



Redefined priorities, swift decision-making inevitable for Pakistan's development: President

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the redefined priorities and swift decision-making were inevitable to make Pakistan join the bandwagon of the fast-developing world. (Details on Page 8)



NADRA set to launch Biker Service in Karachi

National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) is set to launch the Biker Service for the processual of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) in Karachi. According to sources, the home-based NADRA Biker Service is basically a portable NADRA Centre that will walk into the peoples' lounges and register them on their premises saving them from the hassle of visiting the NADRA center. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Budget Proposals Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on budget proposals regarding IT and Telecom Sector on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM for inclusion of mega incentives for IT sector in fiscal budget

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed relevant authorities to include mega incentives for the Information Technology sector in the fiscal budget 2023-24 to boost country's IT export.

Chairing a high-level meeting on promotion of the IT sector, he directed to prepare a big package for the sector in the upcoming fiscal budget.

The prime minister decided to introduce fixed tax regime for the sector in the budget and also constituted a committee on it, besides directing the body to submit its recommendations

immediately, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting also accorded approval in principle for providing special incentives to new business start-ups in the sector.

Special concessions for promotion of business and trade through modern technology were also approved.

During the meeting, it was also decided to take the initiatives that were crucial to encourage youth for starting their own businesses.

The prime minister approved a major decision of creating special training IT zones for promoting entrepreneurship.

He said that the government would spend huge amount on

the training of youth in the sector. Currently, a total of 45,000 young people across the country were being trained in the sector, he added.

The prime minister further said that in the upcoming fiscal budget, the government would distribute 1,00,000 laptops among the youth on merit basis.

During the previous tenure of the PML-N government, they had distributed laptops among the country's youth and by utilizing this facility, the young people brought foreign reserves during the Covid pandemic, he observed.

The prime minister further set a target for the IT sector to increase its export up to the tune of \$4.5

billion for the next year.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Syed AmeenulHaque, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, PM's Adviser Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State Ayesha Ghous Pasha, PM's Special Assistants Tariq Bajwa, Jahanzaib Khan Tariq Pasha, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Senator Afnanullah, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Chairman FBR and other relevant authorities.

Renowned IT experts including Asif Pir, Zohaib Khan, Naseer Akhtar, PTCL CEO, VP Jazz and Deputy CEO Telenor also attend-

ed the meeting.

In the meeting, the prime minister directed to include all the IT related recommendations in the upcoming fiscal budget, adding the approval of IT-related recommendations in the next budget would create massive job opportunities for the youth.

He also directed the authorities to take measures which were essential to provide special guidance and government assistance to the youth for setting up new companies in the sector.

The prime minister also directed for organizing IT sector road shows abroad to sensitize the world about the facilities being offered by the sector in Pakistan.

Govt decides to shut markets at 8pm under 'energy conservation plan'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday announced that the federal and provincial governments have unanimously decided to shut markets by 8pm across the country under 'energy conservation plan'.

The federal minister made the announcement while talking to journalists after a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) chaired Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the estimated budget figures.

"The NEC has approved an energy conservation plan under which shops and commercial centres would be closed by 8pm," he announced, noting that energy has become a huge challenge for Pakistan due to global prices.

"Saudi Arabia has cut down oil production by one million barrels, which poses a risk of oil prices rising to \$100 per barrel," he said, highlighting that if the country continued to rely on fossil fuel and oil for its energy needs, "our economy will remain vulnerable".

In this regard, the planning minister said, one of the measures that the government wanted to implement pertained to



energy conservation.

He pointed out that the federal cabinet had vowed to enforce decisions under a National Energy Conservation Plan last year. "However, there was no representation of provinces in that meeting," he said.

"But now we hope that provincial governments will ensure the implementation of the energy conservation package that has been approved today," he added.

Giving details of the plan, Iqbal said the steps for energy conservation were closure of shops and commercial centres by 8pm, switching to LED lights and upgrading geysers to make them more energy efficient. "Such steps could help the country save up to \$1 billion annually," he added.

The minister also said that another decision taken regarding the energy sector was to promote green energy. "Projects of solar, wind and hydel energy will be promoted and we will not introduce any new project based on imported fuel," he said.

IMF seeks cut in govt expenditures in fresh contact with Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in fresh contact with Pakistan has demanded to slash expenditures of the federal and provincial governments, quoting sources.

The IMF in pre-budget talks has also demanded to fix the tax revenue target above Rs. 10,000 billion, according to sources.

In virtual talks Pakistan has convinced the lender to move the talks ahead and also requested about the staff level agreement, sources said.

"IMF intending a joint 9th and 10th review of the loan package, but Pakistan wants

completing 9th review of the bailout package separately".

Current session of talks could not achieve any major progress, sources said.

According to sources, the sides also discussed budget figures as the monetary fund advanced its demand to enhance the FBR tax collection to 10,000 billion rupees. It also demanded steps to increase recovery of income tax.

Pakistani negotiators assured the lender of fixing the FBR taxation target at 9,200 billion in the budget.

State minister Dr. Ayisha Ghous Pasha also attended the session of virtual talks with the IMF, sources added.

FIA registers money laundering case against Moonis Elahi



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has registered a money laundering case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Moonis Elahi.

As per details, the FIA anti-money laundering circle registered the case against the son of former chief minister Pervaiz Elahi, the FIR also mentioned seven people including Rasikh Elahi's wife.

It is pertinent to mention here that it is the first money laundering case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Moonis Elahi.

Earlier, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) submitted a report to Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding Money Laundering Case against PTI President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's son, Rasikh Elahi.

Audio leaks commission: CJP wants to know who records audios

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Tuesday asked Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Awan who and from where audios are being leaked?

A five-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi is hearing the set of petitions filed against the Justice Qazi Faz. Isa-led inquiry commission formed by the federal government to probe audio leaks.

At the outset of the hearing, the CJP remarked the judge could not become a party in any way. "The contempt matter lies between court and contemnor," CJP Bandial remarked after a petitioner named Hanif Rahi Advocate, told the bench that no diary number had been allotted to his contempt of court petition.

Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan took to the rostrum and read the objection raised by the government regarding the composition of the bench.

The CJP then inquired, "On which point you would like to talk." He told the AGP that he was missing one thing, adding: "The chief justice of Pakistan is a constitutional position and no one could take its charge or use it on the basis of assumptions".

Justice Akhtar said a senior member of the



cabinet made a press conference on the audios while the government was yet to determine their authenticity. He said if it was correct to raise objection to the bench when the reality of the audios was elusive.

Why had the interior minister held the presser? Justice Akhtar questioned, adding that the minister should resign for making statements without verifying the authenticity of the audios.

At which, the AGP said the statement of a minister could be taken as a viewpoint of the government. He later said he was not aware of such a press conference.

At one point, the chief justice asked: "Has the government used its resources to unearth where these recordings are being made?"

"The question is this who has planted these audios," he said while asking if the government has tried to trach the elements behind these recordings.

AGP said the government will look into this matter through the inquiry commission.

Court orders immediate release of PTI's Shah Mahmood Qureshi



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on Tuesday ordered the immediate release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairperson Shah Mahmood Qureshi. High court judge Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz heard the case and declared the detention of PTI Vice Chairperson Shah Mahmood Qureshi as 'illegal'.

The court ordered Qureshi to submit an affidavit to the Rawalpindi deputy commissioner within three days of his release.

During the hearing, LHC's Rawalpindi Bench ordered that Qureshi should not be arrested under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance (MPO) anymore. Separately, the LHC on Monday directed the Punjab caretaker government to disclose details of all cases registered against Qureshi by June 6.

PTI MNAs resignations: NA Secretariat decides to challenge LHC verdict

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) Secretariat has decided to file an intra-court appeal against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) verdict in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) resignation case.

Sources told to media that the NA Secretariat received the LHC's verdict today. The secretariat decided to file an intra-court appeal against the high court's verdict.

Sources said that the LHC allegedly gave two contradictory verdicts regarding the PTI MNAs' resignations. In a short verdict, the National Assembly was ordered to conduct the interviews of the lawmakers again.

Later, the NA Speaker's

decision was rejected after the approval of the PTI MNAs resignations in the detailed verdict. The secretariat started preparations to challenge the verdict, sources said.

In May, the Lahore High Court (LHC) had overturned the resignations of 70 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf MNAs.

The PTI MNAs, including Fawad Chaudhry, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Pervaiz Khattak and others challenged the acceptance of their resignations as MNAs by the NA speaker.

Justice Shahid Karim while announcing the verdict on the pleas of the PTI lawmakers, nullified the notifications of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf regarding the acceptance of the resignations.

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) IT Excellence shields, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Redefined priorities, swift decision-making inevitable for Pakistan's development: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the redefined priorities and swift decision-making were inevitable to make Pakistan join the bandwagon of the fast-developing world.

The president, addressing the 3rd LCCI IT Excellence Recognition Ceremony here, said that the creation of talent and investment in human capital was the fastest route to achieve progress.

Organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the ceremony marked the distribution of awards among the excelling IT startups and companies.

The president, impressed by the remarkable progress of artificial intelligence, also shared with the audience a comprehensive presentation on expo-



nential growth in AI prepared by ChatGPT within just six minutes which otherwise could take days or even weeks.

He said information technology was the only sector in which Pakistan could achieve excellence by investing in human capital as in the modern era, the human intellect was far

more important than natural resources.

He said the establishment of IT industry took considerably lesser time than establishing a brick-and-mortar industrial unit.

Similarly, he said Pakistan could take benefit from the IT educational tools to educate its

27 million out-of-school children.

Exemplifying the process of genome sequencing, the president said IT sector provided exponential growth, thus creating numerous opportunities to excel.

He said, on the one hand, the world felt scared of tremendous progress made AI and was thinking to decelerate its pace, but on the other hand, Pakistan has not yet joined that bandwagon which needed to be given serious thought.

President Alvi said that based on the fast pace of AI, one could predict that AI would write software by itself and also achieve the capability to read human minds within the next 10 years.

Recalling his efforts to promote artificial intelligence and quantum computing in Pakistan, the president said the

country needed more inspiration and creating talent.

Apprising the audience of opportunities of learning through technology, President Alvi said Khan Academy, a non-profit organisation, was introducing an AI-based system of providing a dedicated teacher to every student to teach them the subject of choice.

He said the country could not be run through 1-2% educated people rather there was a need to redefine the priorities and focus on creating more talent to exploit the immense potential in the information technology sector.

President of LCCI Kashif Anwar also addressed the ceremony and urged the government to introduce tax incentives for the IT industry and establish IT parks to make the start-ups grow.

Speaker of the Russian Federation call on Sanjrani

News Desk

MOSCOW: The Chairman Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani held delegation level talks with Speaker of the Russian Federation Council IV Matvienko. Both sides emphasized the importance of parliamentary exchanges to further enhance bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia. Chairman Senat reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment

to strengthening ties with Russia in all areas of mutually beneficial cooperation especially in the fields of economy, trade, finance and energy and education.

Chairman Senate briefed the Russian side on regional security situation and highlighted the Kashmir dispute and called for its resolution as per the relevant UNSC resolutions.

The two sides agreed to continue cooperation on



regional and international issues and resolved to work

together for a stable and peaceful Afghanistan

Chairman Senate extended an invitation to Speaker Matvienko to visit Pakistan which was happily accepted.

Chairman Senate is on a four day visit to Russia on the invitation of Speaker of the Russian Federation Council. The visit constitutes celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia

3 terrorists killed in gunfight with CTD in Swat

Raja Furqan Ahmed

SWAT: Three terrorists were killed in retaliation after they attacked an investigation team of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and police in the Swat district. According to the CTD spokesperson, terrorists opened fire at the investigation team in Banjo village of Swat district. Three terrorists were killed in retaliation by the CTD and police officials. The bodies of the killed terrorists were seized by the security officials. The spokesperson added that the investigation team was shifting some arrested terrorists to another location. Moreover, the CTD also seized arms from the possession of the killed terrorists.

Rupee falls to 286.56 versus dollar for third day

TLTP

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee depreciated for the third straight session against the US dollar in the interbank market on Tuesday by 37 paise (-0.13 percent).

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said in a tweet that the dollar opened at Rs286.19 in the interbank market and closed at Rs286.56. During the current fiscal year 2022-23, Pakistani rupee has lost Rs80.69 against the US dollar in the interbank, while it plummeted by Rs60.13 against the greenback in the current year.

Similarly, in the open market too, the rupee fell by Rs2 against the US dollar and was traded at Rs308 per dollar against Rs306 a session earlier, changing course after appreciating sharply towards the

end of last week. Analysts said there was a shortage of dollars in the open market, attributing it to "hoarders" holding onto the foreign currency in anticipation of further depreciation of the rupee.

The people who have bought the currency at up to Rs310 are not selling and they are going for the wait-and-see strategy, they added.

Pakistan is facing an acute balance of payment crisis as it prepares to announce its annual federal budget on June 9. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is optimistic the country will be able to finalise a critical loan deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month. "We are still very hopeful that the IMF programme will materialise. Our ninth review by the IMF will match all terms and conditions and, hope-

fully, we'll have some good news this month," Sharif told a foreign news agency.

The prime minister's statement came as Pakistan seeks the immediate release of \$1.1bn, part of a \$6.5bn bailout package the country signed up for in 2019. Despite a 10-day visit by the lender's delegation earlier this year, the programme, which is set to expire by the end of June, remains stalled.

In a related development, the government shared some of the details of the fiscal year 2023-24 budget with the IMF. Esther Perez Ruiz, Resident Representative of IMF in Pakistan, stated that IMF staff looks forward to furthering the discussions to identify spending and revenue measures that can strengthen debt sustainability prospects while increasing social spending.

SECP grants NOC for launching four VPS fund schemes for KP Govt employees

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 6: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has granted no objection certificates (NOCs) on the trust deeds of four (04) voluntary pension fund schemes, including two sharia based schemes.

These schemes will be offered by two pension fund managers (PFM), specifically for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government employees. Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC) would be the trustee of these funds.

Voluntary Pension System (VPS) is a self-contributory defined contribution pension scheme open to all adult Pakistanis having a computerized national identity card (CNIC). It has been established under the Voluntary Pension System Rules, 2005 under which employed and self-employed individuals can voluntarily contribute to a pension fund managed by PFM, during their working life to provide regular income after retirement.

SC lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar shot dead in Quetta

Bureau Report

QUETTA: A Supreme Court lawyer, Abdul Razzaq Shar, was shot dead in Quetta on Tuesday morning.

According to police, the incident occurred at Almo Chowk when unidentified individuals opened fire, resulting in the death of Abdul Razzaq Shar.

The lawyer's body was transferred to the Civil Hospital Quetta for medico-legal formalities.

Soon after the incident, the law enforcement agencies arrived at the scene and cordoned off the crime scene. They also gathered evidence from the crime spot.

The perpetrators will be held accountable by thoroughly investigating all aspects of the incident, say



police.

Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Qudus Bizenjo condemned the killing of a senior SC lawyer and sought a report from IGP Balochistan.

He also directed authorities concerned to arrest the culprits as soon as possible.

Taliban provincial deputy governor killed in car bomb attack

Raja Furqan Ahmed

KABUL: The deputy governor of Afghanistan's northern Badakhshan province Nissar Ahmad Ahmadi was killed by a car bomb on Tuesday. "Ahmadi, with his driver, has been killed and six civilians were injured," said Mahzudeen Ahmadi, the head of the information office of Badakhshan said.

The blast occurred at 08: 15 am local time in Faizabad city when the car of the deputy provincial gover-

nor was passing by, Mahzudeen said. It was not clear who was behind the bombing, which was the first known major blast or attack on a Taliban official in Afghanistan in several weeks.

The Taliban administration has also been carrying out raids against members of ISIS, which had claimed several major attacks in urban centres. ISIS has targeted Taliban administration officials, including claiming the killing of the governor of northern Balkh province in an attack on his office in March.

NADRA set to launch Biker Service in Karachi



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) is set to launch the Biker Service for the process of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) in Karachi.

According to sources, the home-based NADRA Biker Service is basically a portable NADRA Centre that will walk into the peoples' lounges and register them on their premises saving them from the hassle of visiting the NADRA center.

Sources said that through this service, the female registration officers using scooties will also carry out the registration. This service will

charge extra fee along with the standard fee of CNIC and after the completion of the process the CNIC will be delivered at the doorstep.

Earlier, Interior Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah launched the NADRA Biker Service for carrying out all the processes of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) applied in renewal and modification categories at the doorstep of the applicant.

NADRA chairman Muhammad Tariq Malik briefed the Interior Minister that initially the pilot phase of the service would be started in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. By the end of December this year, the NADRA Biker service would be extended to all the districts of the country, he added.

Malik had told the minister that after rolling out digital online services for the citizens, a home-based NADRA Biker Service is basically a portable NADRA Centre that will walk into the peoples' lounges and register them on their premises saving them from the hassle of visiting the NADRA centre. Through this service, the female registration officers using scooties will also carry out the registration of women only.

Educating the young lawyers is the real task: Says Azam Nazir Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for law and justice senator Azam nazir Tarar attended the opening ceremony of Islamic Law orientation

course for the lawyers of Islamabad organized by Federal Shariat Academy in collaboration with the Islamabad Bar Association.

Law minister while addressing the audience shared his views regarding the importance and role of legal education and training in further improving the professional standards in the legal sphere.

Law minister appreciated the efforts of federal shariat academy and Islamabad bar council in educating the young lawyers through these type of exercises. Law minister stressed upon the need for legal education that it is the real task and need of the hour.

He further added that acquiring legal education and training is necessary for understanding the technicalities of the profession and to serve the client in the best possible manner.

Profession of law is the noblest duty that has its own history. These kind of exercises further enhance the skills of legal practitioners.

Iran presents its first hypersonic ballistic missile, state media reports



News Desk

DUBAI: Iran presented what officials described as its first domestically-made hypersonic ballistic missile on Tuesday, the official IRNA news agency reported, an announcement likely to heighten Western concerns about Tehran's missile capabilities.

Iranian state media published pictures of the missile named Fattah at a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Raisi and commanders of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps.

"The precision-guided Fattah hypersonic missile has a range of 1,400 km and it is capable of penetrating all defence shields," Amirali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guards' aerospace force, was quoted as saying by Iranian state media.

Hypersonic missiles can fly at least five times faster than the speed of sound and on a complex trajectory, which makes them difficult to intercept. Last year, the Islamic Republic said it had built a hypersonic ballistic missile which can manoeuvre in and out of the atmosphere.

EU countries ready for full cooperation to promote trade relations in Pakistan: Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: European Union countries are ready for full cooperation to promote trade relations in Pakistan and especially the industrialists of South Punjab should get in touch with European Union countries for better marketing of their products. Ambassador of the European Union in Pakistan, Dr. Reena Kavinka, in a meeting with the country's leading industrialist and former caretaker provincial minister for industry, Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi. Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi briefed the Ambassador of the European Union Reena Kavinka about the relations between Pakistan and the European Union and the cooperation in economic sectors including GSP Plus with the issues of mutual interest and how we can help Pakistan with the support of the European Union. We can work with a common strategy to strengthen the economy.



European Union Ambassador Dr. Reena Kavinka told her host that the economic cooperation between Pakistan and the European Union is an important milestone. More business opportunities should be explored. In the meeting, Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi appreciated the efforts of the Ambassador of the European Union, Dr. Reena Kavinka, that she is doing regarding the GSP Plus status. There will be economic development between Pakistan and EU and EU access to local markets. EU Ambassador Dr. Reena Kavinka said that I am very happy to come to Multan to see that the people of this city are not only loving, but the way they

work hard for their profession increases the demand for their manufactured products. It is happening.

Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi informed the Ambassador of the European Union Dr. Reena Kavinka about the projects of Jalaluddin Rumi Foundation that we have been working on clean water education and public health projects in various areas of South Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan for the past several years.

On which the Ambassador of the European Union, Dr. Reena Kavinka, appreciated the humanitarian projects of Rumi Foundation and said that before coming to Multan, I was aware of various projects of Rumi Foundation, but with today's meeting, I was not aware of the charitable works of Rumi Foundation. Not only the awareness but your efforts will bring a tangible improvement in the society by providing basic amenities in the backward areas.

WASA assured the completion of the work and restoration of water supply



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Multan leader and candidate PP 214 Mian Asif Akhwani along with his delegation met Managing Director Wasa Chaudhry Danish on this occasion, he discussed the issue of water supply in the villages adjacent to Nawabpur Road and Hashmi Colony for two and a half years. Had a detailed discussion. Mian Asif Akhwani said that the people living in these settlements are deprived of drinking water on one hand due to the broken road and on the other hand there is a lack of facilities and basic needs.

On which the managing director Wasa assured that this problem should be solved soon. The managing director WASA assured the completion of the work and the restoration of water supply in a month for which the delegation thanked him. Later speaking, he said that there are problems everywhere with garbage piles and broken roads. They are also deprived of the need. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and Manzoor Elahi were also with him on this occasion.

Women's University recommended for Awarding PhD Degree to Sarwat Saleem



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Women's University Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics PhD Scholar Mrs. Sarwat Saleem was recommended for awarding her degree after a successful public defense. Her public defense was held at Mati Tal Campus. Due to the adverse effects of salinity, crop productivity is severely affected worldwide. Global warming causes a rapid increase in the salt-affected area, and new agricultural land is affected by saltwater intrusion. The ever-increasing human population forces the use of saline areas for crop cultivation to ensure food security. Salinity-tolerant crops may be a promising alternative.

But with little success because poor saline soil management practices resulted in unsatisfactory yields. Able to develop salt-tolerant plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria to enhance crop growth in saline ecosystems, PGPR exhibits several plant growth-promoting properties such as the acquisition of essential nutrients and The production of surge hormone can increase the growth of plants at the same time. In this research, its effects have been examined in detail, after which he answered the questions of the audience. Dr. Attiya Iqbal and Dr. Mehboob Ahmed on this occasion, Dr. Mamona Noreen, Chairperson MMG and other teachers were also present.

International Rescue Committee celebrates World Environment Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Pakistan hosted an interactive event to commemorate World Environment Day under the global theme "Produce, Consume, and Dispose of Plastic." Since 1973, World Environment Day serves as a global platform to unite people and amplify the call for environmental action. It's a reminder that we all have a role to play in safeguarding our planet.

Mr. Sarmad Iqbal, (Head of Policy Advocacy IRC) and Environmental lawyer presented an insightful overview of Pakistan's environmental outlook, challenges faced and the legal discourse for framing collective action to address pressing issues.

The Guest of Honor, Ms. Romina Khurshid, (Head of the SDG Unit & Special Assistant to PM) shared insights on meeting the Sustainable Development



Goals (SDGs) targets, emphasizing the critical role of sustainable consumption and production in achieving these goals. She called upon introspection on our consumption patterns and on glaring social disparities.

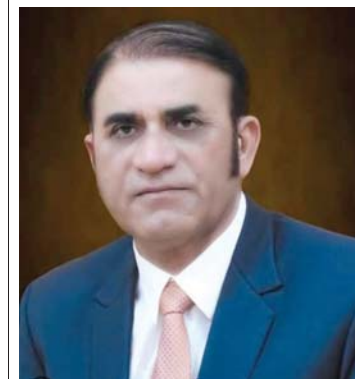
The highlight of the event was a power packed panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Rafi Ul Haq, renowned

Ecologist on an encompassing a range of topics. The esteemed speakers included Dr. Khalid Waleed from (SDPI), Dr. Mazhar Hayat (Ministry of Water Resources) Sobia Asghar (NUST), Dr Asif Ahmed (ARID University) and Dr. Mukhtiar Mahar (Coastal and Deltaic Center).

Ms. Shabnam Baloch,

Country Director of IRC, in her closing remarks, noted that the deliberations made during the event will pave way for sustained advocacy on climate change and will lead to identifying avenues for stakeholders to collaborate on collective efforts in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in Pakistan.

MEPCO achieve the recovery revenue targets and billing ensured 100%: Mehrullah



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana has indicated that the SDOs who do not achieve 100% progressive recovery targets for June and fiscal year will be removed from their positions and attached to the headquarters and said that new engineers are being trained. Operation will be deployed in offices. All SDOs and XEN of MEPCO Sahiwal circle will conduct grand operation against defaulting customers of billings of Rs.10 thousand and above and achieve the recovery targets set from running and dead defaulters by the end of June. Operation should be carried out indiscriminately to collect dues/arrears from domestic/commercial/agricultural tubewell/industrial consumers.

The Chief Executive Officer said that the operational officers should adhere to the working hours of the offices. Headquarter teams will do daily checking if any SD is found absent in office then strict departmental action will be taken against him. He conducted a data check of faulty meters in Civil Lines and Multan Roads sub-divisions and inspected the transformers kept in the yard and directed the SDOs of both the sub-divisions to tag the transformers. Burnt and damaged transformers should be sent to workshops for repair. SOPs should be implemented for expansion of load capacity. Penalties should be imposed on consumers under commercial procedure and penalties imposed should also be recovered. Abuse of any user will not be tolerated in the detection policy.

On the occasion of the visit to GSO Sahiwal Circle, CO Mapco said that the ongoing projects of transmission lines and grid stations should be completed as soon as possible to ensure the supply of electricity to consumers with better voltage. Superintending Engineer GSO Sahiwal Circle Syed Jawad Mansoor gave a briefing about the establishment of new grid stations and projects of transmission lines, upgrading of power transformers installed in grid stations. Syed Jawad Mansoor said that 132 KV Lodhahan in the city of Lodhahan. On an emergency basis for the establishment of II grid station. work in progress. Project Director Construction Sohail Bashir, Deputy Commercial Manager Sahiwal Circle Farhan Naseer, Exein Sahiwal First Division Nasir Mahmood Fani, Exein Sahiwal Second Division Faisal Zafar, Exein M&T Sahiwal Mahmoodul Hasan Abbasi and other officers were also present.

Implement the file tracking system in all departments. Amir Khattak

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: On the good governance orders of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak, steps have been taken to implement the file tracking system in all departments, including the Commissioner's office. In this portal, citizens will be able to solve their problems at home instead of visiting the offices. Engineer Amir Khattak while assigning the public service task to the officers and officials said that training is being done to all the district officers and departments about the commissioner complaint



portal. The open door policy has been

implemented by ending the traditional culture.

Complaint of bad behavior from a citizen is not tolerated. Officers are government fees, adopt gentle attitude towards citizens for better image. Unrelated complainant will be fully guided and informed to concerned department. E-complaint portal, file tracking system soon. It will be launched. We have to restore the trust of the citizens in the institutions, offices and the entire system. Amir Khattak said that the commissioner complaint portal will also help in suppressing the habitual application mafia.

NSU Resolve on World Environment Day 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Academic institutions across the globe can play a significant role in saving environments and controlling impending harmful climatic changes. This was stated by Professor Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor of National Skills University Islamabad, who is the recipient of the certificate of achievement from the UNESCO/UNEVOCon "Re-thinking TVET system and Programmes to anticipate demand, adapt and take action for a just and green transition." The said academic leaders' training was designed after UNESCO/UNEVOCon concerns stated as "Catastrophic trends caused by climate change are harming people and ecosystems around the world. Shifts in temperatures and weather patterns



have impacted people's lives, jobs, and long-term access to finite resources. The degree of planetary heating is causing more damage as sea levels rise, biodiver-

sity loss worsens, and ecosystem ceases functioning."

Vice Chancellor NSU will offer a course on bringing green transition in skills education. In this course, he will share promising practices for academia that he learned during his five-month extended UNESCO/UNEVOCon leadership certificate focused on making environments healthy. This course will be mainly for academic leaders, policy advocates, and government officials engaged in programs relevant to the environment. According to Prof. Mukhtar, over the past three years, the NSU campus has seen major transformations, including the conversion of deserted places to a hustling, bustling campus full of students and employees preparing youth for job-ready skills incorporating climate education.

Government: Reduce the heavy tax rate, says Amir Mushtaq



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Tandlianwala; Undue levy might smash the economic growth system badly & the government should reduce the heavy tax rates from the businessmen to move the wheel of industry which is already in inertia, said Amir Mushtaq Ahmed.

He pointed out that Tax rates on the business community should be reduced and subsidies should be restored on priority. Chairman Anjuman Tajran (R)

Tandlianwala further expressed that; the government can make the situation favorable by reducing the heavy tax rate on business, industrial and economic activities. He further said that, It will prove prosperity across the country & the economy of this country might remain strong, constantly, because this time any businessman is unable to bear any type of more levy.

For last few years, the purchasing power of the traders has decreased tremendously. Amir Mushtaq Ahmed has further demanded from the government that the government should provide basic facilities to the traders in lieu of tax.

Traders and the business community are looking towards the policies of the government that when the government brings reduction in petrol, electricity gas and energy for the traders so that the traders can play a vital role in strengthening the economy of the country.

He stressed on the need of facilitations towards the doors of the poor.

Poverty elimination is directly proportional to flourishing the industry where everyone can get a chance of employment because everyone has been disappointed with this historic unemployment he further said an added.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 3: 15 am
Zohr 12: 06 pm
Asr 5: 06 pm
Maghrib 7: 16 pm
Isha 8: 58 pm

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

Women Police Stations
Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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

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

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

NCSW, UN Women meet at Islamabad to discuss Pakistan's gender equality

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) in collaboration with United Nations Women held the 20th Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG) meeting in Islamabad. This group, established in 2009, was created to enhance provincial coordination on gender equality and women empowerment in Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Chairperson NCSW, Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, and Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Country Representative UN Women Sharmela Rasool and Ms. Andrea S. Hillyer Advisor Gender Security, Law & Justice, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from all provinces including AJ & K, Gilgit Baltistan from the Bureau of Statistics, Planning and Development Departments, Women Development Departments and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women. One of



that together, under a roof, we can bridge the gap of the minute cultural differences present. When we speak about the issues related to women, and the ways to tackle them, there will be a lot to learn in these two days and I hope we can make the best out of them. In her address Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar stated that National Gender Data Portal will not just create much more accurate international reports, it will also help policy makers and stakeholder organizations to take better and informed decisions with more accuracy in implementation. She further said that the political situation these days in Pakistan is a huge challenge. The challenge like this puts women's agenda on the back foot. However, we shall remain focused and steadfast and will do everything to take the agenda forward. Later on, an update from the 67th session of the UN CSW was given by Ms. Saman Ahsan, Portfolio Manager UN Women and a presentation was made on the Gender Digital Divide Report by Ms. Shabana Arif, the National Gender Expert with NCSW.

The main agenda items of the meeting was the update on the National Gender Data Portal, an initiative to gather gender segregated data by the NCSW and UN Women. The Chief Guest, Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada stated in his opening statement

Construction of Fly over

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of Fly Over at Barakahu area during high temperature in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Empowering women is a worthy cause: Chairman CDA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Captain (Retd) Noor Ul Amin Mengal has said that empowering women is high on his agenda, and businesswomen will be facilitated so that they can grow and play their positive role in national development.

He said that women comprise the majority of the population, and they should be brought into the mainstream, which is imperative for national development.

Chairman CDA said this while talking to a delegation of businesswomen led by Samina Fazil, founder president Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI).

He said that businesswomen have suffered a lot due to the



pandemic and the economic conditions; therefore, CDA is going to offer support to businesswomen to help them overcome the losses.

The present situation has made things harder for women mainly those involved in businesses, and those facing poverty due to multiple reasons, he said.

Chairman CDA Captain (Retd) Noor Ul Amin Mengal said that we will try our best to support businesswomen, as the majority of them are related to the services sector.

During the meeting Samina Fazil and President IWCCI Rizwana Asif demanded allocation of space in F-9 Park where IWCCI can conduct

exhibitions three times a year, a plot for the office of IWCCI at a suitable location, and a space for a display centre to facilitate women artisans, introduce them to foreign buyers to trigger exports.

The leaders of IWCCI also demanded space for a one-day Sunday Bazaar in the F-9 Park and for Dastakar Bazaar.

Noor Ul Amin Mengal took these demands very positively and said that all the demands are justified. He said that it is the right of the women to promote themselves, and we have a responsibility to support them so that they can improve their businesses.

He directed the concerned quarters to look into the demands of businesswomen and resolve their issues on a priority basis.

Federal govt to ban plastic items and bottles: Sherry Rehman



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: "The federal government is approving new regulations for the phased elimination of single-use plastic items and plastic bottles and implementing it from August 1, 2023," said Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman while online addressing the inaugural session of a policy dialogue on "Reimagining Plastic and Renewable Solutions to Environmental Degradation" held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday in connection with the World Environment Day. Special Assistant to Prime Minister & Convener, Parliamentary Taskforce, Ms Romina Khurshid Alam said that there is a need for joint efforts to establish a plastic-free society, we should protect the environment by bringing eco-friendliness in our lifestyle. Every citizen must play a role to make Pakistan one of the waste free countries.

Discussion on drug awareness in Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation and The Jordan Anti-Drugs Society (TJADS) collaborated with Serena Hotels and hosted a panel discussion on "Early Drug Prevention Strategies: The Future of Youth." KKAFF is a leading organization working to create awareness of the youth against the use of drugs, which have become a prevalent issue in the youth of Pakistan. Mrs. Cristina Von Sperling Afridi is the power house behind this enterprising and much-needed foundation that enlightened attendees from various backgrounds on the importance and need for creating awareness from a young age against the use of drugs that are now easily accessible to prepubescent children. Immediate action is the need of the hour, with the Government at the helm in the social and educational institutes themselves.

The event started with a welcome note from Mrs. Afridi, the moderators of the event were esteemed senior journalist and anchorperson Syed Talat Hussain, along with Dr. Ayesha Razzaque, former technical advisor to the Ministry of Education and Op-Ed writer for The News International. The first session conducted focused on "Early Prevention Strategies" The keynote speaker Dr. Mousa Daoud Al-Tarefi, President of Jordan Anti-Drug Society whereas the panelists included specialists in the field of narcotics and prevention Syed Kaleem Imam; Former Federal Secretary Senator; Sana Jamali and Mrs. Afridi. The second session was on "Drug use prevention, awareness, and education; Learnings from Civil Society & Youth." which was moderated by Dr. Ayesha Razzaque, and the panel included renowned individuals in the field, Mr. Sarfraz Qamar Dahi, Mrs. Lubna Ghani Haya Uddin, Mr. Wajahat Ali, and Adnan Malik. An open mic session where the audience emphasized the importance of parents, educators, and other innovative ways to approach the topic, to create a drug-free environment for future generations.

The presence of renowned experts in the field, including psychologists, educators, addiction specialists, law enforcement professionals, and community leaders, provided valuable insights and practical strategies to tackle this issue pre-emptively. The community is as involved as the stakeholders in this initiative.

A group photo of the honorary panel members and handing of souvenirs to the esteemed panel culminated the ceremony. The event was hosted under the Public Diplomacy Initiative of Serena Hotels, a Corporate social responsibility initiative that aims to discuss and create awareness of unaddressed issues prevalent in society.

Mayor polls: ECP issues key order for arrested LG representatives

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued an important order regarding the arrested local government (LG) representatives ahead of elections of the heads of the local councils i.e. mayors, deputy mayors, chairmen and vice-chairmen.

The ECP directed the government to provide the right of voting to all elected LG representatives in the upcoming elections for mayors, deputy mayors, chairmen and vice-chairmen of the local councils.

It is pertinent to mention here several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) elected LG representatives have been arrested after May 9 incidents in Sindh.

The ECP order directed the government to bring all elected LG representatives across Sindh under production order who had been arrested in different cases.

The Election Commissioner (EC) Sindh ordered the provincial chief secretary via a letter to ensure the attendance of all LG representatives in the upcoming polls.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan had 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.

The Sindh government had also informed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that the mayor of Karachi will be elected through a show of hands.

The clarification from Sindh government comes after the election commission had asked local government ministry to inform the election body about the Karachi mayor election process.

The provincial government further said that mayor election will take place through a show of hands method in as per Sindh Local Govt Amendment Act.

International Baccalaureate Team Visits Beaconhouse Newlands Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Beaconhouse Newlands Islamabad (BNI) was visited by a team from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). Chief Officer of Schools, IBO, Dr Nicole Bien, and IB Manager of Pakistan, Iran, and the Nordic Region, Ms Uzma Shujjat visited on 5th June for a campus tour.

Head of School at BNI, Dr Leeanne Wootten, provided the visiting team with an extensive introduction to the school, showcasing its remarkable facilities and highlighting its innovative approach to education through internationally standardized teaching and learning tools.

Particularly impressive to the guests were the utilization of the Measure for Academic Progress (MAP) and a curricular mapping program integrated with ManageBac (a leading curriculum-first learning platform) called ATLAS, which provide data-driven evidence of student and teacher growth at BNI.

The IB team acknowledged BNI's status as the first full IB Continuum school in Pakistan, offering the Diploma Programme (IBDP), Middle Years Programme (IBMYP), and Career Programme (IBCP). The IBDP was recently evaluated and authorized, while the IBMYP and IBCP have also received authorization. The evaluation of the



Primary Years Programme (IBPYP) is scheduled for this fall.

During their tour of the campus, the IB team appreciated the state-of-the-art facilities, including the Sports Complex, pools, theatre, outdoor theatre, libraries, laboratories, and the new cafeteria.

The school's welcoming environment, vibrant atmosphere, and alignment with the school mission, vision, and IB Learner Profile impressed the visitors.

The IB team delivered an insightful presentation on the development of IBCP in Pakistan, emphasizing efforts to expand the programme and

foster connections with universities and schools. They also shared comprehensive updates on recent developments and enhancements across all four IB programmes, encouraging teachers to engage in research, volunteering, and significant roles within the IB. The visitors also commended the IB-PYP end-of-year student performance titled 'Around the World in 80 Days'.

Beaconhouse Newlands Islamabad continues to be a frontrunner in providing a transformative educational experience aligned with the International Baccalaureate framework, and the visit by IB officials further solidified BNI's position as a leading IB institute.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
(mszk786@gmail.com)
Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Minimize use of plastics

Senator Sherry urged the private sector to proactively reduce plastic consumption despite its noticeable cost. She said that Hazardous Waste Management Policy with strict recycling or re-using waste controls has been implemented. Research is important for hotspots of plastic pollution; we need to do research on implications of plastic, it should be comprehensive and there should be evidence-based researches and policy recommendations, she added.

The federal minister said circular economy model is not possible without recycling and reuse. And that could only be possible if we adopt whole of society approach and change our behaviors towards use of plastics with a view to reduce it slowly and methodically. Academia, civil society, and policy makers must work together to achieve a healthier circular economy. The private sector must be pressed to diversify and limit use of plastic and increase reuse and recycling processes. Shampoo sachet (aluminum inside) is extremely hard to biodegrade or reuse and must be done away with as a starting point. There is a need for research around startups on how new and cost low alternatives to single use plastics can be developed. The privileged must make a behavioral change before we ask our lower income citizens to make transitions, Senator Sherry added.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Romina Khurshid Alam remarked that while we clean our homes, but we weaken the roots of 'Mother Earth' with plastic pollution. She stressed on effective and strict implementation of environmental policies. She urged that everyone must act in their own capacity and stressed on strengthening environmental awareness since very young age. She said that climate change is impacting us and plastic pollution is the worst kind of hazard to our ecosystem. We have to give priority to reduce our plastics and promotion of its reuse and recycling to protect our mother earth.

Dr Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, AIOU called for climate action at individual and societal levels as these are the answers to our current environmental worries. He said that plastic pollution is a big crisis which we need to address by our actions. Quoting from the plastic free practices of the University, he said AIOU avoids plastic carrier bags while sending bulk of published material to their hundreds of thousands of students. He said that the University plans to work towards achieving the goal of making its campuses plastic free gradually. He said the University is moving towards solarization of all campuses by next year and small water ponds are being constructed and plantation is being carried out for nature-based solutions to environmental problems.

Helping Buddy, Helpless Ragging II

Those who go from outside the world are also provided with the services of a buddy. And then they Buddies builds rapport by contacting the student himself. Provides information even before leaving with time. That is, it is a mentor and guide who belong to a guidance organization from the institution. And he is issued instructions by the institution. Under this, the services of a buddy are provided free of charge to every new incoming student if he want for help. It is the best example of human values in the world, is admirable. These are the senior students of the institution. They help and support the visitors by their tireless work by freeing some of their precious time for others. It has also been seen that because young people from abroad go to these institutions for the purpose of education, they have to face many problems. Like new country, new place, new environment, language problem, road map, information about college university, rules and regulations which create difficulties for a stranger. It will not be wrong to name these bodies as angels. In colleges and universities abroad, buddies act as friends who can act as resource referral points, directing students to relevant university services and support networks. They can help connect students to academic advisors, career services, counseling centers, health services, and other support systems available on campus.

These buddies (friends) act as advisors and provide guidance to their fellow students. They can advise on course selection, share their experiences and provide support for personal and academic challenges. Peer mentoring relationships often help students develop confidence, motivation, and a sense of direction. They help familiarize new students with campus facilities, academic resources, and campus life and help integrate them into the institutional community make it easy. They assist new students in understanding university policies, procedures, and academic resources such as libraries, writing centers, and tutoring services, as well as in adjusting international students or those from different cultural backgrounds to a new social environment. They come forward. In short, a buddy's role in universities as a whole is to facilitate a smooth transition, foster a supportive and inclusive community, promote academic success, and enhance the overall university experience for students. Buddies play an important role in helping students navigate the challenges of university life and thrive academically, socially and personally. Students from abroad are welcomed and received by these buddies free of cost. Those coming from abroad, if they wish, can take them

near the airport or at places where they have convenience. And thus a new stranger in a foreign country feels like a friend, an acquaintance or close relative is already there and is welcoming and has come to receive him. Saying of Dr.Allam Iqbal (r.a) Urdu poetry to the young Muslim generation:

khabhi ai nounjawan nmlin tadabbar
bhee kia tuny
wu kia gardoun tha tu
jis ka hy ik toota huwa
tara
tujhy aaba sy amny
kuwi nisbat hu, nahi
sakti
kay tu guftar wu
qirdar, tu sabit wu
sayyara
ganwa di ham nay ju
aslaf say miras pai thee
surraya say zamien par, asman ny ham
ku dy mara
magar wu ilm kay muti, kitabien apny
aaba ki
ju dekhien un ku Europe mi tu dil huta
hy separa

Years ago, I remember an incident with this ragging and buddy that when one of my son, went to college in Islamabad on the first day for the purpose of entering the first year, I tasked him on his return that o my son! Write some lines that how you feel in your college today. How was the first day in your college? When he wrote it, I was very happy and I read it again and again. He started with

these words: when I enter the college "First of all I was looking for my friend" who was my friend and class fellow in my school. We were close friends together and who came today for admission in college. So, I felt very good because on that day every stranger met someone familiar. It is a fact and a natural thing that when a person goes to a new and unknown place, he wants to know someone there to talk to. Because without it he feels alone. That's why they say that one is one and two is eleven. In the outer world, this buddy actually acts as a familiar friend, who, however little he may be admired, is a friend. All alienation is removed from him and the one who goes does not feel lonely. And shares everything with him, which does not make him feel new days.

What beautiful values which are prevalent in the world but we are far away from them. Our educational institutions like colleges and universities also need to promote good attitudes instead of adopting outdated and vulgar customs and practices. Anti-ragging policies, awareness campaigns, and disciplinary actions are implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of students. From which, with the recognition of civilized nations, the bonds of human sympathy and love are increasing.

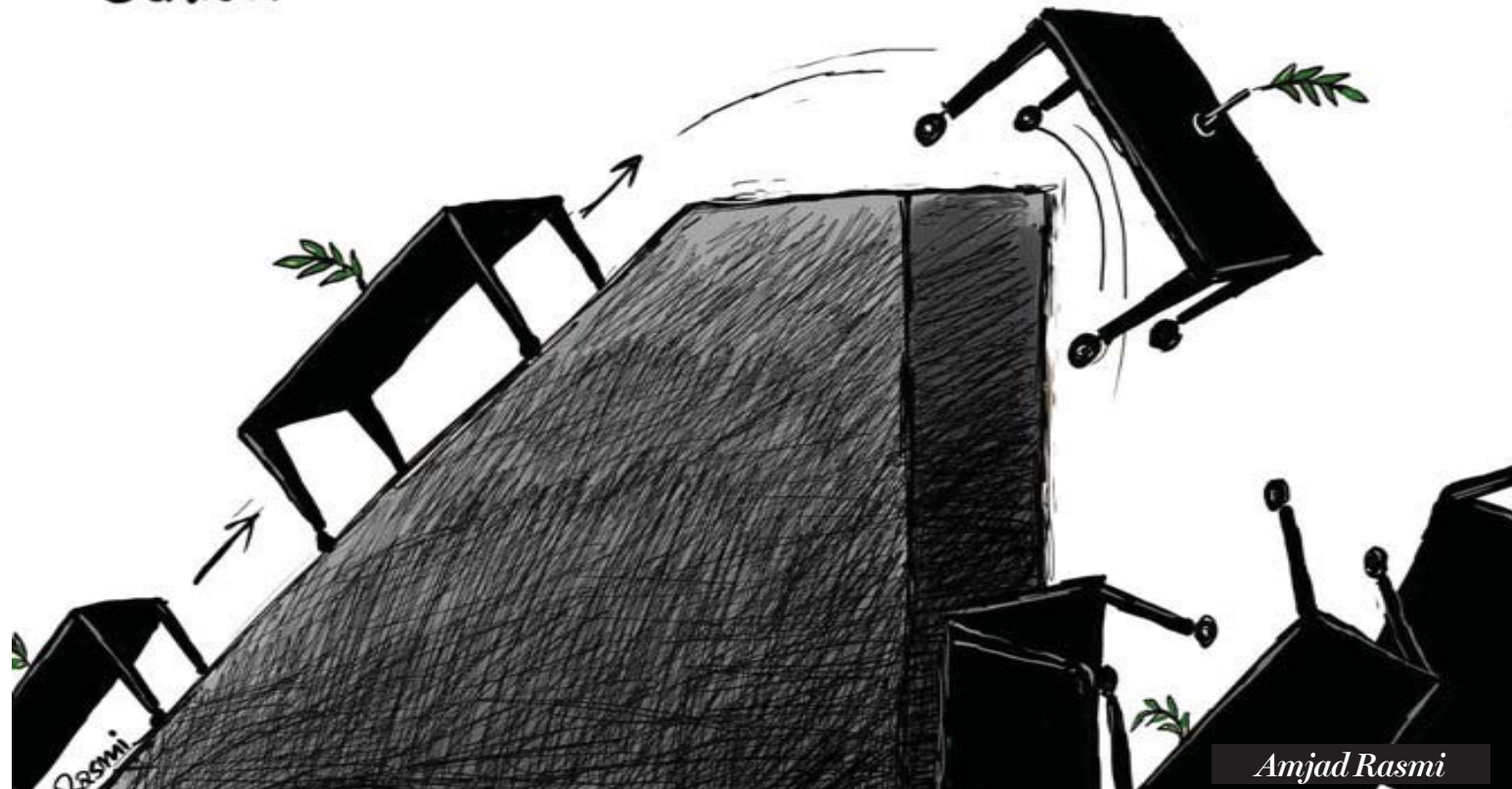
Writer is senior analyst and can be reached on javedullahraja@gmail.com

Analysis



Javed Ullah Raja

Sudan ...



Amjad Rasmi

Global action is vital to mitigate impact of searing heatwaves in Pakistan

Global action is urgently needed as a series of extreme heat waves in Pakistan, wreak havoc on human rights, Amnesty International said today in its new report 'A Burning Emergency: Extreme heat and the right to health in Pakistan'.

The report, released on World Environment Day, examines the impacts of extreme heat in Pakistan on people's lives and right to health and livelihoods. It highlights the struggles of people living in poverty in some of the hottest cities in the world.

"Pakistan is on the frontline of the climate crisis. Climate injustice is starkly visible. Despite their small contribution to climate change, its people face disproportionately severe consequences which are often life threatening. Tackling a climate crisis of this scale requires global attention and action. Wealthier countries must make no mistake about the important role they play," said Dinushika Dissanayake, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director in South Asia.

"On World Environment Day, we hope our report serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility towards some of the most marginalized people exposed to extreme temperatures. They are being forced to live in torrid conditions, as these searing temperatures rise every year while we idly let time go by. Without further delay, wealthier countries must demonstrate a decisive commitment to reduce emissions, rapidly phase out fossil fuels and provide funds to support people to adapt and quickly operationalize the Loss and Damage fund established at COP27."

The report also asks the government in Pakistan to develop comprehensive heat action plans consistent with human rights law and standards, and to ensure that the rights of groups that are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of extreme heat

are protected.

The report—A Burning Emergency: Extreme heat and the right to health in Pakistan—is based on in-person interviews with 45 people experiencing adverse impacts of extreme heat during the summer months of 2021 and 2022 in Jacobabad and Lahore in Pakistan. Jacobabad is one of the hottest places on the planet. In June 2021, its highest recorded temperature reached an unbearable 52°C.

Amnesty International interviewed people at higher risk of exposure to heat, including agricultural workers, labourers in brick kiln factories, delivery riders, police officers, sanitation workers and others in outdoor work.

"There is no escape for us" It is evident from the interviews that, while the impact of extreme heat is felt by everyone, some are much worse off because of their socio-economic status.

A woman living in an informal settlement in Jacobabad said: "We are more vulnerable to heat than anyone else. Hot weather impacts poor people. There is no escape for us."

Day-wage workers that Amnesty International interviewed, said that they have no choice but to continue working even if they feel hot, despite the health guidelines to stay indoors during periods of extreme heat. A tractor driver in Jacobabad said: "If we take a break there is no daily wage... because of poverty, we have to work no matter the weather."

People such as those living in poverty and working in the informal sector with precarious work, lower incomes and fewer opportunities for rest and shade, with limited or no access to support, are severely impacted by the extreme temperatures.

Furthermore, multi-layered and intersecting forms of discrimination against women also undermine their ability to cope in heat waves, which has potentially dangerous implications for their health and that of their children.

"Government is invisible here"

A brick kiln owner in Jacobabad said: "If the government had taken care of the area, Jacobabad would have been a fine place. But the government is invisible here."

Despite the searing temperatures in Jacobabad and Lahore, neither city has a heat action plan or climate-responsive social protection mechanisms in place.

In Pakistan, more than 40 million people do not have access to electricity. Others have erratic and irregular supplies. People living in poverty do not have access to, or are unable to afford, electricity for fans or air conditioning units and neither can they afford to buy solar panels.

A lot of the public health advice on avoiding exposure to heat presupposes that people can afford to stay indoors, negotiate different working hours, access adequate water, healthcare and cooling mechanisms.

"Well-designed and well-resourced social protection programs can help mitigate some of the worst impacts of climate change as crisis upon crisis hits Pakistan," said Dinushika Dissanayake.

Towards human rights-consistent climate funding

Amnesty International's report sets out a comprehensive list of recommendations for the government in Pakistan and the international community. They include calling for the Pakistan authorities to conduct a needs assessment in the context of heat waves, focusing on –

and with the participation of—the most marginalized people, preparing and implementing human rights compliant heat action plans, and providing effective social protection in order to support people in coping with heat waves.

These actions all require significant financial resources, and the international community must come together to ensure that these are available. Debt relief from payments currently occupying significant amounts of government revenues and expenditure can be one avenue of financing.

Wealthier countries need to step up action to reduce emissions and phase out fossil fuels, in accordance with their human rights obligations, and provide the financing and support needed for Pakistan to put in place adequate adaptation measures, provide effective remedies for loss and damage, among other measures needed to protect human rights. They should significantly increase climate funding while ensuring a better balance between climate mitigation and adaptation funding, including assistance to carry out human rights-consistent loss and damage needs assessments.

"It is crucial that the wealthy states most responsible for the climate crisis provide funds to support not just adaptation but also remedy for the loss and damage people have experienced or will experience because of extreme heat waves fueled by climate change in countries such as Pakistan," said Dinushika Dissanayake.

"This report tells us the story of the devastation that is following the unmitigated and irresponsible actions of governments, particularly the wealthy nations and others that are opposing a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels. They must ensure human rights harms are not irreversible and work towards achieving climate justice in accordance with their human rights obligations."

Analysis



Kiran Asim

Foreign Remittances: Lifeline of Pakistan

Maha Khaliq

Pakistan is a cash strapped and poverty ridden country. It has plunged into the quagmire of slow economic growth, current account deficit, unemployment, inflation, exchange rate instability and giant burden of debt.

Less inflow and massive outflow of dollars in the form of imports and debt repayment are major factors for the fragile economy of Pakistan. In current circumstances, foreign remittances inflow can assist in bridging current account deficit, exchange rate stability, mitigating poverty, accelerating economic growth and boosting investment. In the previous fiscal year, inflow of foreign remittances was 32 billion\$ and expected to be 28 bn\$ in the current fiscal year. Gap between inter and open market exchange rate, negative role of grey market, worldwide inflation, high transaction cost and taxes have declined inflow of remittances in Pakistan. The daunting situation of dwindling remittances inflow is worsening Pakistan's economic crisis. Nepal, Bangladesh and India are developing countries like Pakistan but are productively utilizing foreign remittances for boosting economic growth and coming out of the morass of poverty.

Remittances can transform a county from zero to hero. The Government of Pakistan should take some stern and pragmat-

ic actions for enhancing inflow of remittances. For this purpose, the government should bridge the gap between inter and open market exchange rates, eradicate the negative role of grey market, grant special status to those remitters who send bulk amounts and treat them like VIPs. Government should also designate some schools, roads and buildings in the name of sound remitters and grant them special awards on national days. It will ramp up the spirit of remitters.

Transaction cost and prolonged time period in sending remittances through normal channels should be mitigated. Remitters should be given representation in the parliament as already given in the legislative assembly of A.J.K. Remitters should also be given monetary incentives like opportunities to win plot, house, shares in stock market, scholarships of their children, free medical facilities etc. on the basis of portfolio of remittances. Remitters should be incentivized through high return saving certificates, investment opportunities in SEZ etc for productive utilization of remittances. Pakistan can stabilize its economy by surging inflow of remittances. Foreign remittances act as a life saving jacket for Pakistan to protect it from sinking into the sea of slow economic growth, dwindling foreign exchange reserves and economic devastation.

(Writer can be reached on mahakhaliq19@gmail.com)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's merged districts of Mohmand and Orakzai get their first-ever Model Police Stations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan, the Government of Japan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police jointly inaugurated the Model Police Stations in Kalaya, Orakzai District and in Ghalanai, Mohmand District, in a ceremony held in Islamabad today.

The Model Police Stations are unique police centres in merged districts, as they provide a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts. Amongst others, these include a gender-responsive desk to address gender-based crimes reported to the police stations, a hall to convene joint community and police meetings, an investigation room, an office



for station house officers, security posts, lodging facilities to accommodate 55 police person-

nel and separate holding rooms for men and women.

The Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Mr Akhtar Hayat Khan, appraised the partnership with UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan to enhance access to justice services for people in the province including merged districts. "I am delighted to be here today, to inaugurate the first of its kind Model Police Station of Mohmand and Orakzai, which is a result of the collaboration between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan.

Addressing the ceremony, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E WADA Mitsuhiro, underlined, "Supporting secu-

riety and justice sector institutions to provide people-oriented and gender-responsive services, especially in post-merger districts, is crucial in maintaining the rule of law in KP. The establishment of Model Police Stations in the merged districts will play an instrumental role in achieving this goal. We are excited to be a part of this important journey, and are grateful to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and UNDP Pakistan for their continual efforts to build peaceful and just communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including merged districts."

"Model Police Stations equipped and training provided to former Levies and Khasadars integrated into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police will ensure an improved formal policing

and justice system in merged areas" stated Ms Aliona Niculita, Officer In-Charge, UNDP Pakistan. "Together, we remain resolute in enhancing people's access to more inclusive, accessible, and efficient access to justice and security services in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly for women and other marginalised groups."

These Model Police Stations were established by UNDP Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police as part of a project supported by the Government of Japan—to strengthen the rule of law in merged districts of the province. The UNDP Rule of Law Programme is implementing a range of interventions to strengthen security and justice sector governance in Pakistan.

M&C Saatchi World Services clinches the prestigious Gold Effie Award

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Effie Awards is a globally recognized symbol of advertising effectiveness, celebrating outstanding campaigns that demonstrate exceptional results and innovation every year. The fifth Pakistan Effie Awards were held at the Expo Center in Karachi on 3rd June 2023, organized by the Pakistan Advertisers Society (PAS).

M&C Saatchi World Services' groundbreaking ad, "Let's Talk—Addressing Pakistan's Brown Bag Syndrome" for FCDO won the prestigious Gold Effie Award in the non-profit category. The campaign is part of the Delivering Accelerated Family Planning in Pakistan (DAFFPA-K)'s social behaviour communication change component, launched under KhairKhwah, a platform to improve access to family planning services for the most vulnerable in Pakistan and



disseminate messages for the common good.

The campaign aimed to create awareness and initiate meaningful conversations around the pressing issue of population growth in Pakistan. Drawing insights from in-depth research, the campaign sought to challenge societal norms and stimulate constructive dialogue regarding family planning and its impact on the nation's future.

"This achievement is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our talented teams at M&C Saatchi World Services Pakistan and London and the client's unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on society," said Imran Irshad, CEO, M&C Saatchi World Services Pakistan. "As we proudly accept our first Effie Award, we remain resolute in our pursuit of future success and continue to make meaningful change through impactful communication."

Karachi Skyline to Soar Higher with the Launch of AAA Octa by AAA Associates

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: AAA Associates, Pakistan's premier real estate company, is proud to announce the highly anticipated launch of AAA Octa 2 Karachi. The grand ceremony is slated for June 17 and 18, 2023, in the luxurious vicinity of Bahria Town, Karachi.



AAA Octa 2, an architectural marvel overlooking the M9 Karachi Motorway, stands as a testimony to AAA Associates' vision of creating spaces of extraordinary grandeur and comfort. It offers an experience of ultimate grandeur, with both residential and serviced apartments which will be maintained by a 5-star hotel.

The distinctive features of AAA Octa 2 extend to its unique amenities, including the captivating infinity pools which provides a spectacular view of the Karachi skyline, further enhancing the allure of this prestigious investment opportunity.

This grand launch ceremony is not just an event but an exclusive spectacle where investors get to experience the star-studded gala featuring the noted celebrities of Pakistan's entertainment industry. The opportunity to witness this glamorous event is exclusive to those who invest in AAA Octa 2 Karachi, a unique approach to blend real estate investment with entertainment.

AAA Associates is also pleased to present an exceptional investment opportunity in the food court area of AAA Octa 2, where potential investors can invest from as low as 2.5 lac Rs. This offer has been designed to create affordable investment opportunities for all, making it a truly inclusive venture.

AAA Associates is a leading property developer known for its commitment to quality and innovation. They boast an impressive portfolio of projects that encapsulate luxury, comfort, and practicality, all the while providing lucrative investment opportunities. AAA Octa 2 Karachi is a testament to their persistent dedication to delivering nothing but the best.

Information Technology Industry proposes high pay-off tax exemptions

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), has proposed that, taking advantage of the upcoming federal budget 2023-24, the government should announce tax exemptions for IT and ITeS industry in income tax, tax on dividends, capital gains and profits; signaling the potential to achieve 30 percent exports growth in the year ahead, provided IT industry receives its fair share of incentives.

It is pertinent to note that IT industry stakeholders met Prime Minister vis-à-vis budgetary proposals on Tuesday – with the primary aim to swiftly boost IT & ITeS exports of Pakistan.

Mr. Khan apprised that PM Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has himself highlighted the IT industry – time and again – for the most lucrative industry for Pakistan vis-à-vis growth in exports is concerned. That is precisely the rationale behind P@SHA's proposal to the government that it should earmark upwards of PKR. 13 billion in the finance bill for the IT industry.

Mr. Ali Ihsan, Senior Vice Chairman of P@SHA, maintained that it is crucial for the government to address these IT industry's demands promptly. By doing so, we can unleash the full potential of IT exports; leading to sustainable economic growth, job creation and positioning Pakistan as a formidable player in the global digital landscape.

Meeting

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani along with the delegation meeting the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko, Russia on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the night of June 6, the Russian Federation blew up the dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant (KHPP), which is located near the town of Nova Kakhovka in the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region.

Dozens of settlements on both sides of the Dnipro River are at risk of flooding.

Units of the National Police and the State Emergency Service of the Kherson region are taking urgent measures to evacuate the civilian population from potential flooding zones. Residents of the temporarily occupied left bank of the Kherson Region are being alerted.

We consider the Russian Federation's detonation of the dam of the KHPP as a terrorist act against Ukrainian critical infrastructure, which

aims to cause as many civilian casualties and destruction as possible. The terrorist attack on the Kakhovka HPP was previously intensely discussed at the level of the occupation forces in the Kherson region and propagandists on Russian television, which indicates that it was planned in advance.

The explosion of the dam of the Kakhovka HPP is an ecological and technological act of terrorism, the biggest technological disaster in

Europe in recent decades, yet another example of Russia's genocide against Ukrainians. This is the Kremlin's response to countries calling for peace talks with the Russian Federation.

We also appeal to the countries of the Group of Seven and the EU to urgently consider the imposition of new far-reaching sanctions on the Russian Federation, in particular related to the Russian missile industry and the nuclear sector.

Philip Morris Pakistan Limited Reinforces Commitment to Sustainability on World Environment Day

News Desk

KARACHI: Philip Morris Pakistan Limited (PMPKL) successfully organized an event on World Environment Day 2023 at its Karachi Head Office, highlighting its strong commitment to environmental conservation and responsibility.

Under the "Beat Plastic Pollution" theme, PMPKL recognized the urgent need to address the challenge of protecting the environment. As an organiza-

tion striving for a sustainable future, PMPKL firmly believes in its responsibility to conserve the environment and encourage more sustainable living. The event served as a platform to engage employees and inspire active participation in promoting planet-friendly practices.

PMPKL invited all attendees to bring their plastic bottles and shoppers to the event.

Dedicated collection points were available, allowing participants to deposit their plastic

items for recycling. By actively participating in this initiative, PMPKL and its employees aimed to contribute to the reduction of plastic waste and promote recycling in the community.

The event program included an engaging composting activity, providing an opportunity for attendees to learn about the benefits of recycling organic waste through composting. Participants rolled up their sleeves and discovered how

to create nutrient-rich soil for gardening through this effective recycling method.

During his keynote speech, Roman Yazbeck, the Managing Director of Philip Morris Pakistan Limited (PMPKL), stated, "In alignment with this year's World Environment Day theme, "Beat Plastic Pollution," PMI recognizes the urgency to address plastic waste. Our commitment to reducing plastic consumption is deeply rooted in our vision for

a sustainable future. To effectively address plastic pollution, we have implemented strategies aimed at minimizing our environmental footprint."

PMPKL acknowledges that Governments, businesses, and individuals alike must work hand in hand to accelerate action and transition toward a circular economy.

Guest speaker at the event, and lifelong environmentalist, Tofiq Pasha also commented, "I firmly believe that rais-

ing awareness about the critical issue of plastic pollution is crucial in today's world.

However, it is also imperative to recognize that plastic pollution is just one aspect of the broader environmental challenges we face, including food security caused by climate change and human intervention. To mitigate these challenges, we must embrace collective action and adopt sustainable practices. It is high time for individuals, organizations, and

governments to prioritize environmental conservation and work collaboratively towards a greener and more sustainable future."

Philip Morris Pakistan Limited successfully embraced this World Environment Day with renewed determination, commitment, and collaboration to beat plastic pollution. PMPKL aims to create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for generations to come.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,923.46	41,667.94	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
42,026.94	41,751.20	
Index Value	Change	
6,024,414,650	+255.52	
Percentage	Time	
+0.61%	6 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,628.10	+28.11	
Percentage	Time	
+0.37%	6 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,520.20	-42.66	
Percentage	Time	
-0.13%	6 Jun, 1:07 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,506.78	+289.35	
Percentage	Time	
+0.90%	6 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	759.46	767.46
Canadian Dollar	227	230
China Yuan	40.28	40.68
Danish Krone	41.09	41.49
Euro	321	324
Hong Kong Dollar	36.4	36.75
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.06
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.09	937.09
Malaysian Ringgit	61.94	62.54
New Zealand \$	173.16	175.16
Norwegians Krone	25.88	26.18
Omani Riyal	742.38	750.38
Qatari Riyal	78.38	79.08
Saudi Riyal	79.2	81
Singapore Dollar	222.5	225
Swedish Korona	26.36	26.66
Swiss Franc	313.87	316.37
Thai Bhat	8.21	8.36
U.A.E Dirham	83	84
UK Pound Sterling	376	380
US Dollar	303	306

Promoting Productivity Specialists in Pakistan

Japan to support Pakistan in pursuit of sustainable national productivity

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) is working under the Ministry of Industries & Production, Government of Pakistan as Liaison Office of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan. One of the NPO's key developmental initiative is "Improving Competitiveness through Sustainable National Productivity (SNP)" - launching first productivity movement in Pakistan. It is a PSDP funded project with an objective to achieve competitiveness through sustainable national productivity. The project is providing the essential support for implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly 8.2, 8.4, 9.2, 9.4 & 9.5. It is supporting and complementing following sectoral reforms / initiatives aimed at increasing productivity across the industrial/manufacturing, services and agriculture sectors. It is aimed at enabling self-sustaining enterprises to be competitive by enhancing productivity thereby increasing output, boosting their share in the international market and raising the overall level of prosperity and well-being of the nation. Innovation, value addition and continuous improvement are keys to improve Productivity.

CEO NPO, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry has briefed the Role and Importance of Productivity Movement of Pakistan. CEO also presented the progress updates and achievements of PSDP project "Improving Competitiveness through Sustainable National Productivity (SNP)" - to the journalist and print and electronic media professionals.

He briefed that to increase awareness among all stakeholders, among category of general awareness 10,209 individuals have been educated and been given awareness about the concept of productivity. 3651 students of



schools and technical institutes have been imparted education focusing on productivity concept through various sessions spreading all over the Pakistan. With a focused targeted audience of industrial workers, 640 industrial workers have been trained through renowned productivity experts on productivity tools and techniques and good practices.

He added that, Two Productivity booklets; one for technical schools and industry and other one for public and schools have been developed/adopted after review by international experts which are being disseminated to stakeholders. whereas two curriculums/productivity modules have been developed and acknowledged by international experts i.e. NCC, NAVTTC and Provisional TEVTAs

for inclusion of these in their curricula, training and certification programs. Master Trainer Program on these modules / curricula with collaboration with NAVTTC is in progress across Pakistan to disseminate the message down the line by preparing pool of master trainers.

He told that a value addition of approximately more than Rs. 100 million has been made through a comprehensive campaign of fully funded on the shop floor capacity building program for productivity improvement implementation plan in the industry. various interested firms contacted in response to media advertisement and got benefit of improving their productivity through productivity gap analysis by NPO experts followed by shop floor capacity building for plugging these gaps iden-

tified in GAP analysis. He deliberated that various productivity awareness tools are being used to spread awareness to inculcate the culture of productivity. SNP has developed an online portal which is live now and is a knowledge hub to get awareness and support on the matters of productivity. under this project, productivity weeks were celebrated. During this productivity week, walks in major cities (Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Faisalabad and Multan) were conducted to promote the message, these walks were coupled with awareness sessions by renowned national productivity experts. Different productivity competition (poster, debate and article) was held. Debate and poster competition were held in NED university, UET Lahore, IBA sukkar, University of Swabi and MNS university of agriculture Multan. whereas an article/idea suggestion generation competition was organized at national level and best article finalization is under review by the panel of experts.

He briefed that the Government of Pakistan is very much committed towards improving the economic landscape of Pakistan through focusing sustainable development approaches of increasing business competitiveness, investment facilitation, value addition, export promotion and import substitution. To augment this commitment of Government of Pakistan, and initiative taken in this regard, the role of key stakeholders i.e., Industry, Academia and Employers Federation is very important to make initiatives taken by the NPO under PSDP project SNP success for the achievement of the desired target both on National and International level.

After briefing by CEO NPO, the questions from the panel of journalists and print media professionals were answered.

Solar Energy Exhibition

Lahore: Mr. Rana Abbas, CEO AE Solar Energy, Mr. Amir Ch, Chairman Pakistan Solar Association, and Ceo Reader Solar, Miss. Grace Wan Director Sales Canadian Solar, Robin Xing, Director Sales Huawei, and Mr. Naveed Karar, Director of AE Solar Alternative Energy posing a group photo in Solar Energy Exhibition.



We should make collective efforts for environment protection: Rubina Amjad

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: We should make collective efforts for environment protection particularly to reduce the adverse impact for enabling environment to increase industrial and economic growth, said Mrs. Rubina Amjad, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI). She was talking to the media on the World Environment Day.

She said that pollution

is bad for businesses particular to the women led businesses as it causes more dangerous to the females running their own businesses as breathing polluted air directly affect to the human life. She said it has also affected the climate change due to which twin pressures of global warming and melting of glaciers has caused devastating floods in the past.



Real Estate Consultants Association demands changes in taxes on the real estate sector

Asad Hashmi

RAWALPINDI: Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) President of DHA Islamabad Rawalpindi Lt. Col. (R) Asif Iqbal Kayani, General Secretary Adil Bhatti and others have demand from the government that the real estate sector is the backbone of the country's economy. The countries which gave importance to their real estate sector have developed today.

A new tax system should be introduced in the country. The government should review the taxes applied in the real estate sector. We want to play our role in fixing the economy of Pakistan.

The real estate sector helped the most in getting out of FATF's gray list and because of us, Pakistan has been able to get out of FATF's gray list. Abad Realtors Association Musrat Ejaz Khan, Senior Vice President Reza Masood Ahmed, Vice President Reza Asrar Mansab, General Secretary Reza Aadil Nawaz Bhatti, Joint Secretary Bilal Ahmed, Finance Secretary Ali Hassan, Secretary Information Syed Haider Ali Zaidi and others while holding a press conference. (R) Asif Iqbal Kayani: We are not related to any political party but to the business community.

The real estate sector is a milk cow. Even the real estate sector was regularized and those countries developed, but in Pakistan this sector has reached the brink of destruction due to the lack of attention of the government. If the government tries to strangle this sector, they will be forced to protest on the streets.

RECA Secretary Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that the general impression is that the real estate sector does not want to pay tax, but every employee of RECA is a tax payer and we want to pay tax to the government, the government should increase its tax net and reduce the tax rate.

So that it gets more revenue and the country develops, the government should regularize the real estate sector and give incentives, we can collect more revenue and give it to the government.

Govt: has to restore its writ, for the development of Pakistan: Chairman NEPRA

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NEPRA Taseef H. Farooqui has said that for the development of Pakistan, the government have to restore its writ. Government effectiveness is the first step for the development of Pakistan. A consumer who does not pay the electricity bill should be disconnected immediately. By Targeted subsidy relief should provide to poor people. The production of electricity in the country has reached 43 thousand megawatts, which is a record.

He expressed these views while talking to the president of the chamber, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, on the occasion of his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday. Chairman NEPRA said that everyone is proud of stealing electricity in our country, 600 billion rupees are the dues of electricity consumers. The government should immediately disconnect the consumer who does not pay the electricity bill. For this, help can be taken from law enforcement agencies. He said that the government can control the deficit by introducing fixed bills and smart meters.

On this occasion, President Islam-



abad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Islamabad Chamber is a representative body of the business community and it should be represented in the board of NEPRA. There should be a single window system to resolve the issues faced by the business community. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Gilgit-Baltistan is a region rich in mineral and water resources, there is a capacity to generate 40,000 megawatts of electricity.

By investing in these water resources,

we can get the country out of economic problems by generating electricity. He said that the International Tourism Summit in Skardu will help bring the resources of this area to the world. On this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber invited Chairman NEPRA to participate in the summit, which he accepted. Former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari, Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, Khalid Chaudhry, Malik Shabbir, Maqsood Tabish, Usman Khalid and others were also present in the meeting.

Mobilink Bank and iConsult boost financial prospects for women in KPK



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, in collaboration with iConsult, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and financial support from the USAID is implementing a social initiative to enhance the financial literacy of 3,000 individuals (1500 women). The initiative will empower the local communities of Nowshera, Charsadda, DI Khan, and Khyber districts by equipping them with the necessary

financial skills and knowledge to make informed decisions. In addition to educating the participants about the advantages of digital banking, the bank's field team will also assist them in setting up their digital accounts, through a smooth onboarding on the DOST App. Furthermore, as part of its commitment to promoting equal opportunities, Mobilink Bank will be offering an exclusive two-month internship program to 30 eligible women, nationwide.

Meezan Bank collaborates with Fauree to develop a Digital Platform



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank has recently established a partnership with Fauree Tech Pvt Limited, a Fintech company specializ-

ing in supply chain solutions. The partnership shall serve to establish a digital platform for financing suppliers involved in well-organized logistical supply chains associated with reputable corporations.

'India vs Pakistan would be louder': Virat Kohli after watching FA Cup final

A Sports

DUBAI: India's star batter Virat Kohli drew a comparison between the biggest rivalry in cricket – India versus Pakistan – and the recently-held FA Cup final, asserting the former to be louder.

Virat Kohli with her wife Anushka Sharma watched the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium between Manchester City and Manchester United and cheered for the Premier League winner.

Their team carried on their brilliant form to outclass United 3-2 and clinched the FA Cup title.

Following the conclusion of the action-filled final, Virat Kohli, in a video statement released by Manchester City, shared his thoughts on the experience and the electrifying atmosphere at the stadium.

"The atmosphere during India's premier matches clashes, like with Pakistan, is similar to what fans experience



during the football games here [in the UK]," said Virat Kohli.

"India versus Pakistan during a World

Cup would be louder, but the passion and support of fans here is incredible to watch," he added.

Virat Kohli further revealed that he closely follows City matches closely, especially after his interaction with the club's manager Pep Guardiola.

"Watching Manchester City play is a great thing because I follow the team pretty closely ever since I had a chat with Pep to understand his mindset," Kohli concluded.

It is worth mentioning here that Manchester City, fresh with two title-winning victories, will lock horns with Inter Milan in the final of the UEFA Champions League on June 10.

Meanwhile, start Indian batter Virat Kohli will turn up for India in the World Test Championship Final against Australia at Lord's, scheduled to commence on June 7.

Kohli took a break from India's scheduled training session for the WTC Final to attend the highly-anticipated FA Cup final.

Torch lighting ceremony of Pink Games held

Tahir Amin amlk

ISLAMABAD: The second torch lighting ceremony of inaugural Pink Games held at the Lahore College for Women University (LCWU).

The Pink Games will be staged at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex from June 7 to 10, 2023 under the auspices of Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab. The opening ceremony of the first Pink Games will be held at Punjab Stadium on June 7 (Wednesday) evening.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz was the chief guest on this occasion. He also inaugurated the E-Learning Centre at Lahore College for Women University (LCWU).

Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haider, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Vice-Chancellor LCWU Dr Bushra Mirza, LCWU faculty and a large number of students also attended the Pink Games torch lighting ceremony.

Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haider has been appointed Ambassador for Pink Games in



which around 700 female athletes from ten universities will exhibit their skills in seven games – athletics, archery, badminton, basketball, cricket, hockey and table tennis during the 4-day Pink Games.

Addressing the torch lighting ceremony, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that Pakistan women have been blessed with great sports talent and the first edition of Pink Games will provide a suitable platform to talented girls of

the province to demonstrate their hidden sports potential.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that there are several tournaments and opportunities for male players but this kind of facility and platform was not available for our talented girls. "In this regard we have a very fruitful meeting with DC Lahore Rafia Haider and we both agreed to initiate a sports event purely for females where they can showcase their true sports potential",

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz informed that the Pink Games will be organised every year so that our girls can exhibit and polish their sports skills adequately on a regular basis. "We are planning to hold the Pink Games in March next year on the eve of International Women's Day. Besides this, we will enhance the prize money of Pink Games to Rs 10 million and this financial incentive will definitely prove to be a great motivation for female athletes," he added.

Sindh's fake weightlifters participated in the National Games: Lala Asadullah Khan

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The affairs of the parallel Associations in Sindh have once again disappointed the weightlifters of Sindh and the fake athletes of the in active association reached Quetta to participate in the National Games, in this regard, Sindh Weightlifting Association President Lala Asadullah Khan and Secretary Muhammad Aamir said that parallel association under the shadow of Sindh Olympic Association is dangerous of sports. For the National Games, the dormant Provincial Weightlifting Association affiliated to SOA has formed Sindh Men's and Women's teams without any trials. Inter-district or inter-division championships could not be organized in Sindh. They said that our affiliation is with the Interim Committee of Pakistan Weightlifting Federation. The involved Pakistan Weightlifting Federation was suspended after the allegations were proved, the officials of this federation should be held accountable for their involvement in corruption and doping and destroying the careers of the country's athletes. We appeal Provincial Sports Adviser Arbab Lutfullah, Director Sports Sindh Maimuna Shah and Secretary Sports to Pakistan Weightlifting Federation and Sindh Olympic Association to curb the continuous sports hostility and end this type of injustice. If this is not done, not only weightlifting but also other sports will lose their reputation in Pakistan including Sindh.

Aman Premier League tournament started with the collaboration of the sports Dept has ended

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Akbari Young Shaheen Dara Pezo won the Aman Premier League tournament started with the collaboration of Sports Department Tank, After a sensational competition.

Final Match Assistant Sports Officer Faheem Khan was the chief guest of the final match played between Young Shaheen Dara Pezo and Akbari Star, and fans participated in large numbers to watch the final match and applauded the players for their excellent game.

On this occasion, Assistant Sports Officer Faheem Khan said that all possible measures will be taken to attract the youth towards positive activities, Sports activities will also be arranged in Akbari and other rural areas of the district to provide a healthy environment to the youth.

He said that it was heartening to see the youth's attachment to the game, and at the end of the match, trophies and shields were distributed to the winning team and the players along with cash prizes.

Novak Djokovic nears Carlos Alcaraz French Open semi-final clash



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Novak Djokovic closed in on a potential blockbuster French Open semi-final against Carlos Alcaraz after beating Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6 (7/0), 6-2, 6-4 on Tuesday to reach the last four.

Novak Djokovic, chasing a third French Open crown and record 23rd men's Grand Slam singles title, advanced to a 45th major semi-final and his 12th at Roland Garros.

He will take on world number one Alcaraz or Stefanos Tsitsipas, the player he beat from two sets down in the 2021 final, for a place in Sunday's championship match.

Novak Djokovic dropped his first set of the tournament but dominated the second-set tie-break against Khachanov before putting his foot down to secure a ninth win in 10 meetings with the Russian 11th seed.

"I think he was a better player for most of the first two sets," said Djokovic.

"I was struggling to find my rhythm. I came into the match quite slow but played a perfect tie-break and from that moment onwards played a couple levels higher.

"It's a big fight, something you expect in the quarter-finals. You're not going to have your victories handed to you, you have to earn them." Novak Djokovic improved his record at Roland Garros to 90-16 after denying Khachanov his spot in a third successive Grand Slam semi-final. He will return to number one if he wins the title in Paris.

In the night session, tournament favourite Carlos Alcaraz goes up against Greek fifth seed Tsitsipas in his stiffest challenge so far.

Carlos Alcaraz has won all four past meetings — two of which have been on clay, most recently triumphing in the Barcelona Open final in April.

"We have played great matches. I won every match that we have played. But it doesn't mean that I'm going to win every match that we play," said Alcaraz.

Babar Azam nominated for ICC player of the month award

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Tuesday Babar Azam, the captain of Pakistan's cricket team, as one of the nominees for the prestigious ICC Player of the Month Award.

If successful, Babar will become the first player to win the ICC Men's Player of the Month award on three separate occasions (April 2021 and March 2022).

Babar's nomination for the ICC Player of the Month follows his exceptional performance in the five-match home ODI series against New Zealand. Pakistan emerged triumphant with a dominant 4-1 lead, winning the first two matches in April and concluding with two more victories in May.

The cricketer's remarkable batting prowess proved instrumental in Pakistan's triumph. A notable highlight was his partnership with Imam-ul-Haq on May 3, as they forged an impressive second-wicket century stand, with the skipper scoring 54 runs off 62 balls.

Pakistan posted a formidable total of 287/6, and Babar further showcased his strategic prowess by utilising six bowlers, leading his team to restrict the Kiwis to 261, clinching a comfortable victory.

UAE vs WI: King, Charles fifties power West Indies to set 307-run target

A Sports

DUBAI: West Indies' openers Brandon King and Johnson Charles scored magnificent half-centuries and propelled West Indies to post a massive total of 36 in the second ODI against United Arab Emirates (UAE).

West Indies' batters dominated the inexperienced UAE bowling attack and backed their skipper Shai Hope's decision to bat first in the second ODI of the three-match series, led by the visitors 1-0. The opening pair



of in-form Brandon King and Johnson Charles scripted a solid

start to the West Indies' batting charge as they put on a brilliant

129-run partnership until Ali Naseer got rid of the latter on the final delivery of the 17th over.

Johnson Charles was the core aggressor of the opening stand and he smashed eight boundaries and three sixes on his way to a brisk 47-ball 63.

Brandon King then put on a brief second-wicket partnership with Shamrah Brooks before perishing in the 22nd over.

He remained the top-scorer for the West Indies with a gritty 64 off 70 deliveries, laced up with four boundaries and as many sixes.

Following King's dismissal, the West Indies began to lose wickets at regular intervals which halted the flow of runs for the touring side.

All-rounder Odean Smith's crucial 37-run knock at the back-end made sure that the West Indies breach the 300-run mark.

He scored a quickfire 37 in just 24 balls with the help of three boundaries and a six.

Zahoor Khan led the bowling attack for the UAE with 3/44, while Ali Naseer, Sanchit Sharma and Aayan Afzal Khan bagged two wickets each.

Karim Benzema signs for Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Real Madrid's Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema will join Cristiano Ronaldo in Saudi Arabia after signing a three-year deal with Al-Ittihad, the Jeddah-based club confirmed on Tuesday.

"Benzema is here. A new tiger will roar. Welcome to Ittihad!" the club wrote on Twitter.

Karim Benzema will join his former Real Madrid teammate Ronaldo in the Gulf kingdom after the five-time world player of the year moved to Al Nassr from Manchester United following last year's World Cup.

Lionel Messi, who is leaving Paris Saint-Germain after two seasons, has also been linked with a move to Saudi Arabia.

Senior officials from another

Al-Ittihad club, Al Hilal, have flown to France to try and seal a deal for Messi after the 35-year-old Argentinian played his last game for PSG at the weekend, two sources with knowledge of the matter told AFP on Sunday.

The Saudi delegation plans to meet Messi's father and agent, Jorge, with the aiming of completing the signing as soon as possible.

The announcement regarding Karim Benzema comes days after Real Madrid said that the 35-year-old Benzema was leaving the club after 14 seasons, the day after coach Carlo Ancelotti had insisted there was "no doubt" Benzema's future was in the Spanish capital.

Karim Benzema joined Madrid in 2009 from Ligue 1 side Lyon.

He made 648 appearances for Madrid and is second on Real's all-time goalscoring list with 354 — only Ronaldo has more.

He has lifted five Champions Leagues, four La Liga titles and three Copas del Rey with Madrid.

But after a stellar 2021-22 season when he led Real to Champions League glory and was rewarded with the Ballon d'Or, he was troubled by injuries in the just-completed season and had to miss France's World Cup campaign in Qatar last year with a thigh problem.

Karim Benzema held a goodbye ceremony at Real's training ground on Tuesday.

"It hurts me, because I had a dream in my head — to sign for Madrid, and finish at Madrid," he told an audience of his team-

mates and club officials.

"But sometimes life gives you other opportunities," he added.

Saudi Arabia has drawn up a list of more than 10 players who have won either the Champions League or the World Cup that it wants to lure to its league, a source close to the negotiations has told AFP.

The list includes Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder Luka Modric, Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris and his France teammate N'Golo Kante. All are at the tail-end of their careers.

The world's biggest oil producer has ambitions to host the World Cup in 2030 or 2034 and is betting on sport to help revamp its austere image, which has earned accusations from rights groups that it is "sportswashing".

