road Multan, Musrat Bibi Assistant Director Local Government, (Union Councils Tehsil Multan City) Office Assistant Director Local

Government Tehsil Multan City, Ashfa Q Ahmed Assistant Director Local Government (Union Council Tehsil Multan Sadr (Office Assistant Director Local Government Tehsil Multan Sadr Muhammad Hayat Qureshi)

Assistant Director Local Government (Union Councils Tehsil Shujaabad) Office Assistant Director Local Government Tehsil Shujaabad Muhammad Ramzan Assistant Director Local Government (Union Councils Tehsil Jalalpur Pir Wala) Office Assistant Director Local Government Tehsil Jalalpur Pir Wala Forms can be obtained from the offices of assistant director local government (Union Councils Tehsil Jalalpur Pir Wala)

Autism Center established in Khanewal

Bureau Report

KHANEWAL: On the direction of Chief Secretary Punjab Autism Center has established in Khanewal Public School and University College-Secretary Special Education Punjab Saima Saeed visited the autism center and reviewed the facilities and efficiency of the taching staff-Secretary Special Education.

Appreciating the efforts of the DC and his team for the establishment of the center, Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu briefed about the facilities provided for special children talking to the media Saima Saeed said that DC Khanewal's efforts to establish the first autism center on the are commendable. The admin will be supported for training of staff and provision of other facilities, he added, that the Punjab government is taking practical steps to make mentally and physically challenged children useful members of the society.

I'm a part of Pakistan's ever emerging tech industry: Ayesha Zaman

An Exclusive Interview with Daily The Spokesman

Tahir Amin Malik

Ayesha Zaman—Organizer Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023—is a young talent entrepreneur she is proud that she is a part of Pakistan's ever emerging tech industry. She works in different capacities including different software houses, Govt. She runs her own startups, volunteering on a ton of public speaking engagements. She also representing Pakistan on multiple international forums. Her detailed interview with Daily The Spokesman are under:-

Ayesha as the founder of this groundbreaking tech event, can you share with us your personal journey and the challenges you faced in establishing yourself in the tech industry?

Talking about the challenges, they're a part of everyone's journey be it any field of life. Though my early days challenges had my family not understanding about what I was upto and what I was trying to achieve, since working on a laptop was a new thing back then. Thankfully that only lasted for two years and slowly I was able to have my family by my side.

One thing I would like to highlight here is, a lot of the issues started to disappear as I kept on my path with consistency but the ones that rose from my own lack of skill was the ones I really had to put efforts for. Just to share one example, back in 2013 I started with content writing as I was good with words. Breakin through the glass ceiling became a challenge when I was not able to deliver search engine optimized articles. For that I did quite a bit of research coupled with self learning and soon I was on my to only provide unique articles but also have them optimized for search rankings. So, in order to make your mark in the industry, one needs to be on top of not all then most of the updates



and changes happening in their specific domains.

Next challenge that most women face is about building a quality network around you. And ironically I'm not the kind of person who can network easily. Though seeing me on the stage all these years, people think that I'm more of an outgoing personality. So how did I build this big network that I have today?

The answer to the question is very simple, I utilized social media consistently to showcase what I was doing in my career. For example, when I started out as a content writer, I would talk about content writing and update my Facebook and LinkedIn profile with the job title. Updating your profile with all the gigs that you're doing is a great opportunity to attract the network that will be looking for the same skills to hire or to learn the same skills. Now when I see

back to a decade long journey, I did nothing much but to share on my social media about what I do. And people know me because of the work that I do. For this, I'd encourage everyone to utilize their social media wisely and to help others. And the best way to build a good network is to "be a giver and give value".

What inspired you to take the lead and organize such a significant event in Lahore, considering the male dominance in the tech sector?

Self learning and continuous skill development has helped me make my way to the white collar jobs, creating national level initiatives and getting nominated to represent Pakistan at a global level. Also, given the fact that in the past few months, AI has reached the end user via different apps and the tide for skill demand is shifting rapidly. Moving forward it

needs to be of great priority for all the stakeholders of the ecosystem to take rigorous initiatives to bridge the talent gap required to meet the industry demand in the IT sector both nationally and internationally.

Skills Gala became the first event to host multiple training companies providing trainings in tech and digital skills under one roof. Also, we hosted a good number of software companies looking to hire the right talent so it became a very unique combination of supply and demand side at our event.

The core reason I came about this idea is, one day I was sitting by myself listening to the news about the political and economical crisis that Pakistan is going through. It made me think about what is it that I can do in my capacity to help the economy. And I got the answer that my network and influence

is in the Tech and Training industry. Also that Govt. started to work on multiple skill development programs to meet the talent demand of the local software industry that is to help bring more to the IT economy. That was my eureka moment, and I felt like YES this is exactly what I'm to work on.

I'm a huge believer in community building and the impact that it creates. So coming up with a grand event that would unite the Tech and Training Industry under one roof sounded like a very good idea to work on community building that would help increase the IT exports of Pakistan by bridging the talent gap. MoITT, PSEB and P@SHA have taken great initiatives but keeping the population size in view, I believe we all have to play our role in achieving the common goal.

Though the IT sector and especially events of this magnitude are

majorly lead by men, I didn't think twice to take the lead on skill development to increase IT exports for already having a strong network in the industry.

How did you manage to bring together the government, software industry, academia, associations, and skill development initiatives under one roof for this event? What strategies did you employ?

I didn't have to strategize for it because I have worked one way or the other with all of them. And keeping the economical situation of Pakistan, they all are already working in their capacities over skill development and reducing the talent gap. I'd say I just hit the iron while it's hot.

What impact did this event have on the attendees, particularly in terms of networking opportunities, exposure to new technologies, and skill development?

We have received an over-

whelmingly great response from everyone. For example the job seekers got an ample opportunity to explore multiple job opportunities offered by the participating software companies, networking was a HUGE selling point of our event since we had like 100+ CXO, dignitaries, founders and Govt. officials at the event that are difficult to approach otherwise for a layman. Young professionals, students and non-tech participants felt so good about the exposure that they got on the side of what skills are in demand and who is providing those skills. A lot of skill development companies bagged 100s and 1000s of leads. And the software houses went back happy gathering 100s and 1000s of CVs and data of potential hires.

Ayesha as a trailblazing woman in the tech industry, how do you believe this event has contributed to breaking gender barriers and fostering inclusivity in the sector?

This question is very close to my heart. And I'd say whoever has a will to do something they will do it. Yes, as a woman we get some limitations. But I have even more interesting things to share, and that is about my mental health. Something that people don't talk about as an affectee but as a doctor. For the past 8 months I have been on psychotic medication due to an anxiety disorder that leaves half of my body numb and at times I'm not even able to speak.

Alhamdulillah, despite that I have been able to achieve a lot at a very fast pace. Because I never considered it as a limiting factor. I, as a live role model, demonstrate that you can be a woman, you can even have mental health issues that you need to accept as a lifestyle to navigate through your life. If you don't fall into self-pity and have true belief that ALLAH is there to help you when everyone is turning their backs against you, you'll ultimately win. Inshaa ALLAH.

Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023: A Resounding Success with Platform Launches, P@SHA's Participation, and Esteemed Guests

LAHORE: Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023, organized by Skills Todo, emerged as a monumental event that brought together esteemed guests, industry leaders, and showcased the launch of two innovative platforms. The event, held on May 27th and 28th at the prestigious Expo Centre Lahore, highlighted the potential of Pakistan's talent while emphasizing the need to bridge the skills gap in the IT sector.

Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 witnessed enthusiastic participation from influential entities such as P@SHA (Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT and ITES). Ahsan Ali, Senior Vice Chairman of P@SHA, graced the event and emphasized the importance of collaboration between the industry and academia to foster a thriving tech ecosystem. Malik Mudassar, CEC member of P@SHA, shared his insights on the tech industry's growth and the role of skilled talent in driving innovation and global compet-



Vice-Chancellor of Islamia University of Bahawalpur, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ramzan, Vice-Chancellor of Emerson University Multan, contributed their expertise on bridging the talent gap and enhancing academic-industry collaboration.

In addition to the platform launches, Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 welcomed distinguished guests from various sectors. Farhan Saleem, Co-founder of Pakistan Tech Forum (PTF), Ayub Ghauri, President of PTF, and Ayesha

Saleem, Co-founder of PTF, graced the event, sharing their perspectives on technology's transformative power and the importance of industry alliances.

The event also witnessed the presence of influential individuals such as Ahmad Islam Syam—Joint Director of the Freelance Wing at PITB, Ijaz Farooq—Program Manager at PITB, Farhan Saleem—Co-founder of Pakistan Tech Forum, Ayub Ghauri—President of Tech Forum, and Ayesha Saleem—Co-founder of PTF. Their contributions and expertise added tremendous value to the event, fostering knowledge-sharing and promoting industry growth.

Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 served as a hub for collaboration, learning, and growth in the IT industry. It showcased the power of uniting academia, industry, and social impact organizations to bridge the talent gap and drive innovation. The event provided attendees with valuable exposure to the tech and training industry, awareness of the available skill sets



in the market, and opportunities to network with hundreds of CXOs, industry leaders, and government officials.

With an impressive footfall of 10,000 attendees over the course of two days, Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 created a significant impact in its capacity. The event's success is a testament to the growing interest and enthusiasm for the IT sector in Pakistan, as well as the collective efforts of the organizing team, sponsors, and partners.

Skills Todo extends its gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and partners

who contributed to the success of Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023. The event highlighted the immense potential of Pakistan's IT sector and reinforced the commitment to empowering talent, fostering innovation, and creating a thriving tech ecosystem.

Skills Todo remains dedicated to its mission of driving growth and advancement within the IT industry. The resounding success of Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 sets the stage for future initiatives and collaborations that will shape the technology landscape of Pakistan.



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Increase in universities imperative for KP to combat poverty, illiteracy

Fakhar Alam

Besides other socioeconomic factors, rapid population growth has also exerted extraordinary pressure on government colleges and universities in the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where many students were deprived of admissions due to the limited number of seats.

As the country's population swelled to record 233.257 million this year, there was a need to increase public sector universities and colleges as around 218 public sector universities, including 33 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 35.53 million population, were currently operating to accommodate youth representing 64 percent of Pakistan's total population.

The spokesman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Education Management Information System (KPEMIS) told APP that around 221,550 students apply for admission in colleges for inter-mediate every year in the province and their enrollment was a big challenge due to the limited number of seats, shortage of infrastructure and faculty members.

Citing Pakistan Economic Survey 2021-22 report, the spokesman said that only 4.5 million students were enrolled in secondary education (Grade 9-10), and 2.5 million in higher-secondary education (Grade 11-12) during 2020-21 in the country.

As many as 14.4 million students were admitted in pre-primary education, 25.7 million in primary education

(grades 1-5) and 8.3 million in middle education (Grade 6-8).

He said approximately 500,000 students were enrolled in technical and vocational education, 760,000 in degree-awarding colleges, and 1.96 million students in public sector universities in 2020-21.

He said lack of colleges and universities, poverty and socioeconomic imbalances had resulted in an increase in students drop out ratio in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where about 11.7 million children aged 5-16 years including one million in erstwhile Fata were out of education net.

"Many low grade students are unable to get admission in public sector colleges and universities after metric due to limited number of seats, resulting an increase in illiteracy and unemployment in the society," said former chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar, Zalakat Malik while talking to APP.

He said the population growth had adversely affected the quality of education and undermined merit. Zalakat Malik said the experience of the second shift, self-finance scheme and distance learning programs in public sector universities and colleges started by the PTI government in haste had badly failed.

He said, "we need not only quality universities in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also require strengthening of existing ones in terms of equipment and faculty besides addressing their financial issues."

Ikhhtair Wali Khan, PMLN KP spokes-

man said that PTI's uniform education policy experience was exposed before masses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite 9 years long rule in KP, he said the PTI government had failed to introduce the promised reforms in education, health, police, judiciary, administration, criminal justice system and taxation.

He said the PTI government's artificial measures, empty promises, U-turns, mere slogans and rhetoric of Imran Khan had marred education and today almost all public sector universities were facing the brunt of poor economic and financial issues.

He claimed that the PTI government had failed to construct any public sector university in merged areas that resulted in an increase of illiteracy and unemployment there.

"To fulfill students' demands, Ikhtlaq Ahmed, Chief Education told APP that the first ever Fata University at Dara Adamkhel near Kohat on 460 kanal land was established.

Classes from first year to PhD level were started in Fata university with 50pc subsidy on fees to all tribal students enrolled in eight different disciplines, he added.

He said MA/MSc classes were commenced in all government postgraduate colleges of the province to reduce the students' load on public sector universities.

Special Secretary, Higher Education Department, Zainullah Shah said that Cadet College at Wana in South Waziristan and Mohmand Cadet College in Mohmand were also completed where

admission of students began. One library each was also being established at Khyber, Mohmand, Bajaur, Kurram, Orakzai, North Waziristan and South Waziristan for students of higher education.

As many as 10 new degree colleges were completed in merged areas raising its total number to 55, he said, adding 300 new lecturers and subject specialists were also recruited for 45 colleges.

Work on solarization of colleges costing around Rs1.6 billion was launched and Rs1.399 billion were earmarked to provide 5,500 internships to tribal students, he concluded.

He said that buses were also provided to universities and colleges to facilitate girls' students and faculty members.

Similarly, over Rs40 billion were disbursed on the account of scholarship under Benazir Income Support Program since its inception, adding Rs1500 stipend per quarter was being provided to each boy student and Rs2000 to each girl student at primary level, Rs 2500 for boy and Rs3000 for a girl of secondary schools and Rs 3500 to boy and Rs4000 to higher secondary school/colleges to promote higher education.

Despite all these measures, there was still a lot to be done to promote the education sector in the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where people were ambitious to get their children educated. Similarly, the existing universities in KP were also needed to be upgraded so that the local student did not need to migrate to other cities of the country in search of better education facilities.

New technologies need urgent oversight

Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered spyware and disinformation is on the rise, and regulation of space has become urgent, according to UN human rights experts.

In a joint statement, the experts said that emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence-based biometric surveillance systems, are increasingly being used "in sensitive contexts", without individuals' knowledge or consent.

"Urgent and strict regulatory red lines are needed for technologies that claim to perform emotion or gender recognition," said the experts, who include Fionnuala Ni Aolain, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism.

The Human Rights Council-appointed experts condemned the already "alarming" use and impacts of spyware and surveillance technologies on the work of human rights defenders and journalists, "often under the guise of national security and counter-terrorism measures".

They also called for regulation to address the lightning-fast development of generative AI that's enabling mass production of fake online content which spreads disinformation and hate speech.

The experts stressed the need to ensure that these systems do not further expose people and communities to human rights violations, including through the expansion and abuse of invasive surveillance practices that infringe on the right to privacy, facilitate the commission of gross human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, and discrimination.

They also expressed concern about respect for freedoms of expression, thought, peaceful protest, and for access to essential economic, social and cultural rights, and humanitarian services.

"Specific technologies and applications should be avoided altogether where the regulation of human rights complaints is not possible," the experts said.

The experts also expressed concern that generative AI development is driven by a small group of powerful actors, including businesses and investors, without adequate requirements for conducting human rights due diligence or consultation with affected individuals and communities.

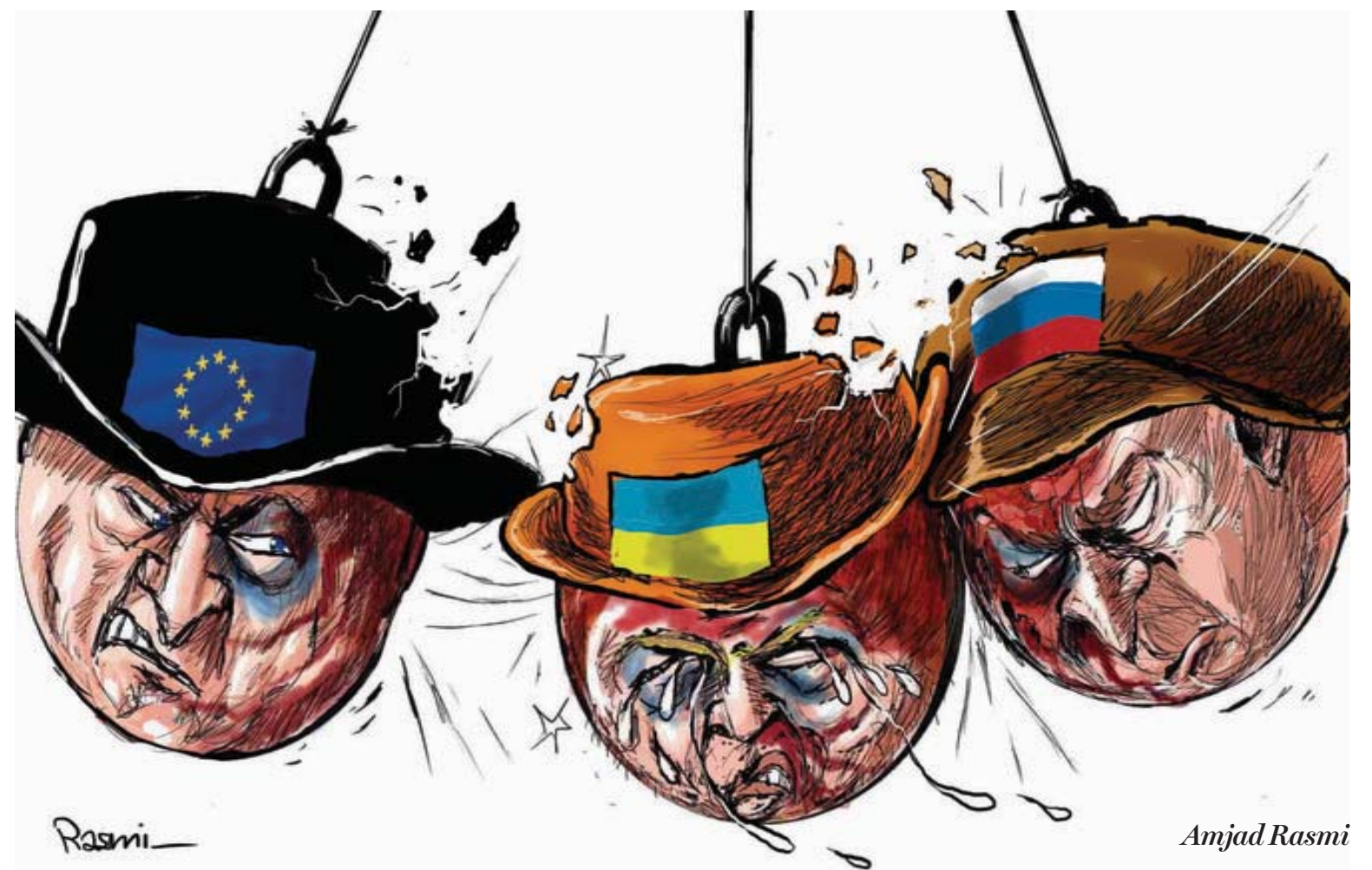
And the crucial job of internal regulation through content moderation, is often performed by individuals in situations of labour exploitation, the independent experts noted.

"Regulation is urgently needed to ensure transparency, alert people when they encounter synthetic media, and inform the public about the training data and models used," the experts said.

The experts reiterated their calls for caution about digital technology use in the context of humanitarian crises, from large-scale data collection – including the collection of highly sensitive biometric data – to the use of advanced targeted surveillance technologies.

"We urge restraint in the use of such measures until the broader human rights implications are fully understood and robust data protection safeguards are in place," they said.

They underlined the need to ensure technical solutions – including strong end-to-end encryption and unfettered access to virtual private networks – and secure and protect digital communications.



Oil imports from Russia; a ray of hope for cheaper fuel

Adnan Yousaf

Fluctuating global oil prices, devaluation of the currency, taxation on oil imports and very low local oil exploration put a heavy strain on the fragile economy of a country like Pakistan which heavily relies on oil import for power generation industrial production and transportation.

The soaring prices of petroleum products have a trickle-down effect on each and every segment of society from a daily wage to a farmer, and from a government servant to a businessman.

When petroleum prices are increased, the cost of transportation rises, taking the rates of daily-use items to a new height, thus affecting the buying power of consumers which has already gone down a lot in recent years.

Similarly, the majority being run on oil, the power plants generate high-cost electricity which ultimately put a burden not only on consumers but also affects industrial production costs bringing a new wave of inflation.

Recognizing the magnitude of this challenge, the incumbent government took some measures to alleviate the impact such as providing subsidies to public transportation and food producers. However, it was clear that these measures alone were insufficient to fully mitigate the effects of the price hike.

Then, in a game-changing move, the government struck a deal with one of the biggest oil exporters, Russia, not only to alleviate people's suffering but also to stimulate national economic growth

and expansion. The deal aims at ensuring a continuous supply of crude oil from Russia at discounted rates.

"The first shipment of discounted oil from Russia is on its way and is expected to dock at the Karachi Port sometime in May," this encouraging news was shared by State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, during a press conference here on May 18.

On April 29, after confirming Pakistan's first order of discounted Russian crude oil on April 20, Dr Musadik revealed that PM Shehbaz Sharif had approved the construction of an oil refinery worth \$10 to \$14 billion.

Faheem Khawaja, an Economics professor, believed that the current government's efforts to obtain Russian oil would play a significant role in putting the country back on track.

He emphasized the pivotal role energy, especially petroleum products, play in fostering socio-economic development in any country and regarded Pakistan's decision to turn to Russia for meeting its oil demands as a much-needed step and a victory for the present regime.

Shahzad Paracha, a business reporter and analyst, said that importing Russian oil would also address the balance of payment crisis faced by the country.

He explained that energy imports constitute the majority of Pakistan's external payments, and importing Russian oil would help maintain the foreign exchange reserves, which had been depleting over the past few years.

According to Musadik Malik, Pakistan, "Under the signed deal with Moscow, we will only purchase crude oil not refined fuel."

"If the initial transaction goes smooth-

ly, imports are expected to reach 100,000 barrels per day," he added. When asked about the potential benefits of the oil deal with Russia, an official from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) stated, "We are a net importer of oil and spend billions of dollars each year on oil imports. The discounted Russian oil can help us save money and reduce the trade deficit, which can boost the economy and create jobs."

He said importing Russian oil could help end Pakistan's energy crisis, adding by importing discounted oil from Russia, the oil supply in Pakistan would increase, leading to a reduction in the prices of petroleum products thus ultimately improving the lives of people and strengthening the national economy.

Despite the positive aspects of the Islamabad-Moscow oil deal, some analysts believed that there were risks involved especially regarding Pakistan's relations with the United States (US). However, these risks were dismissed by Ambassador to the US Masood Khan during a conference at the Wilson Center's South Asia Institute in Washington on April 27.

He made it clear, "We have placed the first order for Russian oil, and this decision has been made in consultation with the United States government. There is no misunderstanding between Washington and Islamabad regarding this matter."

It was a bold and tough decision to struck a deal with Russia at this critical moment when the Russia-Ukraine war was at its peak, but the courageous leadership of the government took the decision solely for the welfare of the masses and to take the country forward.

Comprehensive strategy needed to avert food insecurity

Imran Nazir

With growing threats of climate change and its population hovering around 230 million, Pakistan is under recognizable pressure of food insecurity as well as employment generation for the survival of its people.

Amidst changing world dynamics in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, Pakistan's agricultural production has also gained more importance to maintain food security and address issues like hunger and malnutrition to develop a healthy and prosperous society and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger.

Although the country has a bumper wheat crop this year, its agriculture sector still faced challenges like changing weather patterns, depleting groundwater table, increasing urbanization and lack of value chain infrastructure.

"Efforts are also being made to facilitate local growers in adopting innovative cultivation techniques like conserving cultivable land, water, soil and energy for producing cost-effective food cereals to fulfill dietary needs of people on affordable prices," he mentioned.

The government has also had fixed support prices of wheat and cotton to facilitate and encourage farmers, besides announcing Prime Minister Kissan Package scheme to provide farmers loans up to Rs90 million on seven percent markup for seven years time.

The ECC had approved a wheat

procurement target of 1.80 million metric tons at the rate of Rs 3,900 per 40 kilograms by Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation (PASSCO) for the year 2023.

A committee was also formed to review proper wheat usage and storage mechanism including the development of silos to ensure the availability of grain at sustainable prices.

Cotton Commissioner Dr Zahid has also informed that the ECC has fixed cotton (Phutti) intervention price at Rs 8,500 per 40 kg for current sowing to revive its production, bring stability to the domestic market and ensure a fair return to farmers. "We expect, this initiative would help bring more areas under cotton cultivation."

"The public and private sector seed agencies of Punjab and Sindh have procured 15,983 metric tons and 1,686 metric tons of seed respectively," he informed.

He said departments concerned were also working on research and development to produce high-yielding seed varieties of different crops.

Meanwhile, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali informed that due to advancements in seed production technology, local output of major cash crops witnessed a manifold increase with minor crops like oil seeds, pulses and vegetables also witnessing growth.

"PARC, in collaboration with Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA), would establish 35 aeroponic greenhouses to produce first-generation seed potato tubers for large-scale cultivation to produce virus-free pota-

to seed," he stated. "With this initiative, more than 30 per cent of potato seed requirements could be met from tissue culture labs established at National Agriculture Research Center (NARC)."

Dr Mansoor, Project Director Pulses Enhancement Program of PARC mentioned developing six commercial varieties of beans to help reduce reliance on imported pulses. "These are the first commercial varieties of beans produced in Pakistan that will boost pulses cultivation locally and enhance their output."

He said PARC under the Public Sector Development Program had also launched a five-year research project to increase national average produce of pulses like chickpea, mung bean, mash, lentils and beans by 30% to meet local demand.

Although the government has introduced numerous measures to boost the agricultural sector with different government departments, it was also working on multiple high-yield seed varieties. These measures must transform into a visible change in the lives of poor farmers as well as provision of sufficient food for people.

There is also a dire need to control unbridled population growth, enhance productivity and raise awareness on the prudent use of commodities avoiding wastage in daily life, especially during wedding ceremonies.

A comprehensive strategy for price controlling, the exploitative role of middlemen and hoarding of commodities for illegal profit gains must also be in place besides charity initiatives to reach out to hunger-stricken rural and urban poor.

ICCI Tourism Summit will promote tourism and business activities in Gilgit region: Raja Nasir

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Tourism Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Raja Nasir has said that the tourism summit scheduled next month organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce is a great news for the entire region. The tourism summit will not only promote tourism in the region but also provide an opportunity for local products to access the international market. Gilgit Government will participate as a host in this summit, will fully cooperate with Islamabad Chamber in all other arrangements including security, best arrangements will be made for the guests coming to the summit.

He expressed these views during his meeting with President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to Islamabad Chamber on Saturday. On this occasion, the arrangements for

ICCI Tourism Summit 2023 scheduled next month organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce were reviewed. In the meeting, Tourism Minister Gilgit-Baltistan announced the appointment of Raja Zaem as the focal person for the summit by the Gilgit government.

He said that gathering diplomats from all over the world in Gilgit is the best idea of Islamabad Chamber. This will not only boost tourism in the area but also benefit the local industry. Gilgit-Baltistan region has dozens of such products including dry fruits, minerals. Which can be well received in the global market. During the tourism summit, the Gilgit government will make it possible to display all the same items, he said that the Gilgit government is working to improve the infrastructure.

In this regard, we also need the coop-



eration of the federal government. He said that there are vast investment opportunities in the hotel industry

in Gilgit. Islamabad Chamber should take advantage of this, there is a need for work in this field from the platform of the Chamber. We wish Islamabad Chamber to work in this regard as well.

Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Gilgit-Baltistan region can prove to be the hub of tourism for Pakistan. The purpose of the summit proposed by the Islamabad Chamber is to showcase the vast resources we have in terms of tourism. This should be brought before the world; the foreign ambassadors participating in the summit will be the cause of conveying the soft image of Pakistan to the world. He said that I hope the Islamabad Chamber will get full support from the Gilgit government, administration and security agencies for the successful holding of the summit.

Embassy of Turkmenistan and Serena Hotels encourage Healthy Habits on World Bicycle Day



Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: June 3 is celebrated worldwide as World Bicycle Day to recognize bicycle as a reliable and sustainable means of transportation. The Embassy of Turkmenistan in collaboration with Serena Hotels, and Tabani Group of companies who provided bicycles, organized a cycling event to encourage people from all walks of life to adopt cycling, promoting an active lifestyle and ecofriendly practices. The cycle rally took off at D-chowk and culminated at Serena Business Complex in Islamabad, where attendees were served healthy refreshments. The event was attended by the diplomatic community, corporate and media personnel and Serena Hotel's associates. The Chief Guest for the

occasion was Special Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Syrus Sajjad Qazi.

Speaking at the event, Special Secretary Mr. Syrus Sajjad Qazi appreciated the Embassy of Turkmenistan and Serena Hotels for organizing the cycling event. He also lauded the Government of Turkmenistan for initiating the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly for declaring June 3 as World Bicycle Day to promote healthy lifestyle which will ultimately reduce carbon footprint and noise pollution. He emphasized the need to adapt to climate change by switching to healthier modes of transportation and maintained that such events should be organized more frequently to promote cycling as an efficient mode of transportation.



Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov in his speech noted that in 2018, on the initiative of Turkmenistan, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution declaring June 3 the World Bicycle Day. Turkmenistan is promoting a healthy lifestyle and environment-friendly means of transport, the popularization of which directly contributes to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals. It emphasized that the bicycle is an instrument of sustainable transportation and conveys a positive message to foster sustainable consumption and production and has a positive impact on climate. Turkmenistan is committed to strengthening international cooperation aimed at implementing

the principles of development and peace. For its part, Turkmenistan was one of the first countries in the world to take up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the first in the region to nationalize the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016.

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels reiterated company's commitment to foster eco-friendly environment and highlighted some of the recent initiatives taken by Serena Hotels including plantation of 600,000 trees across Pakistan, commissioning of sewerage treatment plant and construction of new hotels in line with the guidelines of International Finance Corporation's EDGE Certification. He thanked the participants for their support in making this event successful.

NPO arranged an awareness session on productivity

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: 1st Productivity Movement of Pakistan by National Productivity Organization (NPO) arranged an awareness session on productivity and launching of 1st productivity movement of Pakistan at Pakistan Cutlery and stainless utensils manufactures and exporters Association, Wazirabad.

Chairman PCSUMEA Mr. Shakeel Azam shared the journey, achievements and outcomes of association. He congratulates NPO Team for their great initiatives for Industry in Sustainable National productivity SNP. CEO, NPO express that unfortunately Pakistan is very far behind in Productivity and labor Productivity ranking. In the early period Pakistan is 100% ahead in labor Productivity from their neighbor countries. He focused that this kind of Project is very good initiative for productivity enhancement in Pakistan. CEO mentioned that these projects were being proved helpful in improving productivity of various industries, adding that NPO was also supporting and guiding the industrialists to ensure up to the mark production that would not only help increase country's export base but also overcome the prevailing trade deficit.

The CEO said that Pakistan was among top ten countries of the world with regard to milk and wheat production, while its coal, mineral and other mega resources were yet to be exploited up to their potential.

Mr. Fahid Imtiaz from NPO present a detailed session on productivity to all members of association. After session launching ceremony of 1st productivity movement was conducted. At the end a productivity walk was organized by both association and NPO in which all members were participated.

District admin starts crackdown against mafia of fake fertilizers and pesticide: Umar Jahangir



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, the district administration has started a crackdown against the mafia involved in buying and selling of fake fertilizers and defective agricultural medicines across the district. The task force formed by the district administration last year. The agricultural medicine factories, shops and warehouses were inspected daily in the district. Under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner Shujaab Fayaz Ali Jatala and Assistant Commissioner Jalalpur Pirwala Mirza Raheel, the teams of the Department of Agriculture inspected agricultural medicines and fertilizers in their respective tehsils.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the Punjab government has given the task of taking strict legal action against the mafia selling fake agricultural medicines and fake fertilizers to give relief to the farmers, and in this regard, joint teams of Assistant Commissioners and Agriculture Department have been formed, have gone which will check in their tehsils on a daily basis and submit a report. Umar Jahangir said that the Department of Agriculture has also been ordered to conduct a thorough awareness campaign to guide the farming community.

KDC strongly condemns India's NIA politically motivated demand

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The members of the KDC board express deep concerns over the politically motivated developments on Muhammad Yasin Malik's illegal incarceration in Tihar jail. NIA has approached the Delhi High Court seeking to convert life imprisonment into the death penalty for a concocted 'terror-funding' case. Yasin Malik, one of Kashmir's most fearless, influential, and revered leaders, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, has spent most of his life resisting Indian state violence, torture, and multiple jail sentences under what have been called India's 'Lawless Laws' by human rights defenders. Mr. Malik has traveled to India, Pakistan, the EU, and the US, meeting with leaders of all political and ideological persuasions in search of a peaceful settlement to the Kashmir conflict after he renounced armed resistance. He sought and got assurance from influential political personalities from New Delhi, Islamabad, and the United States supporting his commitment to non-violent resistance to end the conflict.

Members of the Coalition (KDC) reported that NIA in Indian-Occupied Kashmir is increasingly trying to legitimize its brutal suppression of any form of resistance to the occupation of Kashmir. With the brazen custodial murders of Syed Ali Geelani and Asraf Sahrai, two prominent resistance leaders, India is continuing to silence any resistance to its illegal occupation of Kashmir by murdering yet another political leader/prisoner.

India's judiciary has a history of bending to the intent of the establishment rather than following its legal obligations. The case of Afzal Guru's hanging in 2013 is an example where the chief justice of the highest court stated that his hanging was rushed "to satisfy the collective conscience" of its people. It was even worse—it was rushed last minute for political reasons. Thus, considering this woeful scenario, the international community, including human rights organizations and the United Nations, must rise to the occasion, dissuade India from committing this gross injustice, and demand Mr. Malik's immediate dismissal from the trial and release from prison.

Zaheer Janjua visits Canadian province Manitoba to meet State ministers, MPs and diaspora

Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua visited Winnipeg, capital of the Canadian province of Manitoba, to hold a series of meetings with the state ministers, city mayor, government officials and representatives of the Pakistani diaspora in Manitoba.

During the two-day visit, the High Commissioner held separate meetings with Mr. Jon Reyes, Minister of Labour and Immigration, and Mr. Obby Khan, Minister of Sport, Culture & Heritage. Issues such as the need to enhance bilateral trade, export of manpower, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Canada were discussed. The High Commissioner also visited Winnipeg City Hall and held an



interactive session with Mayor Scott Gillingham, Deputy Mayor Janice Lukes and Councillor Markus Chambers. He also interacted with local high school children visiting the City Hall.

During the visit, High Commissioner Janjua also attended a reception arranged by the Pakistani dias-

pora and their representative organisations, including Canada Pakistan Trade & Cultural Association of Manitoba and Pakistan Students Association, University of Manitoba. Manitoba Minister Obby Khan, Federal MP Terry Duguid and MP Kevin Lamoureux were also present. High Commissioner Janjua also

visited the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and held a productive session with Museum's President & CEO Isha Khan who later showed him around. Later, the HC visited Jinnah Park and Malala Park named after the founding father of Pakistan and the world's youngest Nobel laureate.

Pak women are playing important role in construction and development of the country: Durdana Siddiqui

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami's Manifesto is a program for the realization of the ideology of Pakistan. Belief in ideology and goals, supremacy of law and justice gives continuity and stability to nations—Durdana Siddiqui. Pakistani Women are playing an important role in the construction and development of the country in various sectors.

The principles described by Quaid-i-Azam should be the guiding principles of our national life, faith, unity, and organization. Address of Secretary General Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Dardana Siddiqui from the party in honor of women under the Women's Circle Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Under Jamaat-e-Islami Women's Circle, a luncheon was organized in honor of influential women of various classes and departments Secretary General Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Dardana Siddiqui while expressing his views on this occasion said that The way to be thankful for Allah's



blessings is to express and respect Allah's greatness and be among the grateful people. The descent of the revolution and the establishment of Pakistan in the odd nights of Ramadan is an indication that the law of Allah will be enforced on the homeland that was obtained after millions of sacrifices. Respected and influential women in Pakistan are playing an important role in the construction and

development of the country in various fields Invigilator Political Cell, Women's Circle Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Samina Saeed presented the important points of the manifesto of Jamaat-e-Islami—this occasion. But he said that sensible, serious, educated and influential women in the whole country are now strongly feeling that it is inevitable to give the country's leadership in the hands of knowledgeable and trustworthy people—he appealed that Pakistani women realize their responsibilities. Individually and collectively, play your role for the stability of the country.

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Women's Circle Deputy Secretaries Samina Saeed, Dr. Hamira Tariq, Director of External Affairs Dr. Samiha Raheel Qazi, Punjab Central President Rabia Tariq, Director of Falah Family Aafia Sarwar, Director of Public Relations Department Ayesha Akhlaq, Central Supervisor of Broadcasting Fariha Ashraf were present on this occasion.

I served multiple multinational and national organizations in the field of IT

Afshen Iftikhar, Director, Stewart Pakistan Pvt. Ltd

Tahir Amin Malik

Afshen Iftikhar, Director, Stewart Pakistan Pvt.Ltd started career in 19 years ago with the completion of a computer programs degree. She also pursued a professional journey in the field of quality assurance and automation. She said an exclusive interview with Daily The Spokesman.Details interview are under:-

In very little age you are the Director of Stewart Pakistan Software Company tell us about this and when did you start your career?

After two years of serving in the quality assurance field, I realized that I'm meant for people to serve them and to help them grow. Therefore I did my MBA degree in HR along with my full-time job. I'm so proud to mention that I did that degree and accomplished Gold Medal from Pak-Aims. Then I served multiple multinational and national organizations in the field of IT in the domain of HR. I also got multiple opportunities to work from Dubai, Bangladesh, and all across Pakistan. Working with Stewart which is a century-old organization with strong financial history, I groomed myself and my IT knowledge a lot. That allowed me to grow in the field of IT with the great organization



Stewart title (US-based organization). Plz share with us also your education career?

I did my schooling in Saudi Arabia and moved to Pakistan when I was in 9th grade. After completing my metric and ICS, I did my BCS (Hons.) from Pak-Aims. After gaining some practical world experience, I did MBA (HR) Gold Medalist from Pak-Aims.

Who are your valuable customers and what is the response in the Market?

Stewart is committed to becoming the premier title services company. As part of that commitment, we strive to ensure our customers and partners have the best experience while working with us. Whether you're working with us on a residential or commercial transaction, or are a home buyer or seller, or service provider, it's our goal to make your transaction as smooth and seamless as



possible. We approach every transaction with unmatched underwriting expertise and our policies are backed by a century of financial strength.

Your Company is associated with the US what services your company is providing around the clock?

As a part of the global organization, we provide services to our customers in the US and around the world in the field of IT, Network, Security, and Business Solutions Services.

How many employees are working in Stewart Pakistan pvt Ltd and what is their behavior regarding deals in business, and other things?

We have 6000+ employees around the world with 600+ in the Lahore office of Stewart names Stewart Pakistan Pvt. Ltd. The behavior of the employees is extremely professional. They focus on quality and supporting one another around the world regardless of geographical location. They know that if they will look at the big picture, not our company, but also our country will grow and will get more employment.

What do you believe in quality services or products?

Quality is an essential aspect of any product or service. It refers to the characteristics or attributes of a product or service that meet or exceed customer expectations and requirements. Quality can encompass various factors, such as reliability, durability, functional-



ity, performance, usability, safety, and customer satisfaction. Overall, quality services and products are essential for customer satisfaction, brand reputation, and long-term success. By focusing on quality, businesses can create value for their customers and build a strong foundation for growth and profitability.

In which area's you are focusing, Training programs, Skills learning or about Stewart business?

Everything is important and interconnected. If we will work on employees' training and upgrading their skill-set. If we will encourage our associates to keep getting better every day, every year, that will automatically help the business grow. No one can grow only focusing on business and revenue. Our people are the real asset that will help business to grow.

When was Stewart Pakistan established?

Stewart Pakistan was founded 15

years ago in the IT market under the name of CTO 24/7 Pvt. Ltd. Later to be inspired by the provided services by the Lahore center, Stewart (US-based Century old, New York stock exchange registered company) acquired us and we became Stewart Pakistan Pvt. Ltd.

Your Company is also experts in real estate services, Title Insurance, Domain, Software development, Network, and support business process services tell us about this.

As part of our commitment to become the premier real estate services company, Stewart is dedicated to delivering the best possible experience. We're by our customer side through every step of the real estate transaction, whether they are a first-time home buyer looking to close on their first property, a real estate lender looking to secure their investment with a lenders title policy, a commercial developer navigating a complex transaction or a real estate

agent guiding their client through their home sale. Our comprehensive services are backed by our teams of local experts who are ready to assist them with their IT and policy needs.

Recently Skills Gala event was held at Expo Center, Lahore what will you say about this IT event?

Events like the Skill Gala help IT export of Pakistan lift and get better every quarter, every year. A ton of representation of IT companies, Training institutes, with the back of CXOs and government organizations, made this grand gala possible and successful. Glad that Stewart sponsored this event and that I was able to add value to the community through panel discussion, career counseling sessions of the young blood and so much more.



Shakeel Ahmad won the different awards from government of Pakistan

Tahir Amin Malik

Mr. Shakil Ahmad, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer (COO), Prima Systems, (Care Collect Collaborate.) Working in US Healthcare IT industry for over 15 years now and his entrepreneurial journey/experience started in 2014. Shakil successfully started two US based Healthcare startups (which are running successfully at the moment) and won different awards from govt of Pakistan, Prima Systems is the 3rd business I started from scratch. He said in an interview with Daily The Spokesman details are under:-

What kind of services Prima Systems is providing?

We are providing BPO Services, IT Technical Support, Systems Engineering, Patient Support (inbound & Outbound), Chat/Email Support, Medical Billing, Medical Coding, Credentialing, Payment Posting, Accounting and Finance, FP&A, Human Resource/On-boarding, Digital/Email Marketing, RCM Due Diligence, Patient Visit Preparations, Virtual Medical Assistant (MBBS), Software & App Development, Web Development, Data Warehousing and Business Analytics in USA Healthcare IT Sector. We have expertise in developing robust enterprise level EHR applications with 3rd part integrations for the US market, portals to deal with insurances and for front desk management. Android and iOS applications for online patient check in. Integrations of any EMR with any tool to provide best practice for healthcare professionals.

When Prima was established?
Established in May 2020 and now we



have around 400+ employees working in 2 locations (Rawalpindi and Lahore). We are planning to expand our operations in the Middle East and South America as well in the near future.

As a Ceo in which things you are focusing for giving the better services to Prima System.?

As CEO, I am focused on delivering quality of service, fulfilling client commitments, meeting timelines, and improving work efficiency in all areas of business with the ultimate goal of best customer satisfaction. Creating more jobs in Pakistan.

Do you think that your mission has been completed to become a transfor-

mation partner of choice globally for clients?

No, it's just the beginning. I am gradually approaching my mission, as it is a continuous journey. We are achieving client trust by introducing internationally acceptable quality and security measures within PRIMA Systems which will eventually contribute to our client success.

You are giving more services for students in different subjects in which subjects students take more interest in and why?

As our services are related to the IT industry, students with a BS degree in CS/IT field are more interested as it



matches with their education and they are expected to improve their skills in the industry.

Plz also tell us about your Ad Hoc Services.

Along with the services we mentioned earlier we also provide the following Ad Hoc services, data/demographics entry, 24/7 Charge Entry, Referral Management, Prior Authorization, Claim Submission, Off Hours Support, Message Triaging, Data Migration, cancer registry reporting, etc.

Do you think that your services regarding product development, Web Applications, Mobile Application, Software development Architects can be beneficial for students?

We don't have any formal internship program right now but after participating in Skills Gala where I spoke to a number of companies to design the training/certification program and at the same time we are going to introduce an internship program across the board in our organization to have our youth experience international exposure while making handsome earnings.

How many countries you have visit-



ed as an Exhibitor and what was the response in Skills Gala IT event recently held at Expo, Lahore?

I have visited UAE, USA and Canada as an exhibitor but as far as the response in the Skills Gala event is concerned, it

was overwhelming. I came to know about organizations working in training and skill enhancement programs in Pakistan. In addition, we are able to get in touch with hundreds of fresh graduates and experienced ones.

YOUR GLOBAL BPO PARTNER
Our reliable and highly personalized BPO solutions can increase your customer retention, improve your business operational quality, help you to scale your business exponentially.

Prima Systems aim to provide cost-effective, highly personalized and efficient solutions. We have extensive experience in following services

Industries we Serve	Our Services
Healthcare Financial Services Software & High Tech IT Infrastructure Support	Revenue Cycle Management Software & App Development 24/7 IT Support (L1-L3) Digital Marketing Patient Support Center Data Modelling & Analytics Finance & Accounting Virtual Medical Assistant Data Migration
Our Certifications ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 HIPAA Compliant UKAS MS 0005	

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Challengers to take on Dynamites in final on Today Sunday

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Winner to bag PKR 1 million prize money; runner-up to get PKR 0.5 million

The stage is set for an exciting finale as Sidra Amin-led Dynamites take on Omaima Sohail-led Challengers in the 45-over final of the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament 2022-23. The final will be played at the State Bank Stadium in Karachi.

The toss will take place at 0830 while the first ball will be bowled at 0900.

Both sides met in the final of the one-day tournament before on 20 February 2018, when Dynamites overcame Challengers by 190 runs at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The victors of the final this year will pocket PKR1 million along with the silverware. The losing team will end up taking PKR500,000.

The player of the match will earn PKR20,000 and the player of the tournament will get PKR50,000.

Before Sunday's final, both sides had met each other twice in the one-day phase of the tournament. In the first encounter staged on 27 May, Dynamites defeated Challengers by eight wickets, while the final-round match of the second phase on 2 June between the two sides ended with Challengers winning a thriller by seven runs.

Sidra Amin, the captain of the Dynamites, has been leading from the front with her stellar performances in the competition. She currently tops the batting charts with 231 runs from four matches, including two half-centuries. Her highest score of 95 against Blasters



demonstrated her ability to anchor the innings and provide stability at the top of the order. Sidra's form will be crucial for the Dynamites as the team will be without their star player Bismah Maroof, who featured in three matches and will not be available for the final due to prior family commitments.

Meanwhile, Challengers will be relying on their skipper, Omaima Sohail, and opening batters Javeria Khan and Javeria Rauf, who have been in fine touch throughout the tournament. Javeria Rauf is second on the batting charts with 150 runs from four matches, while Javeria Khan, currently placed third on the batting charts with 133 runs, played a match-winning knock of 83 runs against Dynamites in their previous encounter. Omaima has scored 108 runs from four matches with her 75 helping her side to a five-wicket win over Blast-

ers on Wednesday. In that match, Javeria Rauf was declared player of the match for her 82-run innings. Challengers will be hoping the senior players replicates their performances and guides the team to victory once again in the final.

Dynamites hold the upper hand in the bowling stocks. Spinners Ghulam Fatima and Nashra Sundhu have been exceptional, bagging nine and seven wickets respectively in the tournament. Their ability to pick up crucial wickets and create pressure will be vital in restricting the Challengers' batting lineup.

However Challengers possess their own bowling threat in the form of Noreen Yaqub, who sits at the third spot on the bowling charts with six wickets. Off-spinner Noreen could pose a challenge for Dynamites' batters.

Omaima Sohail captain of Challengers

ers, said: "We had a thrilling victory over Dynamites in a close match earlier, but we know that the final is a different ball game altogether. We can't rely on past results alone. It's a new challenge, and we are fully prepared to handle the pressure and give our best performance."

The final presents us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase our skills and claim the trophy. We have the talent and determination within our team, and we'll look to carry forward the momentum against Dynamites in this crucial match.

We understand that Dynamites have a strong bowling unit, particularly their spinners who have been dominant in the tournament. However, we have our own strategies in place to tackle their bowling attack. We believe in our batting lineup led by in-form opening pair of Javeria Khan and Javeria Rauf and we'll back ourselves to put up a competitive total.

Sidra Amin, captain of Dynamites, said: "In the final, it all comes down to executing the basics and playing smart cricket. We need to stay calm, make wise decisions, and support each other as a team."

Although we'll miss the presence of Bismah Maroof, but it's an opportunity for the other players to step up and shoulder the responsibility. We have a talented squad, and I believe in their abilities to deliver on the big stage.

The two teams have faced each other twice in this one-day phase, and the results have been evenly split with one win apiece. It just goes to show that it's going to be a tightly contested final, and we are fully prepared for the challenge."

Pakistan Junior Hockey team return after Asia Cup

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Head coach Haneef Khan, alongside three players of the Pakistan Junior Hockey team returned to the country on Saturday after participating in the recently-concluded Asia Cup.

Besides coach Haneef, three players of Pakistan Junior Hockey team Abdul Wahab, Arbaz Khan and Ayaz Ahmed also landed here at Jinnah International on Saturday afternoon.

The players received a warm welcome from the Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) officials and their families at the airport. They also received garlands as a symbol of appreciation.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan finished as the runners-up of the Junior Hockey Asia Cup after falling for a 1-2 defeat against arch-rivals India in the blockbuster final.

Singh Angad Bir opened the



scoring for India in the 12th minute via a brilliant field goal and gave his side an upper hand in the first quarter.

Hundal Aranjit Singh then doubled India's lead just four

minutes into the second quarter as Pakistan spilt a couple of opportunities to fire an equalizer.

The third quarter turned out to be a fortune changer for the green shirts as they finally

registered a goal on the scoreboard, courtesy of a calculated field goal by Ali Basharat in the 37th minute.

Basharat's goal forced India to be more defensive and they

cordoned off their post to deny Pakistan any chance to fire the equalizer.

Pakistan made several attempts to breach India's defences by dribbling past their defenders and awarded penalty corners but failed to fire the ball into the nets and thus India ran away with the victory.

Heading into the blockbuster final, both India and Pakistan were unbeaten in the continental event.

The arch-rivals have so far come face to face in four Junior Hockey Asia Cup finals with India winning on three occasions - 2004, 08 and 23 - while the green shirts emerged victorious once in 1996.

Furthermore, before this year's tournament both Pakistan were level as the joint-most title-winning sides (3) but India's latest title victory propelled them to the record title holder of the Asian event.

Hosts Zimbabwe announce squad for Cricket World Cup Qualifier

A Sports

HARARE: Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) on Friday, unveiled a strong 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier, scheduled to take place from June 18 to July 9.

The hosts have opted to name a side full of experienced internationals, with wicketkeeper-batter Joylord Gumbie being the only uncapped member in the squad.

They will have all the big names available at their disposal in their bid to qualify for the tournament later in the year in India, with Sikandar Raza, Ryan Burl, Sean Williams and skipper Craig Ervine all selected. Quicks Blessing Muzarabani



and Richard Ngarava will lead the pace attack for the hosts and will be complemented by Wellington Masakadza.

Other regulars like Bradley Evans, Ryan Burl, Luke Jongwe and Innocent Kaia are also included in the 15-member squad. Notably, ZC arranged a six-match

One-Day series against Pakistan Shaheens last month to help Zimbabwe fine-tune for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2023 that will be staged across four venues in Harare and Bulawayo.

In a bid to prepare for the upcoming qualifiers, ZC retained almost all players who were part of the Zimbabwe squad that faced the Netherlands in March, for the 50-over series against Pakistan Shaheens. The hosts made the most of their home conditions and benefitted from the experience of their first-choice players to seal the six-match series 4-2 against Pakistan Shaheens.

The hosts have been included in Group A and will open up their tourna-

ment against Nepal on June 18. They will then face off against the Netherlands and West Indies before ending their group-stage commitments against the USA on June 26. The top three teams from both groups will qualify for the Super Six, with the two finalists progressing to the show-piece tournament scheduled to be held later in the year in India.

Zimbabwe Squad: Ryan Burl, Tendai Chatara, Craig Ervine, Bradley Evans, Joylord Gumbie, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Blessing Muzarabani, Richard Ngarava, Sikandar Raza, Sean Williams.

Sehwag terms Inzamam-ul-Haq 'Asia's greatest middle-order batter'

A Sports

LAHORE: Former Indian opener Virender Sehwag spoke highly of legendary Pakistan batter Inzamam-ul-Haq and termed him Asia's greatest middle-order batter.

Sehwag during an interview on a YouTube channel, said everyone heaps praise on Sachin Tendulkar's greatness but Inzamam was on the other level.

"Inzi Bhai was so sweet. Everyone talks about Tendulkar but I believe that Inzamam was the biggest middle-order batter in Asia," he stated.

Virender Sehwag continued to laud Inzamam-ul-Haq by



mentioning his ability to remain composed in tense run chases where his team needed around eight runs per over.

"Tendulkar was out of

batters' league, he was above it. But, Inzamam was best in middle-order. I am talking about 2003-04 when an average of around eight was just

an imagination. Teams used to panic in such situations but Inzamam at that time used to stay calm while scoring runs at an average of around eight," he added.

Besides his orthodox batting skills, Inzamam-ul-Haq, one of his exceptional strength was his match-finishing abilities and he showcased them on multiple occasions by steering his side to glory after a tricky run chase.

Inzamam-ul-Haq represented Pakistan in 120 Tests and scored 8,830 runs at a brilliant average of 49.60, with the help of 25 centuries and 46 half-centuries.

He also played 378 matches, scoring 11,739 runs at an

average of 39.52. Inzamam-ul-Haq also has 10 centuries and 83 fifties to his name amid his decorated white-ball career.

His consistent performances in the formats propelled him to be considered one of the finest batters in Pakistan.

Furthermore, Inzamam-ul-Haq is also Pakistan's all-time leading run-scorer, having accumulated 20,541 runs across formats over the course of his 16-year-long career.

The legendary batter also served as the chief selector of Pakistan men's cricket team and amid his tenure, Pakistan lifted the Champions Trophy 2017 title under Sarfaraz Ahmed's captaincy.

SG of the Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) meets Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Moazzam Khan Klair, General Secretary of the Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), had a productive meeting with Mr. Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari, Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination, at his office in Islamabad. The meeting, held on 3rd June, was marked by positive and constructive discussions regarding the development of cycling in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Mr. Mazari exhibited a deep interest in the promotion and growth of cycling as a sport and means of transportation in the country. He assured Mr. Klair of his commitment to resolving any issues that the PCF currently faces on a priority basis. This assurance has instilled a sense of optimism and pride in Mr. Klair who commends Mr. Mazari's sincere dedication to the improvement of sports, particularly cycling, in Pakistan.

To express gratitude for Mr. Mazari's outstanding efforts, Mr. Klair presented him with a souvenir on behalf of the PCF, acknowledging his significant contributions towards the advancement of cycling within the nation.

The PCF looks forward to working closely with Mr. Mazari and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination to further promote and develop cycling as a popular sport and environmentally friendly mode of transportation in Pakistan.

Dominant Fujairah thump Sharjah to reach D10 League final

A Sports

ABU DHABI: Fujairah bowlers led by Umair Ali Khan decimated Sharjah's batting charge before Salman Khan and Nasir Faraz scored 29 each in the run chase to propel them to a resounding seven-wicket victory and into the Emirates D10 League final.

Put into bat first, Sharjah's batting lineup failed in the semi-final and could raise a modest 76 for the loss of eight wickets in their quota of 10 overs.

None of the Sharjah batters could manage to score big in the knockout match while lower middle order batter Khalid Shah top-scored for them with 15 off eight deliveries.

Besides him, Fayyaz Ahmad (11) and Junaid Shamsuddin (13) were the other notable run-getters while five of their batters failed to make it into the double figures.

Umair Ali Khan led Fujairah's commanding bowling charge as he returned with magnificent figures of 3/11 in his quota of two overs.

Haider Ali was also clinical with the ball for them as he picked up two wickets while Muhammad Rohid, Shahab Ali and Hafiz Almas struck out a batter apiece.

Fujairah had a decent start to their 77-run pursuit as their openers Salman Khan and Hameed Khan (5) added 35 runs for the first wicket before the latter perished on the last delivery of the third over.

Fujairah then lost two more wickets in quick succession as Raees Ahmad (1) and Salman Khan both perished in the fourth over.

Salman struck four boundaries and a six on his way to a 15-ball 29 and remained the joint top-scorer for Fujairah.

Following the brief collapse, Muhammad Usman (8*) and Nasir Faraz put on a match-winning 40-run partnership for the fourth wicket and completed a comfortable victory for their side which bolstered them to book their spot in the Emirates D10 League final.

Nasir Faraz was the joint top-scorer for Fujairah; courtesy of a quickfire 29 from a mere 14 balls with the help of three boundaries and two sixes.

Taimoor Bhatti led the bowling attack for Sharjah with 2/17 while Muhammad Uzair-Khan took a wicket.

Lionel Messi all set to leave PSG at end of season

PARIS: Star footballer Lionel Messi is all set to leave the French club Paris Saint-Germain after playing the final match against Clermont on Saturday (today).

"After two seasons in the capital, Leo Messi's adventure with Paris Saint-Germain will come to a conclusion at the end of the 2022-23 season," said the French Ligue 1 club on social media.

According to the club, Messi would play some role in the Ligue 1 match scheduled to take place at the Parc des Princes, bringing his two-year tenure in PSG to an end.

Rumours about Messi's exit from PSG have been swirling around and reports suggested that the World Cup winner could move to Saudi Arabia in order to pursue a new challenge.

The Argentinian was signed two seasons ago from Barcelona to help PSG win an elusive Champions League, but he failed in that aim. The French club were beaten in the Champions League last 16 by Real Madrid last season and suffered the same fate this year at Bayern Munich's hands.

Messi, who has won the Ballon d'Or seven times, has earned an estimated annual salary of 30 million euros (\$32.1 million) after tax at Qatar-backed PSG.

He led Argentina to victory against France in the World Cup final in Qatar in December. But having poured his efforts into that long-awaited triumph for his country, he was unable to lead PSG past Bayern in the Champions League.

Messi was even jeered by some supporters at the Parc des Princes despite scoring 32 goals in 74 games for PSG before Saturday's final match.

His relationship with the club soured further earlier this season when he skipped training for an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia to fulfil his commitments as a tourism ambassador for the Gulf state.

