ر صحح بخاری: حدیث نم ₇₁₈,718 **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Naveed Qamar emphasizes importance of fair access to development

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar emphasized the importance of fair access to development for all member nations Commonwealth. The discussions addressed significant trade and development issues affecting Pakistan and other Commonwealth countries.... (Details on Page 8)



May 9 planners were in contact with foreign agencies: Rana Sanaullah

in Zaman Park was present, alleging that the evidence contains conversation of PTI Chairman Imran Khan. (Details on Page 8)

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Commanders Conference

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS presided over the 81st Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ, which was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army on Wednesday.



Irrefutable evidence presented against May 9 attackers, instigators: Pak Army

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS presided over the 81st Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ, which was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers and tional and non-traditional. all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army.

Forum paid ric including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Shuhada from civil society who laid their lives for the safety, security and dignity of the country. The forum offered Fateha for the shuhadas' departed souls. Forum asserted, "The State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will always keep Shuhadas and their families in highest esteem and will continue to honor them and their sacrifices with utmost and will remain central to all their firm resolve that desecrators

respect and dignity".

Participants were briefed on prevalent environment, challenges to security i.e. both internal & external and own operational preparedness in response to evolving threats, both tradi-

structural changes and niche technologies being incorporated supreme sacrifices of shuhadas to enhance operational preparedness besides up-gradation of essential logistic infrastructure corresponding to emerging security imperatives.

COAS reiterated "Pakistan Army will remain committed towards their national obligations of safeguarding territorial integrity and sovereignty" of the country. He further said, "People of Pakistan and their deep bondage with the Armed Forces is

25th May were a clear manifestation of same".

Forum concluded that "Unfounded and baseless allegations on Law Enforcement and Official Secret Act which are Agencies and Security Forces for custodial torture, human rights tion of Pakistan. In this regard, Forum was also briefed on the abuses and stifling of political efforts to create distortions and activities are meant to mislead attempts to take refuge behind the people and malign Armed Forces in order to achieve trivial vested political interests".

"Hostile forces and their abettors have been trying hard to create societal division and confusion through fake news and propaganda but all such designs will continue to be defeated with the full support of the nation, InshaAllah." COAS asserted.

The forum while condemning the 9th May Black Day incidents in the strictest sense reiterated

our undertakings and events of of Shuhada Monuments, Jinnah tutions to achieve their nefari-House and attackers of military installations would certainly be brought to justice speedily under the Pakistan Army Act the derivatives of the Constituimaginary and mirage Human Rights Violations to create smoke screen for hiding the ugly faces of all involved, are absolutely futile and do not stand the abundantly collected irrefutable evidences. It has been further stressed that, while the legal trials of perpetrators and instigators have commenced, it is time that noose of law is also tightened around the planners and masterminds

who mounted the hate ripened

and politically driven rebellion

against the state and state insti-

ous design of creating chaos in the country. Forum also resolved that endeavours by any quarter to create obstructions and stymie the conclusive defeat of ill design of inimical forces will be dealt with iron hands.

COAS stressed on maintaining high standards of professionalism and motivation during operations and achieving excellence during training of their formations. He commended the commanders for their constant focus on the wellbeing and high state of morale of their soldiers who remain the foundation of Army's operational readiness.

Forum concluded by affirming resolve to render all sacrifices necessary for the security and stability of the country with the perpetual support of the proud people of Pakistan.

A 'foreign-funded' PTI chief stands exposed for 'treachery & enmity' towards Pakistan: Marriyum

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief now stood exposed for his "treachery and enmity towards Pakistan as he has been persistently pursuing anti-state agenda at the behest of his foreign masters".

"He is least concerned about the national interests, particularly the sensitivity of defence and economic issues," she said while addressing a news conference. The minister said the PTI chief

was begging the United States to ban military aid to Pakistan, which manifested his anti-state mindset.

She said he was not pursuing a political agenda rather he



was "toeing the line of his foreign masters who wanted to see Pakistan as a failed state". He was hatching conspiracies against the country under a well-planned strategy by brainwashing the youth with the help artificial intelligence using foreign funds.

was completed, she said, his facilitators resorted to accomplish his anti-state missions by executing the conspiracies and the May 9 trage-

dy was a case study in that regard. The entire nation witnessed as how his facilitators had deputed the workers at sensitive installations to set them on fire just for accomplish-

ing his mission, she added. Now, she said, he was fully exposed before the masses and that vas why his nefarious designs could

not work at all. She said he might think that he could mislead the world while speaking to foreign media with two flags in the background. "Yet your conspiracies, anti-state activities and treachery have been exposed before the people and you no longer Once the brainwashing of youth can mislead the nation," she reiterated.

> His anti-state missions were destined to fail as the country was protected by its 220 million people,

Marriyum said like a suicide bomber, the PTI chief had inflicted massive damage to the economy, rendering a large number of people unemployed and halting the country's development process.

The minister said the provision of maximum relief to the people in the budget was the government's topmost priority and in that regard, consultative meetings were under-

She said the economy was in a shamble when the coalition government took charge last year, which had now been put in the right direc-

The government's focus was on reducing the prices of flour, cooking oil, wheat and other edible items, she added.

US values its longstanding partnership with Pakistan: Spokesperson

News Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States Tuesday brushed asides renewed allegations of a "US conspiracy" that led to the overthrow of the previous Pakistani government, saying Washington valued its ties

with Pakistan.

"These allegations are

cally false; you have heard me say this before," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reports at his daily news briefing.

Replying to a question from the correspondent of a private Pakistani TV channel, he said, "Pakistani politics are a matter for the Pakistani people to decide, within the auspices of their

"The US values our long-standing cooperation with Pakistan, and we've always viewed a prosperous and democratic Pakistan as critical to US interests - and that remains unchanged," the spokesperson added.

PM directs formulation of comprehensive development package for KP merged districts



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive development package for the uplift of merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a seven-member delegation of political leadership from the merged districts, headed by former MNA Shah Gul Afridi, assured that he as well as the incumbent government considered the development of merged districts a national priority.

Parliament Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Advisor to PM Engineer Amir Muqam and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

The delegation members appreciated the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) for presenting a strategy for the merger of Federally Adminis-

tered Tribal Areas (FATA) into KP which was later achieved through legislation.

They told the prime minis-

ter that during the last four years, the previous government neglected the development of merged districts which also impeded the implementation of the development strategy presented by the PML-N. The delegation members

apprised the prime minister of the issues faced by their respective constituencies, particularly the water shortage in Peshawar.

They also emphasised the measures for the promotion of trade activity in the areas bordering Afghanistan. The prime minister assured them to take steps in this regard to uplift the living standard of the people on both sides of the border through trade.

The prime minister assured the delegation of full implementation of the comprehensive development strategy for the merged districts.

FM Bilawal wraps up three-day visit to Iraq



BAGHDAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday left for Pakistan after completing his three-day official visit to Iraq.

At the Najaf airport, he was seen off by the Iraqi authorities, Pakistan ambassador Ahmed Amjad Ali and Iraq's

ambassador to Pakistan Hamid Abbas Lafta, a press release said.

During his visit, the foreign minister held meetings with the Iraqi leadership and discussed to further strengthen the bilateral ties and cooperation between the two brotherly countries in diverse fields.

Census: PBS advised for post-enumeration survey to validate collected data

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Census Monitoring Committee, which met under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Wednesday reviewed the progress of the country's first-ever Digital Population and Housing Census after its field operation was completed, except three districts of Kohistan and

some snowbound areas. "The successful conclusion of fieldwork for the digital census is elation and a moment of great pride for the nation as it is the largest South Asian digital census of its kind," a Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) news

release said. It said the digital system smoothly functioned through-

out the field operation successfully without any disruption and helped unearth various under-coverage patterns during the task for real-time rectification. "The overall progress of the census is very encouraging and satisfactory? During the meeting, the

CMC decided that the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) for the digital population census would be conducted in the light of Council of Common Interests (CCI) decision to assess the extent of over and under reporting, if any, as well as for validating the provisional data of first-ever digital Census. The PBS will work out the modalities for the conduct of PES and will prepare a comprehensive plan and strategy for consideration and approval of

SC clubs Punjab election case, pleas against judgment review law Ata Bandial heard the Punjab elec-Barrister Zafar replied that the heard as per the old law?" the SC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan clubbed together pleas against the recently-enacted Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023 with the ECP petition asking the top court to revisit its April 4 order of holding polls in Punjab on May 14.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar tion case and clubbed plea with Review Order Act case. At the outset of the hearing, Chief

Justice Bandial remarked that the Punjab election review case and Supreme Court (Review of Judgements and Orders) Bill, 2023, be heard simultaneously.

The chief justice summoned PTI lawyer Ali Zafar to rostrum not applicable to this case? Do you and sought his stance on the issue.

new law is inconsistent with the Constitution and a continuation of the Supreme Court (Review of Judgements and Orders) law. "How can the court contin-

ue hearing the ECP case if the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023 has come into force? Is the new law think the ECP's petition should be

judge asked Zafar. At one point, Barrister Zafar

asked the bench to decide the ECP's petition. "Five judges [...] seven judges [...] they are playing mathematics," he contended. He reiterated that the review of judgments law was unconstitutional. To which, CJP Bandial asked, "Are you trying to say that the appeal was given a new name under a new law?'

and for them to pursue own constitution and laws.

The Spokesman

ECC meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Wednesday.



ECC approves Rs 14,802.32 mln for Ministry of Housing & Works

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) Wednesday approved the Technical Supplementary grant of Rs. Rs. 14, 802.32 million in favor of Ministry of Housing and Works for development schemes of CFY 2022-

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the al Secretaries and other senior meeting of the ECC of the officers attended the meeting. Cabinet, said a press release.

Commerce Syed Naveed Khan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi MNA/Ex-PM, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Feder-

of Rs. 1000 million as in Qamar, Federal Minister favour of Ministry of Housfor Power Khuram Dastagir ing and Works for development schemes in Punjab Province under (SAP) during CFY 2022-23.

The ECC also approved Rs. 1209.450 Million in favor of Ministry of Housing and Works for the execution of 15 development schemes of CFY 2022-23.

The ECC approved Rs. 5 billion in favor of Cabinet al Education & Professional

Federal Minister for nical supplementary grant opment Goals Achievement Higher Education Develop-Programme (SAP) during CFY 2022-23.

The committee approved Rs. 1773 million in favour of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) for the execution of development schemes of Punjab and KP provinces under PSDP during CFY

The ECC also considered and approved Rs. 3.96 billion in favour of Ministry of Feder-The ECC approved tech- Division for Sustainable Devel- Training under WB Project -

ment in Pakistan for 2022-23.

The committee approved Rs. 130 million in favour of Ministry of Narcotics Control as TSG for CFY 20223-23.

The ECC approved Rs. 8 million in favour of Ministry of Narcotics Control for Operational Cost of Anti-Narcotics Force for the CFY 2022-23.

The ECC approved Rs. 6 million in favor of Revenue Division to meet the shortfall of Budget grant of CFY

Turkmenistan's delegation discuss TAPI, TAP projects

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD : A delegation two-day visit on Wednesday discussed the implementation of the TAPI Gas Pipeline Project and the TAP Power Transmission Line Project with the Pakistani authorities.

The delegation, was headed by Mr Maksat Babayev, State Minister - Chairman of State Concern "Turkmengas", and Mr Annageldi Saparov, Deputy Minister of Energy of Turkmenistan, held a meeting with Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister of Energy (Power Division) of Pakistan, and Dr Musadik Malik, State Minister of Energy (Petroleum Division), at Ministry of Energy, said a press release larly the projects for the stan power transmission and Project. The construction of

During the meeting, they discussed a wide range of India (TAPI) transnational significant progress has been line from the Galkynysh gas issues of bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, particu- menistan-Afghanistan-Paki- implementation of the TAPI Turkmenistan-Afghanistan



construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan- line (TAP). It was agreed that stan section of the TAPI pipegas pipeline, and the Turk- made in terms of the practical

fiber-optic communication

the 214-km long Turkmenifield in Turkmenistan to the border has been completed.

TAP power transmission line will run in parallel to the TAPI gas pipeline project which would not only provide the TAPI Gas Pipeline and its facilities with electric energy but would also play a significant role in satisfying Pakistan's domestic and industrial demand for electricity and reducing electricity costs, it added.

The Pakistan side emphasized that the TAPI and TAP Projects had full support of the Government of Pakistan as they were crucial for the socio-economic prosperity of the region and for ensuring energy security and econom-

ic growth in Pakistan. The parties agreed to maintain regular contact between Technical Working Groups of Turkmenistan and Pakistan on the implementation of joint energy projects,

on IMF demand **Example 2** Commerce Desk

petroleum levy

Govt likely

to increase

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering increasing the levy on all petroleum products to fulfil another demand that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) set in the FY-2023-24 budget.

Sources privy to the matter have informed ARY News that the Ministry of Finance has proposed raising the levy rate by an additional Rs10 per litre to collect around Rs755 billion from this source during the fiscal year 2023 24. The current rate of PDL stands at Rs50 per

The government had set a target of collecting Rs855 billion through the petroleum levy in the current fiscal year, they say.

However, during the first nine months of this fiscal vear, the collection only reached Rs362 billion, it

Naveed Qamar emphasizes importance of fair access to development

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar emphasized the importance of fair access to development for all member nations Commonwealth.

The discussions addressed significant trade and development issues affecting Pakistan and other Commonwealth countries, said a press release.

Expressing gratitude to the Commonwealth Secretary General for hosting the event in London, the minister commended the organization's dedication to a fair and transparent multilateral trading system.

He stressed the significance of maintaining a high-level dialogue that fostered unity and avoided divisive matters.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted the including the COVID-19 the global cost of living crisis, countries.



the issues of the Afghan refugee, and the economic consequences of floods.

food security challenges, he decision-making, developcalled for extensive reforms challenges faced by Pakistan, in the agricultural sector, functional dispute settlement ensuring that subsidies did pandemic, crisis in Ukraine, not distort trade or harm other

commitment to the multilateral trading system, the minis-Urging the need to address ter stressed consensus-based ment-focused policies, and a

He highlighted the impor-

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Reaffirming Pakistan's cal issues to achieve meaningful outcomes at the upcoming

The minister's participation in the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting reflects Pakistan's commitment to equitable access to development and strengthening the tance of converging on criti- multilateral trading system.

May 9 planners were in contact with foreign agencies: Rana Sanaullah

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday alleged that the "May 9 planners and abetters were in contact with foreign agencies", terming the 'attack on military installations an act of rebellion'.

Talking to a private news channel, the interior minister said that irrefutable evidence against planning of May 9 incidents in Zaman Park was present, alleging that the evidence contains conversation of PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

Rana Sanaullah also called former prime minister Imran Khan 'the mastermind and architect of May 9 violence', saying that the latter had chalked out the conspiracy while sitting in his residence at Lahore's Zaman Park.

He further said that the attacks were not just a crowd but fullytrained personnel - who attacked and ransacked army's defence installations with 'shameless audacity'.

minister said that the person was



past through gestures.

Earlier, Rana Sanaullah - while addressing a ceremony - said that no relief will be provided to the May 9 rioters.

"The May 9 rioters have violated the state's law, vandalized military installations and robbed public buildings," he claimed.

He said that there is no relief for those who turned against the state. Referring to the PTI chief, the Rana Sanaullah got emotional while talking about the Martyrs' memorials talking about such reactions in the being vandalized by rioters on May 9.

Jahangir Tareen new party's name unveiled

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Seasoned politician Jahangir Khan Tareen's new party's name unveiled on Wednesday, ARY News reported citing sources.

According to sources, the name of Jahangir Tareen's new party will be "Istehkam-e-Pakistan".

Sources said that the name will be announced at the dinner tonight for the party members and Jahangir Tareen is expected to hold a press conference on Friday.

Earlier today, former Punjab MPA Murad Raas, who recently bid farewell to PTI over May 9 violence, announced to join the Jahangir Tareen group.

The former Punjab education minister made the decision after holding a meeting with senior politician minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Jahangir Tareen at the latter's resi- announced his support for senior polidence in Lahore. Abdul Aleem Khan tician Jehangir Tareen, saying that and Advisor to PM Awn Chaudhry were also present in the meeting.

Sources told ARY News today that Tareen — once PTI chief's closest aide - will announce his new political party, mostly comprising the former ruling party's defectors, tomorrow, Jahangir Tareen, who has been



active in the formation of his new party following the May 9 events, recently held meetings with senior politicians to chalk out future strategy.

On Saturday, former AJK prime he will move forward with the latter

It is pertinent to mention here that Tareen was the secretary general of the Seasoned politician Jahangir Khan PTI before he was ousted from politics in 2017 after the Supreme Court disqualified him for being "dishonest" on a petition filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hanif Abbasi.

Constitution of Pakistan should be protected at all costs: Liagat Baloch

腾 Kiran Asim

Jamaat-e-Islami, President of Majlis-e-Qaima National Political Affairs, Liaqat Baloch while addressing the political election advisory meeting said that the country's political situation is continuously deteriorating. There are real concerns, threats to holding general elections in the constitutional period, the May 9 tragedies have completely changed the political landscape, the coalition government is afraid of public anger due to its failures on the administrative and economic fronts and may actually run away from the elections. Looking for ways. Imran Khan's popularity, unwise use of power has made the civil-military establishment more powerful.

MULTAN: Deputy Amir of

sensational results in the past as well. Want solutions to problems.



Liaquat Baloch said that after 1970, the military establishment made many experiments, used every tactic for arbitrary governance, which failed and caused irreparable damage to national institutions, national security and economic foundations. The formula of factional, divided mandate will bring more dangerous results than before, the people are half-dead by the economic disaster, the concern and struggle of the people is limited The use of state power has led to only to pushing their system of life.

Govt to launch economic survey 2022-23 today

ISLAMABAD: The federal govern- opments, performance, and economic of Pakistan 2022-23 — a pre-budget document containing the details of major socio-economic achievements during the outgoing fiscal year — on Thursday (today). Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will chair the launching ceremony of the pre-budget document, according to a statement issued by the

Finance Ministry. The document will provide details about the major socio-economic devel-

ment will unveil the Economic Survey trends of various sectors of the economy, including agriculture, manufacturing and industry, services, energy, information technology and telecom, capital markets, health, education, transport and communication etc.

Annual trends of major economic indicators regarding inflation, trade and payments, public debt, population, employment, climate change, and social protections will also be described in detail in the survey.

Students and mothers rally urged government to increase tax on sugary drinks

👺 Hussna Khattak

ISLAMABAD: On this world food safety day 2023, a rally of civil society, health professionals, students and mothers held in front of National Press Club urging government to increase the excise tax on all sugary drinks in the finance bill 2023-24. The rally themed "sugary drinks taxes save lives' was organized by Pakistan National Heart Association to celebrate world food safety day. Those who attended the rally included Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan, Senior Vice President PANAH, Consultant at global health advocacy incubator (GHAI) Mr. Munawar Hussain, Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Sidra Akhtar, Dr. Zahida Ibrahim, Molana Hafiz M. Iqbal Rizvi, Students and teachers of Aysha Lasani School and Tayaba School system, health professionals, civil society representatives

Speaking to the rally, Sana Ullah Ghumman, General Secretary Pakistan National Heart Association said "world is celebrating food safety day to remind us the importance of safe food to our body. The sugary drinks



of sugary drinks through imposing higher federal excise duty in the

finance bill 2023-24. The rally partic-

ipants requested Prime Minister and

the Finance Minister to prioritizing

the public health over the corporate

interest by increasing tax on all sugary

drinks and reject any pressure of the

which means their entire life would a

beverage industry.

are the top source of intake of sugar agenda of reducing consumption in our diet leading to increased obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart diseases and several other chronic diseases. Pakistan is already into a major health crises having at top globally with 31 percent adult Pakistanis living with diabetes."He added"No country could afford to treat such a high number of

The participants of the rally raised concern on the efforts of beverage industry to derail the public health

health. Government must take measures to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and other unhealthy diet." said Shamima mother of 16 years old girl in the rally participating with her daughter. "I am there to express my support to policy makers for increasing the tax on all sugary drinks to reduce its consumption." she added. A day earlier Dr. Ibrar Ahmad, President Pakistan Endocrine Society said

challenge for them to maintain their

that diabetes numbers are horrifying in Pakistan. The consumption of sugar specially the sugary drinks are the major contributors to the rising rates of obesity and diet related NCDs in Pakistan.

Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination has already submitted a proposal to FBR for increasing tax on all sugary drinks to minimum of 50 percent and also imposing additional health tax. Qadir Patel, Federal Health Minister Pakistan shared during the world health assembly at Geneva that the govern-"Even young children are now being ment is taking several measures to diagnosed frequently with diabetes prevent diabetes including increase in the taxes of sugary drinks.

Negligence

FAISALABAD: A view of the over cars parked outside District Council, which is the negligence of traffic police authority.



IG Punjab Highway Patrol visited the PHP Regional Office

Menahill Rashid

FAISALABAD: IG Punjab Highway Patrol Rao Abdul purpose of patrolling is safe-Kareem visited the PHP Regional Office, Faisalabad . DSP PHP Malik Muhammad Amin accorded warmth done for the well-being of PHP welcome and present- Personnel. Resultantly, the ed bouquet . The Addl:IG PHP laid floral wreath on responsibility of Patrolling Yadgar-E-Shuhda and offered officers. There should be proprayer. Afterwards, he plant- active and problem oriented ed a tree in order to foster conducted meeting with chances of fatal accidents.

District officers , office staff , post In-Charges and constabulary. He reiterated that the guarding the highways and prevention of accidents. He said that abundant has been services to humanity is utmost policing to curb the crime.



the clean and green moment However, Black spot should Moreover, he said that negli-said that the usage of E Police of Pakistan . Moreover , he be identified to reduce the gence in discipline and turn App , travel eye and Gadgets is

and apprehend the criminals . The incharge post , Moharar and all PHP personnel should work hard to get the trust of public by rendering services and effective inter personal communication.

At the conclusion of meeting. The PHP officers asked the questions and shared the issues. Addl: IG resolved many issues forthwith and further noted for the redressal of grievances. ADDL:IG PHP took tea along with constabulary. He appreciated the performance out is unforgivable. He further effective to control the crime of PHP Region Faisalabad.

'No authentic data available on municipal waste including plastic trash generated in Karachi'

News Desk

KARACHI: There is no authentic data available on the massive quantity of solid waste including plastic trash generated in Karachi daily owing to which it is very difficult to devise an effective plan to deal with this hazardous issue of the city.

This was stated by the speakers including environmentalists who spoke at a seminar on plastic pollution try (KCCI) and who himself that Karachi generated around organised by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) to mark

World Environment Day. Shariq Vohra, former president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Indus-



authentic data on solid waste hand involvement in the plas-

tive trash disposal scheme. quite often it was informed city was much higher.

is involved in the plastic 12,000 tonnes of solid waste recycling industry, said that every day but given his firstis vital for adopting an effectic recycling business, he had come to know that the quan-He told the audience that tity of trash generated in the

ban imposed by the government to deal with the issue of polythene bags would prove counterproductive as instead the policies of recycling and reuse should be adopted for dealing with the issue of plastic pollution.

Vohra recalled that during his tenure as the KCCI president, the ban on plastic shopping bags had come into effect but the government's order in question had provided an opportunity for the police to receive bribes from the traders involved in the polythene business.

He urged the citizens to made of single-use plastic to water life.

Vohra said that a blanket do their due role in lessening solid waste generated in the cities.

The KCCI former president also called for establishing waste-to-energy plants in the main urban centres of Pakistan so that there was no need for transporting municipal waste for several kilomtres for their disposal at the designated landfill sites.

Senior environmentalist, Saqib Ejaz Hussain, said the issue of plastic waste was directly related to goal number 12 and 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UNO dealing with responsible production and consumpminimize the use of products tion and protection of under-

PM extended his heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families

Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has expressed his deep sense of shock and sorrow over the death of a newly married couple who died in a tragic accident in Patika area of Muzaffarabad yesterday. In his condolenc-

es message, the PM extended his heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls. Taking notice of the accident, the Prime Minister had issued special directions to relevant departments. As a result, rescue teams were rushed to the accident site $\,$ immediately. Sadly, the woman had died on the spot while the man, who was brought to the hospital by the rescue teams, later succumbed to injuries. The ill-fated couple died when the car they were boarding in fell into a deep ravine near Patika some 22 kilometers away from the capital city Muzaffarabad while they were returning from Neelum valley yesterday.

Pakistan is the 5th largest producer of milk in the world: Mian Rashid

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A one-day training session was held on the topic of Performance Management System at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan. And gave detailed training on Sales Marketing Product Development, Balance Score Cards and explained that by using KPI (Key Performance Indicators) tool, not only we can make development policy of the organization.

Rather, individual performance can also be improved. Unfortunately, we do not have long-term stability. I can't compete, despite having the largest number of Animals and being the fifth in the world in milk production, we are suffering from economic problems. The private and government sectors have to plan and work together to

As long as we do not improve our performance individually, there will be no collective improvement President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Rashid iqbal and Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh said that accountability reporting and monitoring is indispensable to improve performance and achieve targets. Naveed Iqbal Chaghtai, Mohammad Shafiq, Anwar Saleem Kain and representatives from various industrial institutions and universities participated in it while Sohail Tufail was presented with the emblem of the House as a commemorative shield.

Hashoo Foundation Strives for Early Education and Childhood Development

News desk

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Foundation, being a knowledge based and impact oriented organization has always focused on education and childhood development. In this regard, Hashoo Foundation held a stakeholder convention in Upper Dir, under its Education Quality Improvement Project funded

The convention held with the purpose of bringing together educators, administrators, parents, civil society organizations, religious aders, government officials and commu-



educational opportunities for young learners, specifically out of school Deputy Commissioner Mr. Gohar Zaman, Congratulated Hashoo Foundation on this very important initiative and bringing together all stakeholders to highlight the importance of early education and ensuring meaningful participation of students in the process of development.

He highlighted the Government's role in ensuring quality education and childhood development. Country Director Hashoo Foundation Ms. Ayesha Khan said, "By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we aim to foster dialogue, share knowledge, and inspire collective action to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education that prepares them for a success-

The participants emphasized on the need for sustained collaboration, evidence-based policies, and equitable educational resource distribution to ensure no child is left behind.

Zahid Bakhtawari, rejected the orders to close the shops at 8 PM

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Divisional President of Markazi Tanzem e Tajran Rawalpindi Division, Zahid Bakhtawari, rejected the orders to close the shops at 8 PM and warned the Government that Where would it be wise to lose ten billion dollars in revenue to save only one billion dollars? Early Closing of shopping malls, establishments will paralyze our economy. This decision is not acceptable for Business commu-



nity in any way. They refuse to accept orders that crush the country's economy. If orders are forced upon us, we will be forced to protest. The Government itself will be responsible for the results.

He said this during an emergency meeting called on video link by the government to close the shops at eight o'clock in the night. In which all Tehsil and District members participated. Who strongly supported the decision of Divisional President Zahid Bakhtawari and rejected the government orders. During addressing the members in the important meeting, Zahid Bakhtawari said that the business community is already suffering in economic severe crisis. Mostly citizens prefer to shopping in the evening hours rather than the hot afternoons of June 2023. How wise would it be to close the business at these times? Instead of giving relief to the business community in the incoming budget, the government is causing further increase in their business difficulties. This situation before the budget. What will happen to us after the budget? We are well aware that the tax payers is the one who has to go through the knife. Business hours should be in effect till 11 pm in summer and 10 pm in winter. The government should take the business community into confidence before taking such decisions in the wider interest of the country

Divisional President Zahid Bakhtawari said that the government will harm the country's economy to save one billion dollars. The government does not understand this at all. The government will face a loss of ten billion dollars in revenue due to premature closure of the business. The government ignored billions of rupees revenue tax to save only one billion dollars. The government should acknowledge the fact that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is already facing a shortfall in terms of tax. Such measures will further increase the shortfall. This will also severely affect the business of the business community.

Government and private companies will have to join hands together for the promotion of cycling: Moazzam Khan Klair

Exclusive Interview of Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair, General Secretary, Pakistan Cycling Federation

Tahir Amin Malik

he General Secretary of Pakistan Cycling Federation, Mr Moazzam Khan Klair, has said in an interview with Daily The Spokesman that Pakistan Cycling Federation is facing two hurdles. One is the shortage of track and for this our infrastructure should be strong and I think that the track should be allocated in every area So that Cyclists could do track training in a peaceful and safe atmosphere. He further said that Government and Private Companies will have to join hands together for the promotion of Cycling and they should play vital role to promote 'Cycling' in Pakistan. He said due to these steps the Cyclists will easy and they will boost up in the shape of incentives from Government and Private Companies and better results can be produced at both National and International levels.

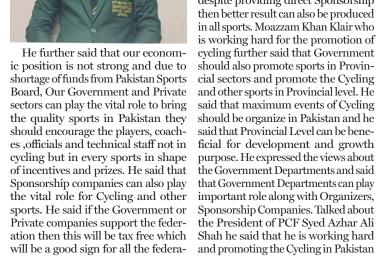
He said he wanted to see joint adventure with Government and Private If they succeed ,then their cycling can reach International level. Talking about from Thailand they will hold the camp the future program of Cycling, Moaz- for preparation of this event. Moazzam zam Khan Klair said that their Cycling Khan Klair also said that he would team will be in Thailand for Asian Road like to request Pakistan Sports Board Cycling Championship event and in to give him the permission to hold August World Road Cycling Champi- the two and half month camp for this



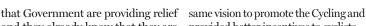
and when their Cycling team will come

sectors for the promotion of cycling. onship will be held at Glasgo (Scotland) major event because Lahore and Karachi will be too hot in current June, and July months and for this, Abbottabad was the best option to hold the camp and better results could be produced and our Cyclists can do the training in good weather and atmosphere. He said that our Cyclist could not participate in 34th National Games which is not good sign for cyclist and their feeling are not good regarding the participation of 34th National Games at Quetta. He said the reason of not participation is that not good relation with POA, but we are trying our best that we could patch up with POA and hope that soon Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), and Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) will solve this issue. He said that the only way to build up good relation with POA and we will have to sit on table talk through dialogue and we both have to show the vital role to solve this Cycling affairs issues and for if PCF will have to remove one step away we will sacrifice for this and very soon you will listen good news regarding this issues.





and they already know that they are provided better incentives to cyclists. working for good cause they will definatey give the preference to work with Government and Private Sectors. He further said that Departments can play vital role to promote the sports as well. It is necessary that to set some incentive because without incentive and without any support Sports is nothing. He said that Government and Private Sectors want mileage for this purpose and Government should take the steps to encourage Private sectors despite providing direct Sponsorship then better result can also be produced in all sports. Moazzam Khan Klair who is working hard for the promotion of cycling further said that Government should also promote sports in Provincial sectors and promote the Cycling and other sports in Provincial level. He said that maximum events of Cycling should be organize in Pakistan and he said that Provincial Level can be beneficial for development and growth purpose. He expressed the views about the Government Departments and said that Government Departments can play important role along with Organizers, Sponsorship Companies. Talked about the President of PCF Syed Azhar Ali Shah he said that he is working hard



On the day of World Bicycle Day Moazzam Khan Klair said that this day holds immense significance as it promotes the vital role of Cycling in addressing various global challenges in Pakistan and we all appreciate the efforts of Syed Azhar Ali Shah and PCF management team. He said that Cycling in Pakistan can effectively tackle health issues by encouraging physical activity. He said that Cycling as a mode of transport can help conserve fuel and decrease the nation's dependency on fossil fuels. By focusing on these aspects, Pakistan can witness improvements in public health, environmental sustainability and resource conservation. Talked about the meeting with Mr. Ehsan-Ur-Rehman Mazari, Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination he said that during the meeting with him he top deep interest in the promotion of growth of cycling as a sport and means of transportation in the country. He assured resolving any issues that the PCF currently faces on a priority basis and this assurance has instilled a sense of optimism and pride for us. He further said that Mr. Mazari and the Ministry of inter-Provincial Coordination to further promote and develop cycling as a popular sport and environmentally friendtion and when the department will see and Internationally and we both have ly mode of transportation in Pakistan.



Moazzam Mansoor & Hasan Raheel, Joint Winners of National Science and Engineering Fair-2023 represented Pakistan at ISEF

Special Report by Tahir Amin Malik

nternational Scientific research competitions play an important role in the education of highly talented school and college students opening new possibilities to extend their knowledge in sciences. The competitions give the challenging opportunity to the young minds to get some feedback of the work with which they are trying to deal, and to measure their strength in an international arena. Most of the participant students later become students at various universities and bcome researches reporting at scientific conferences, thus their first appearance becomes a decisive factor in their future scientific career.

The Grand Winners of the National Science and Engineering Fair Pakistan 2022-2023, held earlier this year at Karachi, represented Pakistan at the Regeneron- ISEF 2023, held from 14 to 19 May, 2023 at Dallas USA. Team Pakistan comprised of four individual finalists Moazzam Mansoor from Engro Grammer School, Daharki for his project. "Orchid Crop Advisor", Hasan Raheel from Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, kara-



chi, for his project "FOURDUST: Turning from Scarsidate Internation! School, Lahore



um Presenter at Regeneron ISEF 2022 and Judge in the Embedded Systems Category at the Regeneron ISEF 2023.

"The work we do today is going to have a great impact on our future. It is encouraging for us to be able to hod such competitions and provide our youth with the opportunity to represent Pakistan Internationally, Pakistan is home to an incredible amount of untapped potential and talent, as demonstrated by the highest number of participants qualifying for the National Science and Engineering Fair Pakistan every year. These students have excelled in their field enabling themselves to compete against students from across the country and internationally" said the Country Fair Director, Syeda Khadija Bashir. Umer Sohail Meer from International School, Lahore got 3rd position in the Microbiology Category at the culminating Grand Award Ceremony at the Regeneron ISEF



2023. While Mahad Ahmed from Scarsdale International School, Lahore and Hasan Grammar School, Daharki got the opportu-Raheel from Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Karachi, won Special Awards from he CAST (China Association for Science and Technology) and Mawhiba Universal Enrichment Program respectively.



Earlier, Moazzam Mansoor from Engro nity to represent Team Pakistan at the Opening Ceremony held on 15th May, 2023. "The most important lesson that I learned is to work voluntarily and help the community at large, I definitely would like to engage in such activities in future as well, "said Moazza Expressing his appreciation and enthusiasm for Regeneron ISEF and deep concern for education in Pakistan Mr. Faisal Fayyaz said, It is a very informative, executed with tremendous commitment, really praise worthy program, the authorities in Pakistan need to adopt something similar for all kinds of capacity building of teachers and students.

The contestants emerge from a country wide field of science fair participants of the National Science and Engineering Fair Pakistan during the academic year. The entries in this year's competition provide a glimpse into the diverse concerns and interests of today's young people. Many entries, including several top winners this year, addressed key global environmental concerns and offered novel solutions to pressing energy and pollution problems.

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Bureau Chief Lahore:

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Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

China's largest Gaokao begins with 12.91 million candidates

hina's national college entrance examination, known as the Gaokao, kicked off on Wednesday with 12.91 million registered examinees, up 980,000 from last year, making it the largest Gaokao in Chinese history, according to figures released by the Ministry of Education.

The ministry has called upon local authorities to ensure the exam takes place safely and fairly. It has also been proactive in responding to the varying circumstances of candidates, categorizing examination venues accordingly and ensuring the provision of backup examination venues and relevant personnel, CGTN reported.

Around 10,000 disabled students nationwide have been provided with special accommodations to ensure access and participation in the examination.

Gaokao reforms aimed at students' welfare China's national college entrance exam has been undergoing reforms since its initiation in 1952. As many as 29 provincial-level regions in the country are presently taking a series of reform measures in terms of examination content, format and enrollment methods.

A part of the reforms is about allowing students to choose from over a dozen subject combinations instead of just liberal arts and science subjects so they may excel in their true area of interest.

Overall, the reforms are aimed at realizing a comprehensive assessment of students with a focus on social skills and research-oriented learning, providing a personalized and overarching assessment of each student.

Admissions based on "comprehensive evaluation" have started in select universities in east China's Shanghai Municipality and Zhejiang Province as part of their reform efforts. Zhejiang University has implemented a three-pronged approach for assessing applicants: 85 percent weightage is given to Gaokao score, 5 percent to academic score and 10 percent to interview performance.

Data on Gaokao trends Based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics, the admission rate for regular undergraduate college programs in 2022 was around 85 percent, which means more students got the opportunity to receive higher education.

According to data from Chinese search giant Baidu, factors such as school reputation, comprehensive strength, employment rate, school's retention rate and faculty quality are crucial factors influencing candidates' choice of schools.

Moreover, disciplines related to engineering remain to be popular, while management-related majors are gradually losing the charm. In recent years, the popularity of majors in the medical field has also been steadily increasing, according to Baidu trending search data.

The latest data for the 2023 Baidu trending search shows that clinical medicine is the most popular major this year. From 2019 to 2021, the proportion of medical enrollments exceeded 7 percent, marking an increase of 0.45 percentage points over a span of two years.

Disappointed by Hamid Mir and Wusatullah Khan - I

a window into different eras and societies, giving us insight into the thoughts, beliefs, and values of people throughout history. Through literature, we can explore complex ideas and emotions, expand our imagination, and develop empathy and understanding for others. Moreover, literature encourages critical thinking and helps us develop our language skills, making us better communicators and more effective problem-solvers. Festivals, on the other hand, are an important part of our social and cultural fabric. They provide opportunities for communities to come together, celebrate, and share common experiences. Festivals can help to reinforce cultural traditions and values, promote social cohesion, and provide economic benefits to local communities. They also provide opportunities for creative expression, helping to foster a sense of individual and collec-

chapter, concluded recently in Muzaffarabad after hosting back-to-back lively and history, the ongoing freedom movement in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and a

iterature, in particular, is an musical gala. The event was organised by own woes, we will not forget to mention leave as she handled the situation and essential part of our cultur- the Arts Council of Pakistan in collaboal heritage. It provides ration with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government at a local hotel. Prominent personalities from literature, politics and media enlightened the audience on a series of issues, related to the disputed Kashmir region, a major part of which is waging a heroic struggle to young boys and girls, were enthralled overthrow Indian subjugation. On this $\,$ when Sahir Ali Baga, Ahsan Bari, Bano occasion, posthumous excellence awards

> were given to Ahmed Shamim, Prof Waris Mir, Dr Sabir Afaqi and Dr Iftikhar Mughal on behalf of the AJK government and the Arts Council.

> Speaking at the concluding ceremony, noted writer and poet Noor ul Huda Shah, said the love and affec-

tion showered by the Kashmiris over the past two days was exemplary, creating an urge among all the delegates to visit Muzaffarabad over and over again. She Pakistan Literature Festival, Kashmir maintained that the platform of the Arts Council had been established through years of hard work where differences rich discussions on literature, culture, of opinion were openly accepted and responded to in a positive manner. "In future whenever we will speak about our

the deprivations of our Kashmiri brethren," she said.

Midhat Shahzad, Secretary of Tourism, AJK, said that the festival had and would continue to spread the message of friendship and love. In the evening, the audience, comprising mostly the Rehmat and Arman Rahim delivered

melodious renditions of different songs.

I was more interested to attend the session of "Role of media in Kashmir Issue. I also got an invitation card via very honorable friends and well wishers. I wanted to listen the views of the panel consisting of much renowned names like

Hamid Mir, Mazhar Abbas, Wusattullah Khan and couple of local journalists. Show was hosted by another renowned Journalist of Pakistan Asma Shirazi.

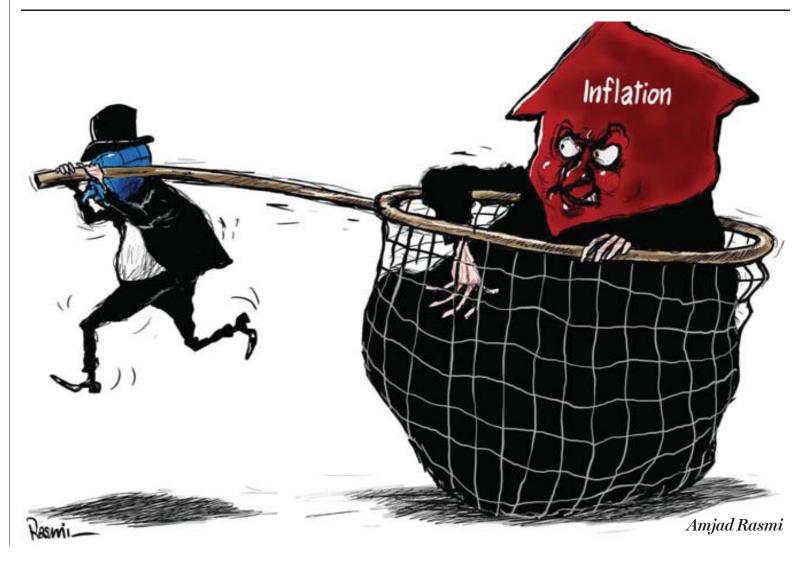
Journalists Wusatullah Khan and Hamid Mir were about to leave the session on the Kashmir issue in the middle of the discussion at the Pakistan Literature Festival (PLF). Thanks to moderator Asma Shirazi, they did not

continued the discussion from the point it was stopped.

During his talk Hamid Mir said that the role of Pakistani media in Kashmir Issue had been shameful, the role of establishment in Kashmir Issue had been shameful and then the role of Pakistan in Kashmir Issue had also been shameful. Then he said that one General wanted to wind up the issue by giving occupied Kashmir to India and AJK to Pakistan.

Then during his turn, Columnist Wusatullah Khan criticised the Kashmir policy during the discussion that prompted sloganeering from some people in the hall. The perpetual sloganeering and clapping prompted the Khan and Mir to leave the stage, with former lamenting the state of emotions of the people on issues. Students were silent when the two journalists tried to leave. "This discussion had nothing to do with PTI or Imran Khan," Shirazi said. This is what Wusatullah Khan said: "The plight of Kashmir has become a source of livelihood for many people including Kashmir Committee and political leaders on both sides of Kashmir." "How many correspondents are there in Bangladesh, so when there is not a situation, our neighbor who are being an impact on our fortunes.

To be continued



Abdul Basit Alvi

Sudanese refugee crisis adds to regional challenges

Kerry Boyd Anderson

N High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited Egypt to speak with the country's leaders and refugees fleeing Sudan. As the fighting in Sudan continues, refugees are pouring across the country's borders, seeking refuge in neighboring states. However, many of those states already host other refugees and struggle to cope with their own political and economic crises.

Since the current conflict broke out in Khartoum on April 15, quickly spreading to other parts of Sudan, nearly 1.4 million people have been displaced, the UN reported on May 28. Most of those are displaced within the country. However, nearly 380,000 people have fled across Sudan's borders since April 15, according to a UN statement from June 2. Egypt has received the most refugees, at least 170,000. Last week, the UN said that more than 100,000 people have fled Sudan into Chad. On May 28, the UN reported that South Sudan had received about 71,000 refugees, the Central African Republic about 9,700 and Ethiopia about 5,000; however, those numbers have likely increased in the last week.

These numbers only represent refugees fleeing Sudan since the current conflict began in April. Most of the host countries already have pre-existing communities of Sudanese refugees from previous conflicts. Furthermore, Sudan itself is host to refugees from countries such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan and the Central African Republic. Some of those fleeing Sudan now were refugees in Sudan from other conflicts; for example, some of those crossing the border into South Sudan had previously fled the South Sudanese civil war and sought refuge in

on which country they go to, where and how nese are refugees in other countries, includ-

they lived in Sudan and when they fled. For example, fleeing a city such as Khartoum and traveling to the border with Egypt requires significant funds. In many cases, the poorest Sudanese lack the resources to flee the country. However, some other people are able to flee on foot, such as those in Darfur who live near the border with Chad. Most of the refugees — even those who had resources to get to the border — often arrive with little or nothing. Media reports, for example, have noted that some of those fleeing to Egypt have resources but are unable to access funds in bank accounts or assets left in Sudan.

Most of the refugees face dire circumstances. Some lost loved ones in the recent conflict or suffered abuse and terror. They often reach the border exhausted, hungry, dehydrated and traumatized. So far, most neighboring countries are allowing many refugees to cross. However, not all are able to cross the border; for example, many families were separated when Egypt allowed women and children to cross but demanded visas for boys and men aged 16 to 49. At the border, some refugees faced long bureaucratic delays and occasionally abuse, but there also are reports of great generosity from the citizens of host countries and from Sudanese residing in those coun-

tries who stepped up to help. The refugees face immediate housing problems. Many camps lack sufficient water and food. With the rainy season arriving soon, UN officials and aid workers are working to improve shelter. In some places, refugees remain close to the border, raising concerns that they are not yet safe and need to be moved further away.

The challenges of providing for hundreds of thousands of new refugees in various countries - with more likely on the way come on top of pre-existing problems. Five of Sudan's neighboring countries have experienced conflict in recent years and are still struggling with the aftermath and continuing The refugees' experiences vary depending instability. More than 2.3 million South Suda-

ing Sudan; it is the largest refugee crisis in Africa. Ethiopia already hosts 924,000 refugees and asylum-seekers; the country also has 3.5 million internally displaced people and has generated its own refugee populations, including some in Sudan. Chad was hosting more than 580,000 refugees from Sudan and other neighboring countries before the latest influx. More than one-third of the Central African Republic's population is displaced, leaving the country ill-equipped to host those fleeing Sudan. Chad and the Central African Republic are two of the world's poorest countries. Egypt perhaps is the best placed neighbor to absorb Sudanese refugees, but it already hosted more than 291,000 refugees before April and is struggling to manage its own economic crisis.

The latest Sudanese refugee crisis highlights the problem of durable conflicts, chronic instability and ongoing refugee cycles. While the UN, other aid groups and several donor nations are trying to help, donor fatigue is likely to be more intense when future refugee flows seem inevitable in the same region. In the Sahel, instability can easily spread to other fragile countries. Furthermore, even if a political solution ends a particular conflict, displaced people face an uphill battle to recovery; those challenges increase for people who are displaced repeatedly. Without basic resources and stability, moving beyond survival to development can be nearly impossible.

Sudan and the broader Sahel region desperately need peace. As long as conflict persists, economic opportunities will be elusive and many refugees will be unable to regain self-sufficiency. Humanitarian assistance is desperately needed to meet the basic needs of these vulnerable populations in the short term, and the international community must help. In the long term, without peace, the world should expect more refugee flows between these fragile states.

Kerry Boyd Anderson is a writer and political risk consultant with more than 18 years $of experience\,, Courtesy ARAB \, \hbox{\it News}$

The Parliament Prevails: The Longest Session of the 15th Assembly

Muhammad Asad Ayaz

he 51st session of the 15th National Assembly, which commenced on March 27, 2023, has become the longest session in the history of the current Assembly. As of now, the session is still ongoing, with a total of 39 working days and 31 actual sittings.

During this session, the National Assembly witnessed a diverse range of activities and debates, shaping the legislative landscape of the country. The session saw a maximum attendance of 205 Members on April 28, 2023, indicating the significance of the matters discussed. However, the minimum attendance dropped to 95 Members on May

The House witnessed the oath-taking of Mr. Muhammad Mohsin Leghari as a member of the National Assembly on March 27, 2023, and welcomed him as the newest addition to its esteemed ranks. In terms of duration, the total hours of sittings amounted to an impressive 79 hours and 15 minutes. The longest sitting, lasting 6 hours and 10 minutes, occurred on March 28, 2023. Conversely, the shortest sitting lasted a mere 32 minutes on April 14, 2023. On average, each sitting lasted approximately 2 hours and 55 minutes.

In conjunction with the parliamentary activities, a total of 25 Bills were passed, including 16 Government Bills and 9 Private Members' Bills. These legislative measures cover a wide range of issues and aim to address the needs and concerns of the nation including the following:

The Contempt of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) Act, 2023, is designed to address the need for punitive measures against individuals who fail to comply with the directives of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or its committees. The Act aims to condemn and penalize actions that undermine the sovereignty and integrity of the esteemed House of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in any form. The Act

is specifically designed to strengthen the Oversight function of the Parliament by penalizing those who willfully fail or refuse to obey any order or direction of a House or a Committee thereof; refuse to give evidence or record false statement before a Committee; attempt or influence a witness either by intimidation, threat or use of force to prevent him from providing evidence, producing document or appearing before the Committee or the House; willfully violate any law prescribing the immunities or privileges of the Members; and fail to provide any document or submits tempered documents before the House or a Committee.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is aimed at decreasing the menace of growing false information reports being registered against any individuals in the country. The Emigrants (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is passed in order to facilitate the intending emigrants by allowing them to appear in person or appear virtually for registrations of names by Protector of Emigrants.

In the spirit of Parliamentary Oversight, 195 questions were asked by the public representatives on matters of public interest and the answers were given on the floor of the House by the ministers or other representatives of the executive branch of the government.

Furthermore, the House adopted 13 resolutions on significant matters and two motions under Rule 244 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. These motions called for the formation of special committees to address specific issues. The session also witnessed a condolence reference in respect of the late Mr. Abdul Shakoor, a member of the National Assembly. The reference paid tribute to his contributions and services to the nation.

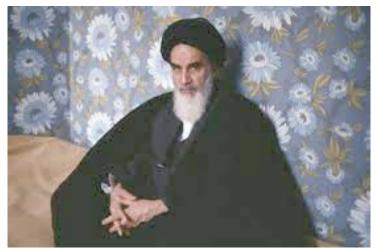
The upcoming Finance Bill 2023-24 i.e. the budget for the next year is expected to be presented in the same session, too.

Muhammad Asad Ayaz is a parliamentary functionary/researcher based in Islamabad. He tweets at @asadayaz

34th Anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini (RA)

ISLAMABAD: On the 34th anniversary of the demise of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini (R.A), we pay tribute to the exemplary character and high position of this great man of history. The outstanding personality of this Islamic scholar has always been a source of inspiration for freethinkers all over the world, and the great achievements of his life are long-lasting and inspirational.

The starting point of Imam Khomeini's movement was based upon the departure from and negation of the then-established order in the international arena based upon imperialism, arrogance, colonialism, capitalism, power and materialism on the one hand, and the effort to revive the religious values, morality and Islamic democracy on the other hand. The Iranian people as well as the freethink-



Great Founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran for the indefatigable struggles and the visionary leadership he made in the fight to revive Islamic

Unity of the Muslims and Proximity

Khomeini as a necessary, possible and inevitable issue.

They will guarantee peaceful coexistence, increase tolerance and contribute to the growth, development, prosperity and strength of the Islamic world ers around the world pay homage to the were among the engagements of Imam as a whole. Undoubtedly, the enemies

of the unity in the Islamic world try to create division, separation and misunderstanding, but by the grace of the God Almighty and the vigilance of the leaders of the Islamic countries, these conspiracies are now neutralized. New developments at the regional level indicates that the world is now on the verge of a great change and moving towards a new order based upon cooperation between the Muslim countries and built upon respect, goodwill and friendship.

In the same wake, unity and proximity should be seriously followed through Unity Diplomacy the main axes of which include the religious commonalities between Muslims including; belief in the God Almighty, the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the unique Qiblah.

Common interests and common threats of the Islamic Ummah, are the other pillars of the Unity Diplomacy that could be dealt with via cooperation and interaction.

Hina Rabbani Khar paid an official visit to Norway on 5-6 June 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Minister firmed the importance of of State held meetings with multilateralism to address Foreign Minister, Anniken Huitfeldt and State Secretary, Erling Rimestad. At the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence led by Chair of the Committee, Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide.

Norwegian Foreign Minister, Anniken Huitfeldt, the tion in areas such as green two sides appreciated 75 energy, shipping and blue cials of Norwegian Ministry years of bilateral relation- economy and collabora- of Foreign Affairs, promiship and agreed to further tion in higher education nent diaspora members,

strengthen ties in multi- and research. Views were academia and media. ple spheres. They also reafregional and global challenges.

In the meeting with State Norwegian Parliament, the Secretary Erling Rimes-Minister of State met with tad, the Minister of Sate expressed gratitude for Norway's generous support for flood affectees in Pakistan. The two sides discussed investments in micro hydro-In the meeting with the power plants in Pakistan and agreed to enhance coopera-

also exchanged on issues confronting regional and global security.

The Minister of State addressed the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) where she spoke on "Global Peace & Security seen from Pakistan". In her address she spoke about global and regional developments, its impact on international political order and Pakistan's security outlook. The event included diplomats, politicians, offiThe Minister of State also

met the top management of the Norwegian companies already in business in Pakistan, including Executive Vice President, Telenor, Rita Skjaervik, CEO Scatec, Terje Pilskog, CEO Jotun Paints, Morten Fon, Chair Norhydro, Robert Storbekk and CEO Norhydro Rukhsar Hamid. She appreciated their investments and expressed the hope that these investments would encourage other private companies from Norway to develop business relations

Senate to boost bilateral relations with Russia: Sanjrani



mad Sadiq Sanjrani held tive diplomacy. Both sides Chairman of the Russian parliamentary interaction investment, energy. Duma (lower house) Mr. between the two countries. Volodin. Chairman Senate Chairman Senate reaf-

MOSCOW: On 7th June ry exchanges as an imporment to strengthen bilateral Chairman Senate Muham- tant component of effec- relations with Russia in all areas of mutually beneficial delegation level talks with agreed to further enhance cooperation especially trade,

Both sides agreed to continue cooperation in stan which was happily emphasised parliamenta- firmed Pakistan's commit- international forums includ- accepted.

ing UN and SCO.

Chairman conveyed an invitation to Chairman Volodin from the Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan to visit Paki-

Prof. Tang Mengsheng and Prof. Kong Julan conferred upon with Sitara-i- Imtiaz

跨 Spokesman Report

BEIJING :On behalf of the President of Pakistan, Ambassador Moin ul Haque conferred Pakistan's civil award 'Sitara-i-Imtiaz' upon Prof. Tang Mengsheng and Prof.Kong Julan in a special investiture ceremony held today at the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing. The event was attended by the senior officials, professors and sity, representatives of media organizations and officers of Pakistan Embassy.

Speaking at the occasion, paid a rich tribute to Prof. Tang Mengsheng and Prof. Kong Julan for their valuable ing China-Pakistan friendly



students of Peking Univer- people-to-people exchang- award. They both hoped to es. He also praised the close association of the two scholars with Pakistan over the past 50 years, especially for Ambassador Moin ul Haque promoting Urdu language and literature in China.

contributions in strengthen- Meng Sheng expressed their gratitude to the government ties especially in the realm and people of Pakistan for

continue with their efforts and support to deepen people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China.

Prof. Tang Mengsheng is currently the Director In their remarks, Prof. of Pakistan Studies Centre Kong Julan and Prof. Tang at the prestigious Peking recent years, her crowning University of China. He conducted research on history, politics and culture of culture, education and the conferment of civil of Pakistan. He also, served

as the senior visiting scholar at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and Punjab University. He is ardent supporter of deepening Pakistan-China cultural and educational linkages. Prof. Kong Julan is one of

the China's top tier academicians of Urdu literature, engaged with notable Chinese Universities, all across the country. She teaches Urdu literature at the School of Foreign Languages, Peking University. Her research work includes a vast array of topics ranging from folk stories of Urdu, ethnic diversity in modern Pakistan and Suffism. In achievement and enduring service to Urdu language is to publish the Urdu Chinese

Dr. Gholam Mujtaba's reception in honor of Congressman Thomas Kean Jr



跨 Sohail Anjum Malik

NEW JERSEY: The relationship between the United States and Pakistan is important in maintaining a successful U.S. foreign policy in South Asia and the Middle East. Pakistan's geopolitical significance is acknowledged by the United States. This was the theme at a dinner event hosted by Dr. Gholam Mujtaba, a prominent Pakistani American in honor of Congre man Tom Kean Jr., the Chairman House Foreign Affairs Subcom-

The Vice Chairman of the American Jewish Congress who is a Pakistani American spoke high about the role of Dr. Gholam Mujtaba in bridging the gaps in averting trust deficit that exists between the two nations. Dr. Kazmir reposed his confidence on the role Pakistani Americans in realizing the Abraham accord and expects Dr. Mujtaba to play a key role.

Prominent among those who participated at the dinner-reception in honor of Congressman at the residence of Dr. Gholam Mujtaba included Baba Monde, the religious leader of 144 million Bektashi community of Albania, the former Energy Minister of Albania and a prominent businessman from New York Somol Bejleri, Danial Pincus of the American Jewish Committee, Mayor of Closter John Glidden, Councilman of Clifton Tony Latona, Oz Sultan Republican Presidential delegate from Harlem New York, Brigadier Nasir Shafiq Director Pakistan Military History, and many other federal and state officials. Most of the speakers including His Holiness Baba Monde lauded the efforts of Dr. Mujtaba in bringing the gaps among civili-

Iran's new ambassador arrived in Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan arrived in Islamabad. Daily The Spokesman Heartiest Welcome & Sincere Congratulations at the onset of his diplomatic journey in the brotherly, friendly & neighboring Country

Algeria elected as non permanent member in UN Security Council 2024-2025

👺 Bureau Report

In recognition of its pivotal role in its region ALGERIA, Algeria has been elected on 6 June in the first round and by an overwhelming majority by the United Nations General Assembly as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for



a two-year term starting from January 1st, 2024. This election took place following the voting of 184 votes out of 192 voters, (96%).

This election reflects the appreciation and respect enjoyed by the Algerian President Mr. AbdelmajidTebboune from the international community and their recognition of his contribution to the establishment of international peace and security. Confirm again the high reputation and great credibility of Algeria at the international level.

Algeria aspires to contribute to the work of the Security Council. It is determined to focus its efforts on enhancing international peace and security, revitalizing multilateral action, strengthening partnerships, promoting the principles and values of non-alignment, and continuing efforts to combat terrorism. Additionally, Algeria seeks to enhance the participation of women and youth in these international endeavors.

Algeria will also strive to amplify the voice of African, Arab and Muslim countries and defend common strategic interests in various issues falling within the mandate of the Security Council.

Algeria further reaffirms its steadfast and purposeful determination to defend just causes within its spheres of affiliation and to promote all its aspirations and hopes within the Security Council.

Pak Russia Relations will grow like a fruitful tree in near future: says Russian envoy



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pak Russia Relations will further grow like a fruitful Tree, Ambassador Danila Ganich. Peshawsr 7th Jun 2023 The Pakistan Russia Relations will further grow like a fruitful Tree this was stated by Russain Ambassador in Pakistan Danila Ganich while speaking at Tree Plantation ceremony at Ladies Club University Town Peshawar this afternoon. He mentioned about strengthening Pakistan Russia Relations in all walks of life. Ambassador Danila Ganich also principally agreed upon KP Minister proposal of sister city relationship, apart fro exchange dekegation visit to further enhance understanding Amb. Danila also express his appreciation for hosting welcome receiption and tree plantation and expressing that our peoples to peoples relationship can more benifit in near future. Ambassador also appreciate the idea of Russain Study or culture centre to further enhance the reach of general public aand to improve understanding Russia in Pakistan andcPakistan in Russaia. Earlier KP Minister LGRDD Adovcate sawal nazzar welcome visiting Ambassador and brief him about present Government willingness to enhance cordial relations for the great benefits of the peoples of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. In this in order to take benifits from the rich experiences of Russia like China and other countries soecial now a days Pakistan China & Russia are agree on various international issues for the peace and prosperity of tge region. The KP Minister also stressed upon linkages development in Local Government Goverence system, Education, Business Commerce Agriculture. This event was also specially attented by KP Secretary LGE&RDD Mr. Amir Afaq, Project Director KPCIP Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary LCB Mian Shafiq ur Rehman Senior Consultant Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary-General PCFA Director General Riaz Ali Khan apart from senior staff of LGE&RDD. Later on courtesy souveniers were presented to visiting Ambassador.

Webinar on 'Opportunities in Australia's IT Sector for Pakistani Citizens and Businesses'

Spokesman Report

CANBERRA : The High Commission for Pakistan in Canberra is organizing a Webinar titled, "Opportunities in Australia's IT Sector for Pakistani Citizens and Businesses" on 20 June

The Webinars is a part of the High Commission's "Opportunities Conference"initiative aimed at informingthe Pakistani citizens and businesses about industry leaders, entrepre- and businesses in Austra-

of the Australian economy.

By leveraging the expertise and experience of a distinguished panel of speakers, the event will provide valuable insights into the current landscape of Australia and Pakistan's IT industry, potential avenues for collaboration and opportunities for growth. The Webinar will also serve as a platform for students,

for them in various sectors connect and exchange ideas.

In addition, the audience will gain an insight of the latest technological advancements and emerging trends in Pakistan and Australia's IT ecosystems; Australian government initiatives, incentives, and lians. support programs available for foreign students and investors; employment prospects and job market for Pakistani IT professionals

the opportunities available neurs, and professionals to lia; skill requirements, visa options, and pathways for obtaining employment in Australia's IT sector; insights into the recruitment process and career growth opportunities in Australia; and listening to the success story of Pakistani Austra-

information Further about the event is available at the High Commission's websitepakistan.org.au. Registration is now open on first come first served basis.

Bull & Bears

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
42,142.71	41,923.46		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
42,231.63	41,924.48		
Index Value	Change		
5,318,633,088	+219.25		
Percentage	Time		
+0.52%	7 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
7,624.34	-3.76		
Percentage	Time		
-0.049%	7 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
33,604.04	+30.76		
Percentage	Time		
+0.092%	7 Jun, 12:56 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			

GMT+9 **Open Market Forex Rates**

Change -593.04

Time

7 Jun, 3:15 pm

Index Value

31,913.74

Percentage

-1.82%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	762.07	770.07
Canadian Dollar	227	230
China Yuan	40.28	40.68
Danish Krone	41.09	41.49
Euro	317	320
Hong Kong Dollar	36.53	36.88
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.06
Kuwaiti Dinar	930.96	939.96
Malaysian Ringgit	62.19	62.79
NewZealand \$	174.18	176.18
Norwegians Krone	25.88	26.18
Omani Riyal	744.38	752.38
Qatari Riyal	78.72	79.42
Saudi Riyal	78.7	79.5
Singapore Dollar	220	222
Swedish Korona	26.36	26.66
Swiss Franc	315.69	318.19
Thai Bhat	8.21	8.36
U.A.E Dirham	82	83
UK Pound Sterling	366	370
US Dollar	298.5	301

Fatima Fertilizer's marketing lead wins globally acclaimed Chief Marketer Award

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rabel Sadozai, Director Marketing and Sales, Fatima Fertilizer, has won the Chief Marketer Award in the business category by Campaign Asia-Pa-



cific's prestigious Women Leading Change Awards 2023 announced this week. Now in its seventh year, the Women Leading Change Awards celebrate outstanding women who question, challenge, innovate, lead, inspire, and champion change across all industries. The award is also an avenue for Campaign's own commitment to promoting the advancement of diversity, inclusion, and equality in the industry by spotlighting the region's most inspiring women business leaders, change makers, trailblazers and rising stars standing tall despite the bias and stereotypes.

The Chief Marketer category was introduced for the first time this year, attracting several entries from around Asia Pacific. Rabel is widely recognized as the first female within the Agriculture sector to hold a high-ranking position, breaking barriers and paving the way for other women leaders to follow. Her visionary stewardship has propelled her through numerous significant milestones, including the proposal and successful implementation of Pakistan's first-ever Farmer's Day, an event that is officially recognized by the Government of Pakistan.

Speaking about this remarkable achievement, Rabel expressed her gratitude, saying, "I am truly honoured to receive the Chief Marketer Award by Campaign Asia. This is a win for Fatima Fertilizer and for Pakistan. This recognition is also a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team at Fatima Fertilizer. I am proud to be part of such an organization that values innovation and supports groundbreaking initiatives. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Campaign Asia for providing a global platform that recognizes excellence in business and marketing."

Business community will cooperate in reviving economy: Mian Zahid Hussain

Example 2 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the IMF's reputation is affected by the reluctance to give credit to

"The IMF is repeatedly changing the conditions and keeping the programme suspend-

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the international organisation should play its economic role in this region and avoid taking a politi-

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that making a budget will be difficult in the absence of support from the international institution.



He noted that seven trillion rupees are required for debt servicing and defence expenses, after which the government will have nothing left to run the country's system.

financial year, Pakistan has to pay 25 billion dollars, which will have to be rolled over.

Arab Emirates give two to four billion dollars to Pakistan, it will not be enough to save Pakistan from bankruptcy, he observed.

The business leader noted that cosmetic measures to avoid bankruptcy will only hurt the economy instead of improving it.

Four decades ago, Pakistan's economy was much better than India's, but currently India's foreign exchange reserves are 650 billion dollars, exports are 660 billion dollars, and remittances are 100 billion dollars, while Pakistan's remittances and exports are both falling, inflation has reached 38 percent, foreign exchange reserves are 4.5 billion dollars, and the value of our currency is continuously decreasing, he informed.

It shows that India's priorities have cooperate with it," he said.

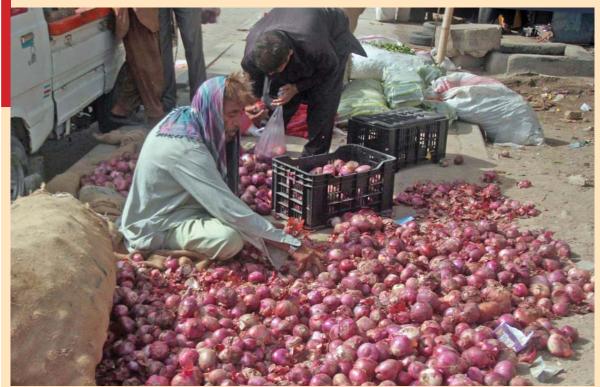
Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the next remained much better than Pakistan's, he said, adding that some reasons behind Pakistan's $\stackrel{\circ}{\text{economic}} \operatorname{collapse} \operatorname{include} \operatorname{imports} \operatorname{more} \operatorname{than}$ Even if Saudi Arabia, China, and the United twice as much as exports during the previous government, political chaos, lack of governance, increasing corruption, incompetence, irresponsibility of the ruling elite, VIP culture, waste of resources, tax evasion, a policy of prioritising politics over economy, a lack of rule of law, mockery in the name of accountability, mafia rule, etc.

Mian Zahid Hussain furthered that the economic foundations of the country are mined, and no international organisation or friendly country can diffuse them to put our economy on the path of development; we will have to do it ourselves and fill all the holes.

If the government makes a strategy to lead the national economy on the path of self-sufficiency, the business community will fully

Onion seller

KARACHI: A worker is busy in separating the spoil onions at Vegetables Market in Provincial Capital.



Promoting organic agricultural practices is essential

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In commemoration of World Environment Day, the WWF-Pakistan Organic Cotton Team, in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department Balochistan, launched the First Ever Green Shop. The initiative aims to facilitate the accessibility of bio inputs for organic farmers at the local market level, promoting sustainable and environmentally-friendly agricultural practices. The launch was accompanied by a farmer's field day held in Rakhni, Barkhan, Balochistan, which welcomed prominent guests and experts from the agricultural sector.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed figures such as Chairman PARC, Dr. also acknowledged the grow- and tap into the rising market.



who graced the occasion as lighting its ability to gener-Ghulam Muhammad Ali, ing demand for organic prod- National Project Director Puls-

ucts among health-conscious the Chief Guest. Addressing and environmentally-aware the audience, Dr. Ali empha- consumers. Dr. Ali further sized the economic poten- emphasized the significance tial of organic cotton, high- of intercropping organic pulses with cotton, presentate foreign exchange earnings ing a promising opportuniand contribute to the over- ty for farmers to expand their all growth of the country. He organic farming operations

es, PARC Dr. Muhammad Mansoor said that the importance of organic cultivation of pulse crops lies in its capacity to augment the resilience of agricultural systems by fostering soil quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.

Following the Farmer Field Day event, an Oath Taking Ceremony was conducted for members of the Organic Farmer Association Balochistan. Participating farmers pledged to prioritize the enhancement of organic farming practices and the development of the farming community. The collaborative initiative, spearheaded by Mr. Hafiz Muĥammad Bakhsh, Senior Manager of OCPs, aims to create a network of farmers committed to sustainable agriculture and contribute to the growth of organic farming in the region. profit also increased from 33 addicted every day.

Profit of cigarette companies has increased despite reduced production



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Despite a substantial decline in declared production by cigarette manufacturing companies, their turnover and gross profit have increased during the first nine months of the current fiscal year, reflecting that the firms are falsely reporting their production to avoid taxes and influ-Protection of the Rights of about the taxes as well. the Child (SPARC) to the launch of policy brief 'Facts vs Industry Narrative: Cigarette Production and Taxation in Pakistan', published by Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC).

Muhammad Sabir, Principal Economist of SPDC said that there are three listed companies which are the country's major cigarette producers, accounting for more than 90% of total cigarette production in Pakistan. These include Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC), Phillip Morris Pakistan (PMPK), and Khyber Tobacco Company. Analysis of the financial statements of these companies reveals that the net turnover and gross profit of the companies altogether increased from 72 billion Rupees during Jul 2021 - Mar 2022 to 94 billion Rupees during Jul 2022 - Mar 2023. Gross

billion Rupees to 46 billion Rupees during the same period. Interestingly, during the quarter of Jan-Mar 2023, when tax rates were increased substantially and declared production declined to half, companies' profits did not fall. This means to bacco industry is underreporting its production to avoid taxes. If it is not, then the industry shouldn't have any complaints with ence tax policy. These views the increased taxes because were shared during an event its profits have increased. But organised by Society for the the industry is complaining

Muhammad Sabir stated that the cigarette industry has used various tactics, such as front-loading and abrupt changes in production, to avoid tax hikes and influence tax policy. That is why fluctuations in cigarette production are not explained by changes in prices or taxes.

Mr. Malik Imran, Country head of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) stated, as far as the tax revenue is concerned, the total tax revenue paid by these companies (including FED and GST) has increased from PKR114.5 billion in July21-March22 to PKR127.5 billion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, representing a growth of 11.3 percent.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC said that the deadly products made by tobacco industry are causing 465 deaths and making 1200 children

Development in Middle East has lessons and opportunities for Pakistan: Azfar Ahsan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & CEO, Nutshell Group; former Minister of State & Chairman, Board of Investment (BoI) presented the keynote address at a Seminar titled "Developments in the Middle East: Lessons and Opportunities for Pakistan," jointly organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and WE News, at a local hotel.

Azfar shared his observations on what has worked for the economies of Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar, and stressed that Pakistan needs collaboration and continuity at all levels, to be able to follow the same trajectory. "We cannot attract FDI without addressing our internal issues. With the continuation of policies and

with collaborative effort of all about mutual benefit and that concerned, we can draw FDI in the next 8-10 years." He also highlighted his concern for the lack of a long-term policy and political will, leading to slow or no progress. Talking about the need

of the hour, Azfar declared competence and merit to be the best instruments for progress, as has been illustrated in the case of Riyadh and Qatar: both have come up as fast-progressing economies. "Meritocracy and competence should be the only criteria for people at the helm of affairs in the Government, and non-performers need to be removed."

Azfar pointed out that the country lacks cohesion and coordination among all relevant stakeholders. He also emphasized that business is all

Pakistan cannot continue busiworth around USD 25 billion ness engagements solely based on friendships and personal relationships.

Azfar also stressed on the importance of creating an enabling environment for Saudi investors. "Pakistan needs to identify the sectors where investment is needed and facilitate foreign investors instead of discouraging them. Rather than focusing on loans and subsidies, we should aim to attract a few billion dollars annually from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE."

Azfar praised the efforts of Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Muhammad Bin Salman, as an exceptional visionary and credited KSA's Vision 2030 to be a relevant blue-



ed Riyadh into a center of investments where the global

print for Pakistan. It was his ventures and other opportunistrong planning that convert- ties. Azfar said, "The number of women in their workforce has increased, and the miniscommunity is exploring joint tries and government of KSA

are now more efficient than the private sector. The credit goes to none other than HRH Muhammad Bin Salman."

Closing his address, Azfar said that there are immense opportunities for Pakistan; "Saudi investors are willing to invest in Pakistan in eight sectors. As Chairman BoI, I took the responsibility to devise a strategy for collaboration between Pakistan and KSA for G2G, G2B and B2B investments."

Azfar lamented that the biggest problem with Pakistan is political polarization. "How long will Pakistan continue to be an average performer? In order to turn around the current situation, there is a strong need for sustainable and investor-friendly policy frameworks, as well as a collaborative approach."

Rashid Khan left out of Afghanistan squad for Bangladesh Test

A Sports

KABUL: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Wednesday, announced a 15-member squad for the one-off Test against Bangladesh, leaving out star all-rounder Rashid Khan to prioritise his "long-term fitness".

Rashid Khan, who returned to action in the ODI series decider against Sri Lanka after missing the first two due to a lower-back injury, has now been rested for Afghanistan's one-off Test against Bangladesh, scheduled to take place from June 14 to 18.

"Although he made a comeback in the series decider today, the team management & medical team have decided to prioritize his long-term fitness," the ACB

"Despite being fit, our selectors believe he receives adequate rest and rehabilita- the statement added.



tion allowing him to regain full fitness it is crucial not to rush his return. They before the upcoming BCB tigers series, have taken a cautious approach to ensure the ACC Asia Cup & the ICC CWC 2023,"

Besides Rashid Khan, Azmatullah Omarzai, who missed the third ODI Afghanistan's squad due to a groin injury. and Sayed Shirzad.

As per the ACB, he will undergo rehab and will remain under full medical observation until his return.

Meanwhile, Izharulhaq Naveed, Ibrahim Abdulrahimzai, Nijat Masood, and Karim Janat have all received their maiden Afghanistan Test call-ups. Hashmatullah Shahidi will lead the 15-man squad.

Afghanistan will reach Bangladesh on June 10 for the one-off Test. They will tour Bangladesh twice this year - firstly for the one-off Test in June and then for a threematch ODI series and two T20Is in July.

Afghanistan Squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Rahmat Shah (vice-captain), Afsar Zazai (wk), Ikram Alikhil, Ibrahim Zadran, Abdul Malik, Bahir Shah, Nasir Jamal, Karim Janat, Zahir Khan, Izharulhaq Naveed, Amir Hamza, Ibrahim Abdulrahimzai, Yamin Ahmadzai, Nijat Masood.

Reserves: Noor Ali Zadran, against Sri Lanka was also left out of Zia-ur-Rehman, Azmatullah Omarzai

Travis Head, Steve Smith turn tide for Australia in WTC final against India

Sports Desk

LONDON: Travis Head's dashing century was the centrepiece of an Australia fightback against India on the opening day of the World Test Championship (WTC) final at The Oval on Wednesday.

Australia were in a commanding position on 327-3 at stumps after losing the toss, with Travis Head 146 not out and Steve Smith 95 not out.

Steve Smith brought up the pair's 250 stand off the last ball of the day when he guided Mohammed Shami through the covers for a sweetly timed four.

The fourth-wicket duo had come together with Australia in trouble at 76-3 after being sent into bat in bowler-friendly conditions in the WTC Final.

But as the sun burst through the clouds in south London, the runs started to flow.

Travis Head had his moments of good fortune but by counter-attacking from the start of his innings — 24 of his first 27 runs came in boundaries — the lefthander put the pressure back on the his fifty.

match averaged nearly 98 in Tests at eyed a 31st Test hundred. The Oval, batting in more conventional fashion it gave the 29-year-old Head could, with Australia 301-3 off 80 overs,



freedom to keep playing his shots.

By the time India tested Head with the short ball, he was well set and a pulled single off Shami took him to a sixth Test hundred in just 106 balls, including 13 fours and a six.

But a superb driven four off Moham

India took the new ball as soon as they handers.

but it made little difference. India captain Rohit Sharma would

have been looking for many more wickets after opting to bowl first. And as Smith and Head repelled

By contrast, Smith took 144 balls for about the wisdom of leaving out 60-ball fifty. off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, the world's top-ranked Test howler who With Steve Smith, who before this med Siraj saw Smith into the 90s as he could have been a threat against an Australia top five featuring three left- of a packed schedule of six Tests in eight

was their second WTC Final after losing to New Zealand in the inaugural 2021

showpiece in Southampton. Siraj removed Usman Khawaja for a duck with an excellent wobble-seam delivery and Australia, to the raucous delight of an overwhelmingly pro-India crowd, were 2-1.

But David Warner, who had managed just one century in his previous 32 Test innings, dug in before the increasingly assured opener struck Umesh Yadav for three fours in successive deliveries.

The 36-year-old left-hander's promising innings ended on 43 when a gloved pull off medium-pacer Shardul Thakur was well caught down the legside by diving wicketkeeper Srikar Bharat.

Marnus Labuschagne, the world's top-ranked Test batsman, fell early in the second session for his lunch score of 26 when he was bowled between bat and pad by a Shami inswinger.

Head was troubled by Ravindra Jadeja but then drove the left-arm spinner India, he might also have wondered for four — one of nine boundaries in a

> The WTC is the only major men's cricket trophy Australia have vet to win

The WTC Final also marks the start weeks for Australia, including a five-India had started strongly in what match Ashes series against England.

series win

Bowlers-led Sri Lanka

 $sink Afghan is tan \ to \ seal$



№ A Sports

HAMBANTOTA: Dushmantha Chameera-led Sri Lanka's bowling attack decimated Afghanistan's batting lineup before openers powered them to blow away Afghanistan in the third ODI

In the decisive final ODI of the three-match series, Afghanistan batters struggled against a ruthless bowling attack by Sri Lanka after their skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi opted to bat as the coin flipped in his favour.

The visitors had a dismal start to their innings as they lost their first wicket in the second over with Rahmanullah Gurbaz being the first to walk after, scoring a mere eight.

Afghanistan continued to lose wickets at regular intervals as their batters appeared hapless against Sri Lankan bowlers and soon bundled out for a meagre 116 in the 23rd over.

Veteran all-rounder Mohammad Nabi remained the top-scorer for Afghanistan in their dismal show with the bat, scoring a run-a-ball 23 while opener Ibrahim Zadran (22) and Gulbadin

Naib (20) were the other notable run-getters. Dushmantha Chameera was the pick of the bowlers for Sri Lanka for his sensational figures of 4/63, followed by Wanindu Hasaranga's 3/7.

Lahiru Kumara bagged two wickets for Sri Lanka while Maheesh Theekshana made one scalp.

Set to chase a mere 117, Sri Lankan openers made it an easy affair, courtesy of their brilliant 84-run partnership.

Pathum Nissanka was the core aggressor of the match-defining stand as he struck 51 off just 34 deliveries, laced up with eight boundaries and two sixes before Gulbadin Naib trapped him plumb in the 11th over.

Meanwhile, Dimuth Karunaratne then put on an unbeaten partnership with Kusal Mendis and completed a thumping victory for their side with 204 balls to spare.

Karunaratne top-scored for Sri Lanka with a 45-ball 56 which featured seven boundaries.

Whereas, Mendis batted sensibly for his 17-ball 11 and hit a

Naib remained the only bowler to pick up a wicket for Afghanistan while the rest went wicketless.

Saudi 'Where is Messi?' fan meets star footballer, picture surfaces

₿ A Sports

A Saudi Arabia fan who went viral amid FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar for his trolling remarks 'Where is Messi?' against Lionel Messi has now met the star footballer.

Lionel Messi had a dream campaign in Qatar when he propelled Argentina to a World Cup triumph for the first time fter 1986 and their third world title overall.

But the dream campaign had a disastrous start as the tournament's favourite Argentina succumbed to a shock loss against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in their opening game.

Lionel Messi scored the first goal of his final World Cup and took Argentina in the lead early in the first half after a foul from Al Bulayahi, who took down Parades in the box.

Saudi Arabia scored the equalizer in the second half with a brilliant left-footed shot by Salah Alshehri that cut across goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez and landed in the bottom right corner. Salem Aldawsri then put Saudi Arabia into the lead just five

minutes post the equalizer and it lasted till the final whistle. Saudi Arabia's surprising victory over tournament favourites Argentina sent their fans into jubilation and several videos of the Arab fans celebrating went viral on social media.

Furthermore, another footage caught the attention of the football in which a Saudi fan was heard trolling Lionel Messi by asking, "Where is Messi?".

The details of the meeting between Lionel Messi and the famous footballer have not been known yet as Twitter users are sharing the viral pictures in utter disbelief.

Earlier this month, Lionel Messi parted ways with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) after their last Ligue 1 2022/23 fixture against Clermont Foot.

Argentine superstar Lionel Messi is likely to play in Saudi Arabia next season under a "huge" deal, a source with knowledge of the negotiations told AFP earlier this month.

"Messi is a done deal. He will play in Saudi Arabia next season," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity and with-

out naming the club. "The contract is exceptional. It's huge. We are just finalising

some small details," the source added. It is worth mentioning here that besides Saudi's huge deal,

Messi's former club Barcelona are also in the race to rope in the star footballer.

Batting Rankings A Sports as he leapfrogged 10 places to for May 2023. secure 23rd rank. DUBAI: Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam has

surpassed England's Joe Root in the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings. Joe Root, who became the

fastest to 11,000 Test runs with his 56-run knock in the one-off Test against Ireland saw the dip in his rating points despite the half-century which paved the way for Babar Azam to surpass him in the rankings. Root's rating points decreased

from 871 to 861, causing him to slip to the fifth position in the rankings. Consequently, Babar fourth position. Azam surpassed the former England captain with 862



Babar Azam pips Joe Root in ICC Test

from their dominant 10-wicket

rating points and secured the victory over Ireland Ollie Pope who scored the fastest double England's star performer century at Lord's got the reward of his magnificent performance Whereas, Pope's fellow

Centurion Ben Duckett jumped eight places to get hold of the 34th rank with 602 rating

Ireland displayed retaliation against ruthless England as the touring side attempted to fight back in the second innings and avoided an inning defeat.

As a result of their gutsy approach, skipper Andy McBrine's unbeaten 86 lifted him 28 places while Mark Adair's 88-run knock saw him jumping 32 spots.

Earlier this week, Babar Azam was nominated for the ICC Player of the Month award

ICC on Tuesday revealed

the three nominees for the award which include Bangladesh's Naimul Hossain Shanto, Ireland's Harry Tector and Pakistan skipper.

Babar Azam's nomination came on the back of his consistent performances in the home ODI series against New Zealand last month.

"Pakistan's skipper once again stood up for his country, this time in his team's home ODI series against New Zealand," said the ICC media release.

Notably, Babar Azam is the only batter in the top five spots in ICC Batting Rankings across

Maham Manzoor overcomes hardship to shine in women's cricket

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In the world of crickinspire fans and players alike. Maham Manzoor, a talented left-arm orthodox spinner hailing from Hyderabad Region, is an example of such resilience. Despite facing financial hardships, Maham's solid dedication to her skill has led her to of representing her country on

the international stage. Maham's journey in cricket began when she first represented Hyderabad Region at the U19 level during the 2013-14 season. The left-arm spinner quickly caught the attention of selectors with her natural talent and ability to spin the ball. Despite facing numerous financial challenges, she continued to train and

compete, determined to make her mark in this sport.

In 2014, Maham made her et, stories of determination often debut in List-A cricket, featuring in the Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah Women Cricket Championship Seniors. This opportunity allowed her to showcase her skills against seasoned players and gain valuable experience. Although her team's performance may not have been the represent her region and dream most successful, Maham's individual contributions stood out, underlining her potential as a rising star.

Maham in conversation with PCB Digital talked about her journey till date. She said, "I started playing on the streets, my family was very supportive from the beginning, they motivated and encouraged me to take

I had no knowledge that there

exists a game which was played with a hard ball, I used to play with boys with a taped ball.

On how she came into this game, Maham said, "I was in school when I saw on the television screen that the women's team was playing a cricket match and then I came to know that there exists a women's crick-

On who inspired her to take this game as a professional sport, Maham said, "Javeria Khan inspired me, when I saw her on the ground for the first time, it came to my knowledge that she is a senior player and watching her I got the feeling that I should play."

Maham's journey has been far from easy. She had to travel from Hyderabad to Karachi to pursue her dream as there were less facilities in the Hyderabad

region. She said, "I had an issue of residency in Karachi, so I used to travel to Karachi in the morning and after playing the match, travel back the same night to my home on public transport. Coming from a financial-

ly constrained background, she bears the responsibility of supporting her family while pursuing her cricketing aspirations. Despite these challenges, Maham has never lost hope of representing her country in the near future.

Maham's father, who passed away in 2018, dreamt of seeing her daughter representing Pakistan women's cricket team. Maham said, "My father always pushed me to play this game, he encouraged me that good time will come, just have faith and wanted to see me in Pakistan colours once."



Recently, Maham had the Dynamites in the Pakistan Cup opportunity to represent Women's Cricket Tournament. support them.

ment, Maham performed exceptionally, ending up in the fourth spot among the bowlers with five wickets from two matches. In the subsequent one-day phase, Maham claimed four wickets from four matches and helped her side clinch the

In the T20 phase of the tourna-

one-day phase of the tournament, further solidifying her reputation as an exciting prospect in Pakistan women's crick-Maham is not losing hope of

representing Pakistan women's team in the future. She said, "I have made a great struggle to reach this stage. I am grateful for whatever I am today and will not lose hope and continue to avail chances. I will also urge other girls to take this sport, and would request their parents to