



**Imran confesses his assassination plot allegation was baseless, unfounded: Rana Sana**

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Tuesday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman had confessed during investigations that the allegation he had leveled against the prime minister and him for planning his murder were baseless and unfounded. (Details on Page 8)



**Relief for masses on cards as Russian crude oil arrived in Pakistan: Minister**

Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Tuesday said the deal struck by Pakistan with Russia for crude oil import would help the government pass on financial relief to the masses who had been bearing brunt of inflation stemmed from the previous government's flawed economic policies. "This is the history since it is the first time that crude oil from Russia has been arrived in Pakistan," the minister said. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Preparedness for Biparjoy**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting regarding preparedness and measures taken for the approaching "Biparjoy" Cyclone on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

**PM directs utilizing all-out resources for people's protection amid Biparjoy cyclone**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Sindh provincial government, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other relevant organisations to utilise all-out resources to ensure people's protection keeping in view the Biparjoy cyclone.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of the possible impact of the Biparjoy cyclone, asked the Sindh government, NDMA and other organizations to ensure the establishment of mobile hospitals in coastal areas and provide adequate emergency medical assistance there.

He said in view of the storm, special arrangements of clean drinking water and food should

**PM to pay a two-day official visit to Azerbaijan from Jun 14**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to pay a two-day official visit to Azerbaijan on June 14-15, 2023, at the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev.

The prime minister will hold wide-ranging talks with President

Ilham Aliyev on key areas of cooperation including trade, investment and energy.

Regional and global issues of mutual concern and cooperation in multilateral forums will also be discussed.

after the cyclone, the possible damage to the power transmission system should be repaired immediately.

He also set up a committee to deal with the emergency situation arising in view of the Biparjoy cyclone. To be headed by Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, the committee would comprise

Power Minister Engineer Khur-

ram Dastgir Khan, Food Security Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema, NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, and representatives of Sindh and Balochistan governments, Meteorological Department and National Institute of Health (NIH).

The prime minister instructed the committee for constant consultation to deal with the

situation arising from the cyclone and keep the people aware of any possible emergency. Complete evacuation of people from the coastal areas likely to be affected, should be ensured, besides providing relief materials to them.

"Inshallah, all the institutions will collectively deal with the possible situation arising from the cyclone Biparjoy cyclone," he resolved.

The meeting was briefed on the route of the cyclone and the possible collision with the coastal areas.

The displaced people are being accommodated in government buildings and temporary camps where Pakistan Army, NDMA, provincial government and district administration were providing food, tents, mosquito nets and clean drinking water.

The Pakistan-Azerbaijan relationship is embedded in commonalities of faith, culture and history, and strengthened by mutual trust and convergence of views on regional and global matters.

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**President condoles with family members of martyred soldiers**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday condoled with the bereaved family members of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom for the country.

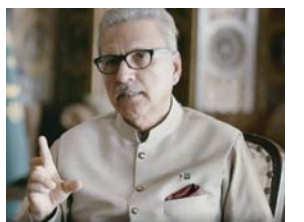
He paid tribute to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country's security.

He called over the telephone, the family members of martyred Sepoy Inayatullah and Hasnain Ishtiaq, who embraced martyrdom in Sangwan, Balochistan on June 1, and expressed sympathies with them.

He also hailed the martyrs' patriotism and bravery.

The president also phoned the father of Lance Naek Meraj Uddin who was martyred in North Waziristan on June 3.

Besides, he called the father of Naek Zaheer Abbas who embraced martyrdom in Mir Ali on June 4, and expressed his heartfelt condolence to him.



The president also extend his sympathies to the bereaved family members of Havaldar Muhammad Anwar and Naek Subedar Ghulam Murtaza who were martyred in Jani Khel on June 4.

President Alvi also contacted the family members of Lance Naek Sabir who embraced martyrdom in South Waziristan on June 5.

Paying tributes to the services and sacrifices of the martyrs for their country, President Alvi thanked the families of the martyrs on behalf of the nation.

He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls in paradise.

**Biparjoy weakens into 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm'**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Tropical Cyclone 'Biparjoy' has weakened into a "Very Severe Cyclonic Storm" (VSCS)-Category 3, with sustained wind-speeds of approximately 140-150 kilometers per hour (km/h) and gusts up to 170 km/h after it started reaching closer to the coastline of the country.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the current location was near Latitude 20.7° N and Longitude 67.1° E, roughly 460 km south of Karachi and 450 km south of Thatta and 565km southeast of Ormara.

According to the latest forecast, tropical cyclone Biparjoy was expected to maintain a northward trajectory until the morning of June 14 and then it was likely to recurve eastward and would make



landfall between Keti Bandar (Southeast Sindh Coastline) and the Indian Gujarat Coastline in the afternoon of June 15, as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS).

The areas likely to be affected included Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Tharparkar, Karachi, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Hyderabad, Ormara, Tando Allah Yar Khan and Tando Mohammad Khan. These findings have been developed by the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) Technical team using international and national models (PMD-NWPM, NASA, PDC & UKM, IMD, BOM-A, and ECMWF).

**OIC chief lauds Pakistan's active role to implement joint Islamic action**



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Husein Ibrahim Taha on Tuesday appreciated the active role of Pakistan in the OIC and in promoting joint Islamic action.

The OIC chief received Pakistan's Permanent Representative to OIC Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah, said a press release.

The permanent representative praised the leading role of the secretary-general in the implementation of the decisions of the Islamic Summit and the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

**Those who burnt Jinnah House & pictures are not patriots: Marriyum**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said those who had burnt the house and pictures of Quaid-i-Azam Ali Jinnah on May 9 could neither be regarded as responsible citizens nor patriots.

"A rioter, Fitna, and mastermind spearheaded the armed groups vandalizing the Jinnah House from his home," the minister said while talking to the media during her visit to the Jinnah House.

She regretted that not only the house of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was burnt by the armed groups on the directives of the PTI chairman but his invaluable and historic pictures and portraits displayed in the corridor were also set on fire.

A mosque on the premises of the Jinnah House was also burnt in the regrettable incident, she added.

The minister said on May 9, schools, ambulances, memorials of martyrs, the iconic fighter jet of M M Alam, and the statue of martyred Captain Sher Khan were put on fire



and vandalized by the unruly mobs, she recalled, rejecting the notion that vandalism was part of a political protest.

No patriot could even think of such heinous acts which were unacceptable and unforgivable, she remarked.

The minister reaffirmed that those who were involved in the violent incidents of May 9 would be brought to justice at all costs, as the people of Pakistan would never forget the painful day.

Marriyum said the whole nation and the patriotic political parties were united and unanimous that the planners, including the mastermind, and attackers of May 9 tragedy should be punished.

She said the architect of May 9 tragedy was still misleading the nation with his conflicting state-

ments. Sometimes he said his workers were responsible for the tragedy and sometimes he blamed the media squarely for all the mayhem on that day.

The person, who had hatched the conspiracy while sitting at his residence in Zaman Park, continued to churn out lies about human rights conditions in the country, she added.

The abettors of the crime would also be taken to the task, she said, calling for a thorough investigation about the PTI chief's role in the May 9 tragedy.

"What was the fault of the school going children? Why their vans were set on fire?" the minister questioned.

She said exemplary punishments should be given to the perpetrators, masterminds and executioners of the May 9 tragedy.

To a query, Marriyum said there was no politics involved in the incidents of May 9. The culprits would be tried under the relevant laws.

"Our position is clear that innocent people will not be punished, as the persons involved in the May 9 rioting have been identified through geo-fencing."

**Pak Navy evacuated 700 villagers in Shah Bandar, 64 fishermen rescued from sea**

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy troops evacuated 700 personnel from various villages of Shah Bandar- a coastal town of district Sujawal- while 64 fishermen have been rescued from sea.

PN Ships are patrolling and maintaining vigilance in open sea to render assistance to vessels in distress amid tropical cyclone Biparjoy, said a statement issued here on Tuesday.

Pakistan Navy has put all its available resources at high alert with requisite assets to provide assistance to the inhabitants of coastal areas of Sindh in case of any emergency amid the tropical cyclone.

A cyclone monitoring cell has been activated at Headquarters Commander Karachi for monitoring the developments and coordinating the responses, the spokesperson informed.

**Bilawal appeals to people for cooperation, precautions in view of cyclone 'Biparjoy'**

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has appealed to the public to take protective measures and to cooperate with the administration in view of the cyclone "Biparjoy".

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House here on Tuesday,

The PPP Chairman said that according to meteorological reports, the coastal areas of Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal and Badin are under threat of the 'Biparjoy'.

He said that the government of Sindh is alert in view of the cyclone and is taking all possible safety measures, adding that all possible resources are being utilised to protect the life and property of the people. Bilawal said that the people, especially those living in the coastal areas, should cooperate with the administration and move to safer places without delay.

He emphasized that citizens



living in old and dilapidated buildings should also be shifted to safer places on emergency basis. He also appealed to the fishermen not to go into the open sea for the next few days until the weather returns to normal.

"Travelling during rainstorms should be avoided, as taking all precautionary measures is the only way to avoid the potential damage of a natural calamity," he added.

Bilawal also instructed his Party's office-bearers and workers to lend a helping hand to the administration in rescue and relief activities, while the lawmakers of the party from the coastal areas should remain in their respective constituencies and stay in touch with the people.

## Public Forum

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazir Tatar addressing the Public Forum organized by PILDAT on the status of implementation of the ECP's 3rd Strategic Plan on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Imran confesses his assassination plot allegation was baseless, unfounded: Rana Sana

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Tuesday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman had confessed during investigations that the allegation he had leveled against the prime minister and him for planning his murder were baseless and unfounded.

Addressing a press conference, he said when the PTI chief was asked about the basis of his accusations, he simply stated, "I was informed by someone," without nominating anyone.

Similarly, the minister added, the PTI leader also admitted that the derogatory comments about the armed



forces and the army chief were baseless.

All the confessions he had made in the written statement, clearly showed that no one could match him in propagating lies and unfounded accusations, he added.

Rana Sana further said the PTI leader misled the public about the concocted plot for his assassination

and brainwashed the youth in that regard. The rioting and vandalizing witnessed by the nation on May 9 was the outcome of the so-called Tiger Force of one million people raised by the "Dar of Sialkot" on the behest of his leader, he added.

He said public resources were ruthlessly used for the Tiger Force, and even funds

allocated for combating the coronavirus were also spent for the purpose, and details regarding that would be made public soon.

It established that the PTI chief was preparing to forcibly take control of the country, he added.

The minister elaborated that on May 9, the PTI leader launched his nefarious operation with the help of the Tiger Force he had trained by spending billions of rupees while in power.

Planning in that regard had been made in advance, as evident from the slogans like "we want real freedom" and "Imran is our red line" being chanted months before his (PTI chief's) arrest, he added.

As regards the protest demonstrations announced by the PTI against the party leader's arrest, the minister clarified that there was no protest, rather vandalism and rioting. "They targeted military installations and disrespected the memorials of martyrs, who are a source of pride for the nation. However, contrary to the PTI chief's expectations, the entire nation stands behind the army and the martyrs," he added.

The minister said the police were instructed not to use firearms. The policemen tried their best to disperse the rioters, but they could not control the situation with batons, and even some officers were severely injured in the process, he added.

## Ayaz, OIETAI Head discuss bilateral economic cooperation to strengthen ties between two nations

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Minister, Head of Organization of Investment, Economic and Technical Assistant of Iran (OIETAI), Ali Fekri Tuesday discussed bilateral economic cooperation and strengthened ties between two nations.

A high-level delegation from Iran led by Deputy Minister and OIETAI Head, Ali Fekri called on the Minister for Economic Affairs here, said a press release issued here.

The meeting marked an important step towards enhancing trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

During the meeting, the minister welcoming the Iranian delegation, apprised that Pakistan valued its longstanding and amicable relations with Iran and aimed to strengthen bilateral ties fostering trade and economic prospects that would contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

Additionally, the minister highlighted that prompt



execution of Agreements and MoUs reached during the 21st Session of Pak-Iran Joint Economic Commission

would bolster economic cooperation and facilitate enhanced people-to-people connectivity with progress in all modes of

transportation.

The OIETAI head expressed Iran's keen interest in collaborating with Pakistan and shared their plans for investment in various sectors including energy projects and infrastructure development.

He acknowledged the favorable investment climate in Pakistan and the government's commitment to providing a business-friendly environment.

Ali Fekri also expressed keen interest in joining projects of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Pakistan.

## APTMA rejects hike in gas, electricity prices in budget

## News Desk

LAHORE: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has rejected the recent hike in gas and electricity prices in the FY2023-24 budget.

According to the statement released by APTMA, said mills cannot be operated on the provision of electricity at 16 cents. "Punjab mills can be shut down from July 1."

The statement further said that APTMA cannot export goods at the new rate and demanded the provision of electricity at 8 cents as being provided to the other countries of the region.

Thousands of textile workers will be unemployed as Pakistan's exports in May-June already recorded 30pc decrease.

Earlier, the patron-in-chief of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Gohar Ejaz warned that approximately 10 million textile workers will be unemployed in Punjab.

He asked PM Shehbaz Sharif to adopt emergency steps as the country is facing a massive drop in exports.

## PSX loses 244 more points as budget shocks continue

## TLTP

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained bearish for the second day in a row on Tuesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 244.20 points (-0.58 percent) to close at 41,538.72 points.

The market opened on a sharp positive note, with the KSE-100 Index gaining over 240 points and breaching the 42,000 points level within the first half an hour trading. However, the market turned towards profit-taking soon after crossing the psychological level of 42,000 points, as was witnessed many times during the past couple of weeks. The indices landed in the red and remained there till the end of the session, as the sentiment turned negative.

The concerns about the revival of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme and addi-

tional taxes imposed on listed companies in the new budget turned the market in the red. Overall, the benchmark index has shed 365.48 points during the two sessions after the presentation of the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The KSE-100 Index moved in a range of 502.9 points, showing an intraday high of 42,025.53 points and a low of 41,522.63 points. Among other indices, the KSE All Share Index shed 209.71 points (-0.75 percent) to close at 28,124.35 points, while KMI All Share Islamic Index shed 224.19 points (-1.09 percent) to close at 20,589.72 points.

The overall market volumes decreased by 34.95 million to 144.17 million shares against 179.12 million shares a session earlier. Total volumes traded for the KSE-100 Index remained 61.68 million against 83.27 million a session

earlier, showing a decrease of 21.59 million shares.

Among scrips, HASCOL topped the volumes for the second straight day with 14.36 million shares, followed by TPLP (13.51 million) and WTL (12.98 million). Stocks that contributed significantly to the volumes included HASCOL, TPLP, WTL, BOP, and MDTL, which formed around 39 percent of total volumes.

A total of 323 companies traded shares in the stock exchange as compared to 308 a session earlier. Out of traded companies, shares of 90 closed up, shares of 205 closed down while shares of 28 companies remained unchanged. A total of 92 companies traded shares in the KSE-100 Index against 94 companies a session earlier, out of which shares of 29 companies closed up, 59 closed down and four remained unchanged.

## Relief for masses on cards as Russian crude oil arrived in Pakistan: Minister

## Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Tuesday said the deal struck by Pakistan with Russia for crude oil import would help the government pass on financial relief to the masses who had been bearing brunt of inflation stemmed from the previous government's flawed economic policies.

"This is the history since it is the first time that crude oil from Russia has been arrived in Pakistan," the minister said while addressing a news conference here.

He refused to divulge details of the commercial terms of the oil deal with Russia due to agreements signed by both sides for confidentiality.

"I want to say to my political opponents that Russian oil has reached Pakistan, which will benefit the people, so at least congratulate the nation today," he said while accusing the previous government of misleading the masses on the subject.

The PTI government, in fact, did not manage to get any oil deal with Russia which was also confirmed by the Russian government's officials.

He said Pakistan had imported 100,000 tons of oil from Russia initially with plans to gradually increase the quantity over time as the country would meet its quarterly oil



requirements through the utilization of Russian oil.

He said the previous regime had made baseless claims, suggesting that the PTI government's attempt to import oil from Russia led to its alleged removal.

"If this is true then how we have imported oil from Russia successfully," he questioned.

Musadik said the government wanted good relations with all countries including Russia, America, Europe, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and China as Pakistan was not part of any group.

He said that the government intended to ink a \$10 billion contract, before the end of its tenure, so a new oil refinery could be established in Pakistan. The minister said that Pakistan had also received a contract from Azerbaijan, which was available to the cabinet.

## Hina Khar, EU commissioners discuss matters of bilateral ties



## Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: As part of her ongoing visit to Belgium, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has held extensive meetings with two European Union Commissioners in Brussels.

The Minister of State called on the European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenaric to follow up on discussions pertaining to EU's flood relief activities in Pakistan.

During the interaction, Minister of State thanked the EU for activating the European Civil Protection Mechanism post floods that enabled immediate assistance from EU during rehabilitation phase. The two sides agreed to explore further avenues for collaboration in disaster management and capacity building, according to a statement received here on Tuesday.

In her meeting with European

Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson, Minister of State discussed optimal utilization of the recently launched Migration and Mobility Dialogue including opportunities for legal migration of skilled labor. It was agreed to strengthen cooperation in implementation of Pakistan-EU Readmission agreement.

Hina Khar, EU commissioners discuss matters of bilateral relations

In her interactions at the EU Commission, the Minister of State

expressed the hope that the EU would take a leadership role in dealing with emerging global challenges and non-traditional security threats including climate change, pandemics, water, energy and food security. She advocated for collaboration and cooperation for building capacity with a special focus on sustainability, green economics, agriculture and digital connectivity.

## Workers' Remittances fall by 10.4pc in May on YoY basis

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Remittances sent by overseas Pakistanis workers posted a decline of 10.4 percent on a year-on-year basis to \$2.102 billion in May, citing data shared by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

According to the data, the workers' remittances posted a decline of 12.84 percent during first eleven months of fiscal year 2022-23 as the remittances fell from \$28.489 billion in July-May of FY22 to \$24.831 billion in the period under review.

On a year-on-year basis, the overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$ 2.102 billion in May 2023, posting a decrease of 10.40pc as compared with the same month of the previous year's inflow of \$ 2.346 billion.

On a month-on-month basis, the remittances also decreased by 4.36pc from \$2.198 billion in April 2023 to \$2.102 billion in April 2023.

According to the remittances' inflows during May 2023 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$524 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$335.8 million), the Unit-

ed Kingdom (\$306.5 million) and the United States of America (\$257.2 million).

During the corresponding month, the overseas Pakistanis living in Bahrain sent \$35 million, from Kuwait \$65.1 million, from Qatar \$72.6 million whereas \$78 million were dispatched from Oman.

Similarly, the inflows from Germany, France, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, and Belgium were recorded at \$44.3 million, \$36.6 million, \$4.1 million, \$39.7 million, \$67.8 million, \$28 million, \$5.5 million, \$5.7 million, \$8.7 million and \$8.9 million respectively.

Likewise, from Malaysia, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, and Japan, the workers dispatched \$7.4 million, \$6.6 million, \$3.8 million, \$43.1 million, \$39.2 million, and \$6.1 million respectively.

Remittances from South Africa during the month under review stood at \$11.2 million while that from South Korea stood at \$7.7 million. Similarly, \$54.1 million were received from other countries.

# CM Punjab conducted a visit to Multan and inspected various projects

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted a visit to various facilities in Multan on Tuesday. He inspected Nishtar Hospital-II, Nishtar Hospital's inn, the cardiology institute, its emergency block extension, and the cotton research institute. Additionally, he met with delegations of traders and lawyers at the circuit house.

During his visit to Nishtar Hospital-II, CM addressed the media, stating, "We are personally taking charge of our responsibilities and not relying on external influences. We are committed to undertaking significant development initiatives. Nishtar Hospital-II is a critical necessity for the residents of Multan and its surrounding areas, and we are determined to make it fully operational with a complete staff of 100% by September. To ensure the functioning of the new hospital, we will not transfer any staff from the existing Nishtar Hospital. While there is a ban on hiring, the election commission



has granted permission for the recruitment of doctors, and the recruitment process for doctors and paramedics for Nishtar-II is already underway."

With a strong commitment to ensuring timely completion and operational functionality, the chief minister emphasized the urgency of finalizing the emergency block project. During his visit to the pharmacy, he engaged with patients, displaying his genuine concern for their well-being. Furthermore, he assessed the facilities in the

waiting area for attendants and ordered to further enhance the standard of facilities.

Mohsin Naqvi inspected the water cooler for patients and their attendants, inquiring about the quality of the available facilities. Noting the importance of providing top-notch services, he issued instructions to improve the overall quality of amenities within the hospital.

The CM inaugurated the operationalization of Nishtar Hospital's inn and inspected the available facilities. Recognizing the importance of ensuring optimal comfort for attendants, he issued instructions for the installation of air conditioners. In addition, he extended the duration of stay to a round-the-clock service, providing convenience to individuals availing themselves of the inn's accommodations.

Mohsin Naqvi also met with officials of the district bar associations of Multan, Vehari, and Lodhran. He handed over a grant of one crore rupees for the Multan district bar association and 50 lakh rupees each for the Vehari and Lodhran district bar associations.

Among the attendees were President Waheed Bukhari and General Secretary Altaf Gilani from the Multan DBA, President Liaqat Sampal and General Secretary Nasir Ahmad from the Vehari DBA, as well as President Kamran Khan and General Secretary Ejaz Sahu from the Lodhran DBA.

Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Additional Chief Secretary (South Punjab), Commissioner, deputy commissioner, RPO, and other Officials were also present.

## Head Constable promoted in PHP

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: According to the details the Addl: IG Punjab Highway Patrol Police, Mr. Rao Abdul Kareem promoted 22 Head constables to the rank of ASI. Here putting the promotion badges were demonstrated by the parent.



It was informed that the Departmental promotion Board was held at PHP Headquarters under the chairmanship of SP Headquarters Mansoor Qamar. DIG PHP Dr. Muhammad Athar Waheed monitored the whole process and ensured transparency as well as merit. Total 26 cases were perused for promotion and 25 HC were promoted to the rank of Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs) due to their completion of ACRs and good professional record. Three Head Constables were promoted from the Region of Faisalabad namely Muhammad Imran, Maqbool Ahmad and Muhammad Afzal. The Addl: IG PHP Rao Abdul Kareem and DIG PHP Dr. Muhammad Athar Waheed congratulated the newly promoted ASIs and exhorted to work diligently and honestly for people's welfare & Public services delivery should be the prime focus of every police officer, he further said and added.

## Traffic police officers always present for the welfare of the public

Mian Rashid Asghar.



FAISALABAD: Mutual cooperation & coordinator among the societal segments promote the trust and worth of the institutions. The traffic police officers are always present for the welfare of the public in the light of the required instructions. CTO Maqsood Ahmed Lone assured the Anjuman Tajran Registered Tandlianwala that their services are always standing along with the public impartially & honestly. This was appreciated by the Chairman Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed.

He clarified that, moving towards its destination, large-scale development works are expected soon with God willing, expressed by the Senior Vice President Sheikh Farooq Ahmed.

Further details informed that a delegation of Anjuman Tajran registered Tandlianwala, Chairman Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed, Senior Vice President Sheikh Farooq Ahmed and General Secretary Maher Muhammad Majid visited the office of Chief Traffic Police Faisalabad. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Maqsood Ahmed Lone, which he accepted with a smile. There was given full assurance of full cooperation from trade community to CTO Maqsood Ahmad Lone.

Lone has further said that traffic police officers are always present for the welfare of the people in the light of the above instructions. Finally, prayer was offered for the forces of Pakistan, the country of Pakistan, the world of Islam, especially the people and businessmen of Tandlianwala.

## Discount World (DW) Signed (MOU) with Romanza Golf & Country Club DHA

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Discount World's tie-up with RG&CC to promote golf under strategic alliance with Visa Discount World's collaboration with Romanza Golf and Country Club aims to facilitate Visa Premium Cardholders.



Discount World (DW) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Romanza Golf & Country Club (RG&CC). Romanza Golf & Country Club is Asia's largest 18-hole, 72-par golf course with unique features that offer breathtaking scenery that soothes the eyes and the soul. This partnership, supported by Visa, is a step forward and aims to provide convenience to Visa Premium cardholders and this initiative by Discount World in association with RG&CC is a one-stop shop for those A must-have for those who have an undying love for golf.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Sultan Richard, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Discount World and Col. Habib-ul-Rahman, Project Sect of Romanza Golf and Country Club.

Welcoming the joint venture supported by Visa, Romanza Golf and Country Club (Project Sect) Colonel Habib Al Rahman said: "It is a great honor to launch this partnership with Discount World, supported by Visa. This collaboration will pave the way for people who love the sport as well as provide an opportunity for their loved ones to experience it. A calm and serene view with other amenities available, offering gourmet cuisine and regional cuisine and other amenities."

## Moving to safer places

THATTA: People are being shifted to safe destination from the expected cyclone hit areas of Keti Bandar.



Photo: Online

## British HC reviewed the rehabilitation projects in flood affected areas

Azad Baloch

DADU: Sarah Lumsden, Advisor for Humanitarian of the British High Commission, arrived in village Haahim Rustmani, Aadho Jamali, Ali Muhammad Mughari, Dadu's Tehsil Johi and reviewed the progress of rehabilitation projects after the floods in various villages and also inspected other projects, including the supply of clean drinking water to newly constructed houses with British aid.



The BHC Humanitarian adviser also met the village women and closely observed the life of the four villages away from difficulties while finding

respond to climate disasters and take recovery measures and climate change is a serious problem.

She said, At the COP 26 conference, the United Kingdom gave five and a half million pounds in aid to Pakistan, and the purpose of this aid is to combat climate change and improve Pakistan's capacity. The UK is helping to restore education to children in flood-hit areas. By December this year, 85,000 children will be able to go to school with British aid.

out the details and planted a memorial plant in the village.

On this occasion Sarah Lumsden told media reporters, the UK will continue to

## Movie 'Madaari' will be released all over Pakistan on Eid-ul-Azha

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi held a press conference in Karachi regarding the art film "Madaari" released on Eid-ul-Azha, in which director Siraj-ul-Salkeen, producer and well-known actor Ali Rizvi, Amar Ali Danish, Nabil ur Rahman, among others. The cast of the film included Ibad Alam Sher, Paras Masroor, Tanveer Gill and other personalities from the showbiz industry were also present. On this occasion, the teaser, trailer and a song of the film were also shown. The director of the film, Siraj ul-Salkeen, said that the film "Madaari" is based on the political history of the city of Karachi, which affected every resident here, but the story of this film and all its characters are fictitious.

## PepsiCo and foodpanda Pakistan Join Forces to Enhance Culinary Experiences

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo Pakistan, one of the country's largest food and beverage companies, has joined hands with the leading online food and grocery delivery platform in Pakistan, foodpanda, as their Preferred Beverage and Snacks Partner. This collaboration brings together the expertise and resources of both industry-leading companies, with the aim of enhancing culinary experiences for consumers across the nation.

"We are thrilled to embark on this exciting collaboration with foodpanda," said Furqan Ahmed Syed, CEO PepsiCo Pakistan and Afghanistan. "By combining our strengths, we aim to elevate the culinary experi-



ence of our consumers by providing them with a wider selection of our high-quality beverages and snacks

that perfectly complement their meals.

"We are always looking for innova-

tive ways to enhance our customers' dining experience" added Muntaha Peracha, CEO foodpanda Pakistan. "Teaming up with PepsiCo allows us to offer an even greater variety of beverage and snacks options to our customers, complementing their meals with products and pairings of their choice.

The collaboration between PepsiCo Pakistan and foodpanda Pakistan will be operational in the coming weeks, while both companies already share a strong partnership vis-a-vis foodpanda's e-grocery platform, Pandamart. PepsiCo and foodpanda are highly committed to continually improving and advancing their partnership, driven by a shared vision to redefine the online food and grocery delivery experience for consumers.

## PARC committed to ensuring climate-resilient and nutritious food production

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To enhance the Government of Pakistan's initiatives in enhancing nutritious food accessibility and meeting global targets by 2030, the Ministry of National Food Security & Research organized a National Consultation focused on reviewing the progress of the "Pakistan National Food System Transformation Pathway."

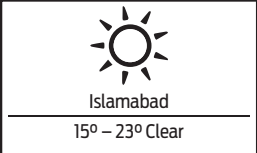
The consultation, titled "Aligning National Practices and Policies for Transforming Pakistan Food Systems," aimed to strengthen the alignment of national practices and policies with the goal of transforming the country's food systems.

In his opening remarks, Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, extended a heartfelt welcome to all the distinguished guests, participants, provincial stakeholders, and members of the media present at the event. Dr. Ali emphasized PARC's strong commitment for supporting farmers and facilitating the production of sustainable and nutritious food for consumers. He also underscored PARC's efforts in adhering to

global guidelines for food security. Furthermore, the Chairman reiterated PARC's vital objective of aligning its research with international standards in order to contribute effectively to food security not only globally but also with a specific focus on Pakistan.

Leading the technical discussion, Dr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Member, Social Sciences Division, PARC and Secretary of the Technical Working Group (TWG), along with Mr. Faiz Rasool, Senior Policy Advisor at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), shared the progress made by the Government of Pakistan.

The event witnessed the active participation of country representatives from FAO, IFAD, WFP, and GAIN, providing valuable technical insights. It brought together a diverse range of participants, including senior officials such as Secretary Food, Punjab, Mr. Zaman Wattoo, Secretary Agriculture (AJK) Mr. Javed Ayub, and Director Generals from provincial food, agriculture, and livestock departments, as well as representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Consumer Association Network.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:08 pm
Asr	5:08 pm
Maghrib	7:19 pm
Isha	9:02 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654

**General house meeting of Bar Association Kharian**

**Muhammad Aziz Ur Rehman**

KHARIAN: Civil Judge Judicial Magistrate Kharian Fahdal Rehman regarding the requisition of Kharian Bar Association against the illegal judicial behavior and illegal judicial actions was approved in the general house meeting of Bar Association Kharian immediate transfer of the judge from Kharian According to the details, the general house meeting of Bar Association Kharian was held on Monday 8/5/2023 under the president of Chaudhry Nasir Ahmed Chapar, Advocate President Bar Association Kharian, in which Fahad Rehman Judicial Magistrate Section 30 Kharian Non-judicial behavior of a requisition was presented on the basis of objectionable infamy, in which the members of the bar participated and expressed their views. Agreed that the judicial reputation of the appointed judge is bad, due to improper judicial behavior and illegal judicial functions, the appointed judge should be immediately transferred from Kharian and dismissed from the job through inquiry and until the transfer of the appointed judge, the court of the appointed judge will be completely boycotted.

**Cyclone Biparjoy**

**WHO mobilizes Health Sector Partners for initiating preparedness**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Currently, Pakistan is facing the threat of Tropical Cyclone Biparjoy, and due to the threat people living along the coastal areas in Sindh, especially are being evacuated to safer places. The Government of Pakistan, being fully cognizant of the looming threat of the cyclone has taken appropriate safety measures for protecting the precious human lives whose lives and livestock are under the threat of cyclone.

In this regard, today, WHO Representative in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala chaired an Incident Management Support Team (IMST) and health sector partners meeting in the wake of severe cyclone Biparjoy and issued immediate directives for preparations for Tropical Cyclone Biparjoy emergency preparedness and response measures.

WHO along with Health Sector Partners is also coordinating with federal and provincial health ministries for monitoring and developing a preparedness and response plan according to the evolving situation of the cyclone.



In view of this, WHO has prepositioned essential emergency medicines in Sindh to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable communities. These emergency stock includes Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Aqua Tabs and essential medicines.

"We are closely monitoring the cyclone situation and remain on alert during the forecast period to extend every possible support to the Government of Pakistan," remarked WHO Representative in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala

WHO has convened Health Sector Partner Coordination meeting for joint preparedness and response plan to cyclone. UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children, ICRC participated and reiterated their support for rapid response.

It is pertinent to mention here that WHO is coordinating the health response under the Government of Pakistan leadership. Technical working group has been formulated to oversight the cyclone emergency preparedness plan and mechanism for response.

"We are focusing and preparing for the health needs of affected communities in the wake of emergency. Our priority is to ensure their needs are met and there is no disruption in the provision of essential health services including emergency and trauma care," remarked WHO Representative in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala

Simultaneously, WHO has also activated Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC Room) in its Country Office to coordinate the health response to cyclone and extend full support to scale up provincial capacities and mobilize human and financial resources. All the partners ensured to have their representatives at the SHOC room for the timely, well coordinated and collective response efforts.

WHO is leading the coordination for Health Sector Partners and is conducting daily follow up meetings.

**Safety first**

ISLAMABAD: Bikers are riding bikes without wearing helmet at Jinnah Avenue, which needs the attention of concern authorities.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Inaugural ceremony of two week training for newly appointed teachers**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A two week Induction training for the newly appointed teachers has been organized by the Federal Directorate of Education at Federal College of Education H-9 Islamabad under the umbrella of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. The Federal Minister for Education Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain graced the inaugural ceremony as Chief Guest. The

Director General Federal Directorate of Education Dr. Ikram Malik, Deputy Director General FDE Ali Ahmad Kharal and Faculty of FCE participated



in this prestigious occasion. Dr. Ikram Malik congratulated the newly teachers on their appointment in FDE schools and colleges. Talking on the occasion D. G FDE said that fair and transparent procedure was implemented during the whole process of their selection.

Malik also threw light on the rational, objectives and methodology of the training. He said

that extensive training has been planned for 1000 teachers would continue upto August 2023. He also emphasized on punctuality, dedication and above all honesty with job. He assured D. G, FDE of full support to improve the quality of education. He advised the teachers to equip themselves with modern techniques, strategies and methodology in the larger interest of the country. The Federal Minister expressed his keen interest to make Federal College of Education a state of the Art Teacher Training Centre. At the end, the Principal FCE Muhammad Ihsan ul haq thanked the chief guest on behalf of students and faculty members.

**IBA Alumni Reunion Celebrates Lifelong Learning and Supports Future Leaders in Islamabad**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chapter of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Alumni Association celebrated their annual reunion in Islamabad. This prestigious event brought together a diverse array of industry leaders across different sectors, all bonded by their shared educational experience at IBA.

The reunion was graced by an esteemed lineup of guest speakers, who shared insights into their respective fields and discussed ways to contribute to the community through corporate social responsibility initiatives. The guest speakers shared their wisdom and insights, including Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (R), Managing Director of AAA Associates, who is also a proud alumnus of IBA. Ali Raza, CEO of Software Export Board Pakistan; Shahnaz Kapadia, Founder and CEO of Mera Maan; Amir Khan, CEO/President of HBL Micro Finance Bank, and Khurram Rahat, Senior Country Director at Unifonic, also graced the occasion with their inspiring narratives and success stories.

The IBA Alumni Reunion provides an exceptional opportunity for networking, collaboration, and renewing old friendships. This year, the gathering took on additional significance, launching an initiative to fund scholarships for needy students. A core mission of the IBA Alumni Association is supporting the leaders of tomorrow, and this initiative is a practical extension of this commitment.

AAA Associates has initiated a program dedicated to financially assisting deserving students at the IBA. It was conveyed that this commitment and support is ongoing, and it will further aid in making valuable contributions to the institute.

**Sightsavers and DeafTawk welcome the First Cohort of Innovation Challenge Futuremakers**



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Sightsavers, an international organization committed to preventing avoidable blindness and promoting disability inclusion and DeafTawk, a Pakistani startup dedicated to improving the lives of deaf individuals, are thrilled to announce the selection of the first cohort for the Innovation Challenge Futuremakers (ICF) program.

Munazza Gillani, Country Director of Sightsavers Pakistan Office, shared her thoughts on the program, saying, "The Innovation Challenge Futuremakers is a testament to our commitment to fostering disability inclusion and promoting entrepreneurial spirit among individuals with disabilities. We are excited to witness the transformative journey of these startups and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will create."

Ali Shabbar, CEO of DeafTawk, expressed his enthusiasm for the program, stating, "We are delighted to welcome the first cohort of the Innovation Challenge Futuremakers. These startups demonstrate the immense talent and creativity present in the disability entrepreneurship ecosystem in Pakistan."

The startups selected for the first cohort of the Innovation Challenge Futuremakers are Attendant Service Providers (ASP), Digital Inclusive Library, Fresh N Frozen, HutKarlo, Khaas Foodz, Quadpar Auto Engineering, TailorBird Stitch Studio and The World of Art.

The first cohort of the Innovation Challenge Futuremakers is set to embark on an exciting journey of growth and development. Through our custom-designed curriculum, mentorship, networking and investment opportunities, startup toolkits, and a chance to attend global conferences these startups will receive the support they need to scale their businesses and create a strong social and economic impact.

**SCO Partners with I LINK for Bill Payment Services Integration via IBILL**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Special Communications Organization (SCO), the largest Integrated Telecom Service Provider in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB), has announced a strategic partnership with I LINK (Pvt) Ltd, the country's 1st PSO/PSP and largest switch and payment system in Pakistan. The collaboration aims to enhance the bill payment experience for SCO subscribers through the development of an integrated bill collection eco-system via IBILL.

The signing ceremony took place at the SCO headquarters in Rawalpindi and was attended by high-ranking officials from both organizations, including Brigadier Muhammad Maqbool Ahmed, Deputy Director General SCO, and Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of I LINK (Pvt) Ltd.

Under this agreement, SCO and I LINK (Pvt) Ltd will leverage their extensive networks and cutting-edge technologies to establish a seamless and user-friendly bill payment system. Subscribers of SCOM services, including GPON, S-Fiber, and S-Phone, will benefit from the convenience of paying their bills through this integrated platform.

Mr. Farhan Shahid Khan, Chief Commercial Officer at SCO, emphasized the significance of the partnership, saying, "The collaboration between SCO and I LINK (Pvt) Ltd marks a significant step towards streamlining bill payment processes and expanding financial inclusion. By combining the expertise and strengths of both organizations, we aim to introduce new, seamless solutions that simplify the bill payment experience for our valued customers."

Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan, COO of I LINK (Pvt) Ltd, expressed his enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating, "Through our collaboration with SCO, we are delighted to bring the power of I LINK IBILL services to their subscribers, simplifying bill payments and enhancing their overall experience."

**Government committed to transform Pakistan food systems**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In order to strengthen the Government of Pakistan's efforts to improve access to nutritious food and follow global targets set for 2030, Ministry of National Food Security & Research convened National Consultation for a "Progress Review on Pakistan National Food System Transformation Pathway" which was titled as "Aligning National Practices and Policies for Transforming Pakistan Food Systems".

Event was inaugurated by Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and concluded by National Convener for Pakistan Mr. Zaffar Hasan (Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security & Research), Joint Secretary (M/o NFS&R) Mr. Ejaz Ahmed Bajwa, and Additional



Secretary (M/o NFS&R) Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Asif.

Dr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, member Social Sciences Division PARC (TWG Secretary) and Mr. Faiz Rasool, Senior Policy Advisor at Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) led the technical discussion and shared the progress made so far by the Govern-

ment of Pakistan.

Country leadership from FAO, IFAD, WFP and GAIN provided the technical insights and the event was represented by diverse range of participants from federal and provincial government and development sector, including senior officials Secretary Food Mr. Zaman Wattoo and Secre-

tary Agriculture (AJK) Mr. Javed Ayub and Director Generals from provincial food, agriculture livestock, CSO's and Consumer Association Network. Country leadership team members from all the five Actions Tracks of UNFSS highlighted the importance of all the Action Tracks and their role in transforming food systems.

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# Journey towards Education, and Rising Issues

Foreign travel of citizens is part of necessity almost throughout the year. Some people go abroad for medical treatments. Some prefer to go out in relations. Likewise, some are also going for sightseeing. Beside this nowadays, the majority of young generation is traveling to foreign countries to study. What so ever who go abroad face many problems in the country before they leave. It is important to note that completing the papers before going out is not as much of a problem as getting the work done from the relevant offices; the truth is that it is not enough for everyone. Even the well educated class gives up. Because, from the beginning till the end, the work is not being done anywhere, despite paying the huge charges. The security arrangements are correct in their place, which are necessary. These are the responsibility of the relevant institutions, but facilities should be provided to the people in the difficult situations. In our own country, such situations have arisen today that it feels like someone is living in a foreign country. In big cities where all big offices are located, people face a lot of difficulties in completing their necessary works. Because especially when the citizens of the country have to go to foreign countries, they have to visit the capital city. This is also because of this that every country's Embassy, HEC office and Foreign office are located there.

The responsibilities of embassies are carried out in accordance with their country's laws, regulations of government institutions, and the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The

departing people should have all kinds of convenience and ease in their country. After the verification from foreign office, the next step in completing the papers is related to the embassies, which are very difficult. This is a reality in the institutions of our country. Today, people are facing a lot of problems in these foreign offices. Our institutions are responsible for providing citizens everywhere and in every office facilitation should be made available, which is the right of every citizen of the country. Apart from education, treatment, employment and many other functions, movement of most of the population in these offices is normal which is in the interest of all countries. It is beyond understanding to go through various difficult steps to reach these offices in the country.

It has been reported that first one has to make an online appointment from the respective embassies and it takes several days to get a response, Responding with "No slots available." No phone calls are received, and if they are, no one listens. Repeated several e-mails hardly get a response. This creates problems for students who want to go abroad under emergency programmed scholarships because they are already admitted to foreign universities. If the documents are not provided in time, there is a risk of cancellation of the higher education program. The first point of arrival at these offices is known as the shuttle service. Private vehicles are not

allowed beyond this place due to security issues and shuttle service is provided. It is true that shuttle service is provided for convenience and ease but surprisingly money is being charged in the name of shuttle service i.e. 1000 rupees per head shuttle service charge. Apart from this, another arbitrariness of these shuttle service people is that if you have to go to the bank to verify the document charges from the embassy in the enclave, they ask for compensation saying that our job

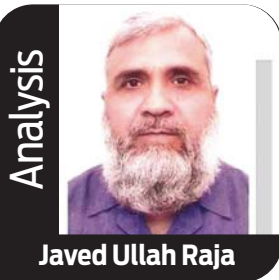
is only to bring you and take you back. Which is causing utter abuse and trouble to those who go to these offices, it needs to be resolved. If there is work in any embassy, there is a strange situation. There is a small window behind the embassies and that too is only to bring you and take you back. While talking on the intercom, it is the will of the person sitting inside to talk or not and to listen to the entire conversation or not. Often they get up and switch off the intercom and leave the office. And the outsiders keep pressing the intercom buttons but no one listens for hours because no one inside does the setting. It is the luck of the visitors that their work is done on time. It is said that the work of dealers is being given importance in these offices.

On enquiry, it was said that due to the dealers, the common people also face problems because they get their work done first. Due to which all other people including women and elderly people are

also deprived of their rights and injustice. Because, the dealers come with the papers of many peoples. One has to bear the harshness of the weather. And then some visitors are also told that no one goes there without an appointment even if they are told come tomorrow. The processing charges are very high. More than 10000 rupees are being charged for each document. People say that due to the difficulties in the way, the attitude and behavior of the security officials, it feels like crossing the country's border.

The government institutions should relieve the people from these problems; there should be an accounting of corruption everywhere. Especially oblige the embassies in our country to show respect to our citizens in our own country. This is the responsibility of our institutions. Then there are embassies of such big and big countries. If a cash officer is hired to deposit the fees and receive the money at the spot, then those who go abroad will get rid of one problem. And another problem that surprises everyone that the Liaison Officer should be a Pakistani or Urdu speaking as our majority population does not know any language except Urdu. And it is difficult to understand people's words. Anyway, let's see how your work is possible on intercom. If an office worker speaks in English, Arabic or any other language, his accent is like the language of his country, it is difficult to understand. On the occasion, many people complained that the office bearers in our own country are not providing us facilities, which needs to be remedied.

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**Javed Ullah Raja**

## India threatened to shut down Twitter

Twitter's co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey has said that the Indian government had threatened to shut down the platform and conduct raids at its employees' homes in the country unless it accepted the requests for censorship.

Jack Dorsey, in an interview YouTube news show Breaking Points, said Twitter had received "many requests" from the Indian government to block accounts covering farmers' protests and those critical of the government.

"It manifested in ways such as: 'We will shut Twitter down in India', which is a very large market for us; 'we will raid the homes of your employees', which they did; and this is India, a democratic country," Dorsey said.

At the height of the farmers' protest in the country in 2021, the Indian government had asked Twitter to take down nearly 1,200 accounts for alleged "Khalistan" links. Before that, it had asked the platform to take down more than 250 accounts.

During the protests, the Indian government sought an "emergency blocking" of the "provocative" Twitter hashtag "#ModiPlanningFarmerGenocide" and dozens of accounts.

Twitter initially complied but later restored most of the accounts, citing "insufficient justification" to continue the suspensions.

Later, the Indian police also visited a Twitter office as part of another inquiry linked to tagging of some ruling party posts as manipulated. At that time, Twitter had said that it was worried about staff safety.

Dorsey said many requests for the content takedown during the farmer protests were "around particular journalists that were critical of the government".

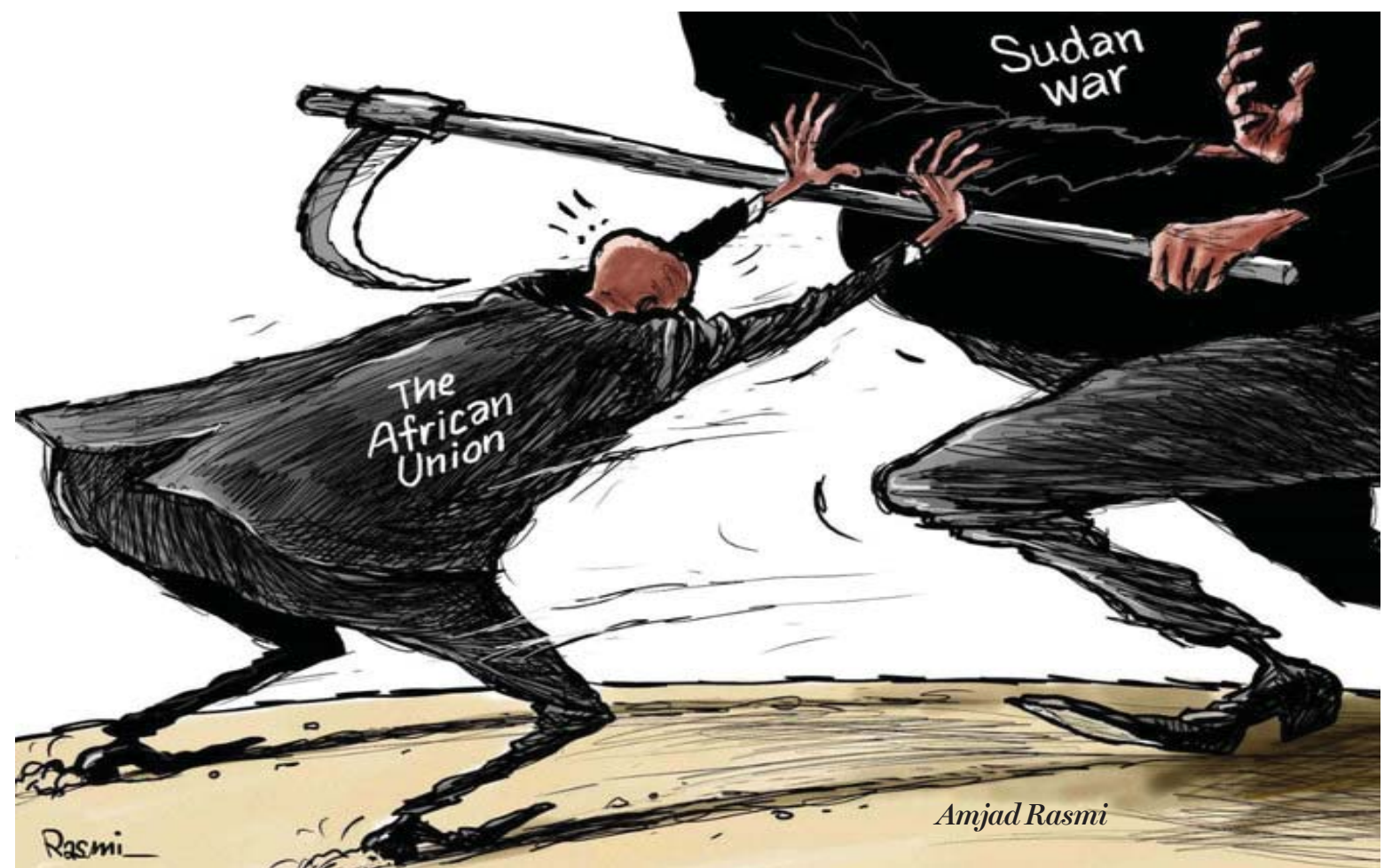
Twitter's new CEO Elon Musk also has a similar view of India's social media regulations, having previously called them "strict". In April this year, Musk had said that he would rather comply with the government's blocking orders than risk sending Twitter employees to jail.

There has been a significant surge in legal demands being made by India — from various courts and the government — to remove content from Twitter between 2014 and 2020, an analysis of Twitter's global transparency reports by The Indian Express had earlier shown.

In the first six months of 2021, Twitter was asked by various Indian courts and the government to block a little more than 4,900 tweets.

In July 2022, Twitter initiated legal action against some of the government missives ordering it to take down certain content posted on the microblogging site. Alleging disproportionate use of power by officials, the social media company moved the Karnataka High Court against the Ministry's content-blocking orders issued under Section 69 (A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Since Modi took office in 2014, India has slid from 140th in World Press Freedom Index to 161 this year, out of 180 countries, its lowest ranking ever.



*Amjad Rasmi*

## Role and Responsibility of Global Kashmiri Diaspora – I

**Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai**

The crisis in Kashmir – and the United Nations ineffectual response – represents an example of the failure of the United Nations to respond effectively against massive and persistent violations of human rights. Kashmir also represents a failure of the United Nations to use its mandate to seek an equitable peace and justice. The United Nations always tries to examine how it can more effectively prevent human rights violations, it is instructive to examine the experience of Kashmir and seek lessons for increasing the UN's effectiveness.

In 1990, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the massive expansion of freedoms around the world, the people of Kashmir began to seek their right to self-determination, as promised by the United Nations resolutions. In an effort to suppress this growing sentiment among the Kashmiri people, the Government of India began committing massive abuses of human rights.

These abuses, which continue today, include: the systematic use of rape; the arbitrary arrest, torture, summary execution of Kashmiri civilians; firing into unarmed crowds of peaceful demonstrators; and the burning of entire villages and communities by Indian troops. Since 1990, over 100,000 people have been killed by occupation forces in Kashmir, and thousands more have been maimed or wounded. Many of the victims are women and young children. Over 10,000 women have been raped by Indian occupations forces. And according to a report published by 'The International Peoples Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian Administered Kashmir (IPTK), 8000 to 10,000 people have disappeared in Kashmir.

Their wives are known as 'half-widows' because they do not know whether their husbands are dead or alive.

Recently, after the abrogation of Article 370 & 35A on August 5, 2019, India enacted Domicile Law to change the demography of Kashmir. More than 4.3 domicile certificates have been issued to non-Kashmiris to allow them to reside inside the state. Today, India is the worst example of settler colonization. It is reported that Government of India has earmarked 203005 acres of land in Jammu & Kashmir for land grab. Besides, the Indian army is engaged in confiscating local homes and evacuating the locals from their business establishments, in particular from the hotels which have been built in the most scenic areas in the Valley, like Gulmarg – famous for its skiing scenes in Asia.

All of these actions are perpetrated by the Indian Government with one singular purpose to prevent the implementation of the UN resolutions. And yet, the UN has been unable to respond effectively to this political and humanitarian crisis.

The solution to the crisis in Kashmir lies in dialogue between all parties concerned – Governments of India, Pakistan and the genuine leadership of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. But India has chosen destruction over dialogue, jailing political prisoners, like Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmed Shah, Masarat Aalam, Aasia Andrabi and human rights activists, like Khurram Parvez, journalists like Irfan Mehraj, Asif Sultan, Sajad Gul, Fahad Shah, etc and implementing a brutal campaign of terror against the civilian populations in Kashmir.

How long will the world watch in silence as India carries out the genocide of the people of Kashmir? This is a question the Kashmiris are asking today.

At this guardedly propitious time, the role of global Kashmiri diaspora leadership is pivot-

al, and its responsibilities are correspondingly great, particularly when leaders like Syed Ali Geelani & Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai are no more with us and rest of the Hurriyet leadership is incarcerated. It is a historical fact that Diaspora in other international conflicts have proved essential to political change and direction, like South African diaspora became instrumental in toppling the scourge of apartheid. An amorphous collection of people, no matter how well intended have never achieved anything politically significant. The leadership of global Kashmiri diaspora cannot blithely assume that progress towards achieving self-determination will come spontaneously from the people without their advice, guidance, example and encouragement. The diaspora leadership cannot be summer soldiers or sunshine patriots. History will hold them accountable for success or God forbid of any failure.

The responsibilities of diaspora are manifold. First is to teach and practice the adage that if we do not hang together, we will all hang separately. Diaspora leadership must subordinate individual quests for political power, prominence, and other gain to the common good for all Kashmiris.

In addition, what matters is not who obtain public credit, but that success is achieved. Petty jealousy has no place among Kashmir's diaspora leadership circle. All should accept unreluctantly personal sacrifices necessitated by the urgency of the Kashmir issue. As Dr. Gregory Stanton, Chairman, Genocide Watch has warned, 'Kashmir is at the brink of genocide.'

*To be continued*

*Dr. Fai is the Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum & Chairman, World Forum for Peace and Justice. He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. Or [gfnai2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gfnai2003@yahoo.com)*

## Black Day: Incomparable in History

The armed forces serves as the first line of defence against external threats and our last option for internal civil unrest. Hence it is a vital part of any country. The armed forces exist to serve the people, defend the nation, protect national interests and fulfill national military responsibilities.

Pakistan army is the largest branch of military, responsible for protection of state borders, security of administered territories, defending the national interests of Pakistan within the framework of international obligations.

The same soldiers who neither see day nor night for the nation, are always busy to serve the country and even sacrifice their lives for the country. What is the wisdom of damaging the memorial of these same martyrs? Why on May 9 India and America were celebrating and the enemies were going crazy with joy that the workers of a political party was tearing their army's uniform. What America, India and enemies of Pakistan could not do in 75 years was done by a few political rioters.

What is the wisdom of turning your own people against the state and state institutions? Is it a conspiracy to weaken the state institutions or to achieve their political goals under the guise of it? Never in 75 years has a political group forced its own people to turn against their own state for its political benefits. Is it a revolution or is it a conspiracy to undermine the sanctity of the state by enmity with the state in the name of revolution or is it an attempt to reduce the power of the state? How can a corrupt political system challenge the power of the state? State institutions are the guarantors of the survival of a nation whose martyrs are the crown of the

nation's head.

The sanctity of the martyrs was violated and the world was given an opportunity to laugh. Ask the mothers whose children were martyred. Ask the mothers who still can't sleep at night because of their children. What must have happened to the hearts of these mothers, sisters and daughters when the memorials of their heirs were damaged?

The youth was misguided and brain-washed to rise against the state, caused harm to military installations, equipments and burned the memorials of martyrs, ransacked government and private buildings including Jinnah house, ECP Office Peshawar, Radio Pakistan Peshawar, Askari tower Lahore, GHQ Rawalpindi, FC Berak Mardan, FC Qilah

Chakadra, FC School Dir, PAF Martyrs memorial Sargodha, PAF base Mianwali, metro station Pindi and Swat motorway interchange. In which direction is Pakistan being taken? According to Islamic law, "whoever commits mischief in any Islamic state, the state should punish him and deal with it very strictly." A political leader has gained popularity by defaming the state and the state institutions in front of the world. In which country does this happen, even in India, our worse enemy, it never happened like this. The day of May 9 has not only become a source of infamy for the state of Pakistan but also sanctity of martyrs, serving command of soldiers and state institutions was violated.

9th May was the 9/11 for Pakistan. It was a condemnable & shameful act and there was no reason, no excuse for this sorrowful event. A day to stand firm with the state, with the martyrs of this soil and the institutions Because of which we live, we breathe unconcerned with freedom



**Kiran Asim**

# Pakistan collaborates with Industrial Global Union to address Pak mines accidents

Spokesman Report

GENEVA: The Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi held a crucial meeting with representatives from the IndustriALL Global Union led by Mr. Kamal, Assistant Secretary General on the sidelines of the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference. The meeting aimed to discuss the critical issue of mines accidents in Pakistan in conformity with ILO conventions. He said to recommend to the government to consider ratifying the ILO convention C-176, a fundamental convention on safety and health in mines.

During the meeting, both parties acknowledged the gravity of mines accidents and the importance of prioritizing the safety and well-being of workers. The Minister expressed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing safety standards in the mining sector and improving the working conditions for miners.

The ratification of C-176 emerged as a key topic of discussion during the meeting. C-176 is a critical convention adopted



by the International Labour Organization (ILO) that sets forth comprehensive guidelines and measures to ensure the safety and health of miners worldwide. By ratifying this convention, Pakistan would demonstrate its commitment to upholding international labor standards and safeguarding the lives and well-being of its miners.

The Minister for OP&HRD assured the IndustriALL Global Union of the government's unwavering commitment to prioritize the safety and well-being of miners. The collaborative efforts between the ministry and the union are expected to pave the way for significant improvements in mining safety practices and bring about a positive transfor-

mation in the sector.

As the Ministry for OP&HRD and the IndustriALL Global Union embark on this joint endeavor, they call upon all relevant stakeholders, including the mining industry, workers' organizations, and civil society, to actively participate in shaping a safer and more secure future for the mining sector in Pakistan.

## Mobilink Bank and Vision-Building Future Collaborate to Address Financial Disparities



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As part of its ongoing mission to advance financial inclusion across the board, Mobilink Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vision-Building Future (VBF) to address existing disparities in the financial sphere through a range of targeted initiatives. Under its flagship program, Women Inspirational Network (WIN), Mobilink Bank is geared towards expanding its financial reach by introducing innovative digital and financial solutions to underserved populations. To further this dedication, the Bank will offer the Bint-e-Hawwa product suite to the beneficiaries of the VBF, fostering women's empowerment and facilitating their path toward financial independence.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

Sharing his thoughts at the signing ceremony, Faisal Mahmood, Chief Information Officer, Mobilink Bank said, "Mobilink Bank is dedicated to unlocking the full potential of marginalized communities through its strategic partnership with VBF. Together, we are dedicated to promoting empowerment through collaborative capacity-building workshops and events, fostering financial inclusion, uplifting women through tailored solutions via Bint-e-Hawwa and converting potential prospects into prosperous businesses.

Syeda Urooj Haider, President of VBF stated, "VBF's mandate is to tap the untapped talent of Pakistan by reaching out to the masses from the farthest corners of the country, equipping them with the necessary tools to reach their full potential. Through our strategic alliance with Mobilink Bank, we are excited to broaden the horizon for deserving communities, while bolstering support for educators, professionals, youth, and the transgender community.

Utilizing its extensive digital network, Mobilink Bank strives to streamline the onboarding process for unbanked individuals, thereby facilitating their access to an array of customized financial solutions. The Bank is dedicated to creating an inclusive financial ecosystem by removing barriers to entry.

## OICCI's survey highlights substantial decline in Business Confidence in 2023

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has shared the results of a comprehensive Business Confidence Index (BCI) Survey, Wave 23, conducted throughout the country during March to April 2023. This survey has highlighted the views of the overall Business Confidence (BCS) in Pakistan, which has significantly declined and now stands at negative 25 percent (-25%). This is a decrease of 21 percent, compared to BCI of negative 4 percent (-4%) in the previous Wave 22 Survey conducted in September to October 2022.

The largest drop was recorded in the "Manufacturing sector" (22 percent), followed by "Retail & Wholesale trade" (21 percent), and "Services sector" (18 percent). The survey sample consisted of 42 percent respondents from Manufacturing sector, 35 percent from the Services sector and 23 percent from the retail/wholesale trade. Overall, the Manufacturing sector recorded a net confidence level of negative 19 percent, whereas services and retail sector stood at negative of 26 percent and 35 percent respectively.

The three major threats to business growth identified in the survey are super high Inflation, by 82 percent respondents, High Taxation (74 percent), and Pak Rupee Devaluation (72 percent) which could potentially slow down business growth in Pakistan, which remained consistent to feedback from the last wave of BCS.

Amir Paracha, President OICCI observed, "The significant drop in the overall Business Confidence was not a surprise considering the volatile and extremely challenging economic situation during the past year. The acute FX shortage throughout this period has affected import and operations of many businesses, with hyperinflation, very high interest rates, and rapid devaluation of the currency negatively impacting the business environment."

The sentiments of the OICCI members, the leading foreign investors, who were also randomly included in the survey, stand at negative 19 percent, which is substantially lower, compared to the positive 6 percent in the previous wave. However, OICCI members' business confidence stands is still lower than non-members and that has been a trend for a long period.

M. Abdul Aleem, CEO OICCI, observed that "Foreign investors feedback highlights their concern due to extreme restrictions on LCs for business operations, extreme delays in overseas remittances for goods, services and dividends, besides fast diminishing return on their investment in Pakistan."

Going forward, one-fourth of the respondents indicated new capital investment plans, expansion in business operations and employment, at a level significantly lower than wave 22. The plan for new investment declined to negative 26 percent, followed by plan to increase employment to negative 11 percent and expansion in business to negative 8 percent.

# PIDE & UOM 2 days conference kicked off

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In collaboration with the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized a dynamic and engaging 02-Day Conference at the University of Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The conference, titled "Unleashing the Economic Potential of KPK," brought together local leaders, experts, and stakeholders to address regional problems and explore indigenous solutions.

The conference commenced with an inauguration session, where participants reflected on the past 37 years of conducting general meetings and conferences, recognizing the pressing need for local solutions to tackle the diverse range of issues impacting our communities. It was emphasized that efficiency, thoughtful consideration of local issues, and regional consensus are crucial elements for building networks and linkages between academia, government, and other key stakeholders. The collaboration with the University of Malakand was unveiled as a significant step toward achieving these goals.



The conference aims to provide a forum for robust discussions and the development of innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The diverse range of topics presented by the speakers promises to generate thought-provoking debates and indigenous ideas, which can shape the region's future.

During the opening session, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the importance of conferences in the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) mission to promote research and collaboration among social sci-

entists in Pakistan. Conferences offer a platform for engaging with the public, gathering diverse ideas, and emphasizing the significance of collective effort and innovative thinking to address Pakistan's social issues.

Dr. Rasheed Ahmed, VC, University of Malakand, said at the occasion that the conference featured several insightful sessions. The first session, titled "Current Crises and the Charter of Economy," emphasized the need to re-evaluate systems and policies to ensure a sustainable future for Pakistan.

Dr. DurreNayab, PRO Vice Chancel-

lor PIDE, said that Pakistan has a long history of relying on external sources for policies & development. This has hindered our ability to progress as a nation & limited our autonomy.

The second session, titled "Government, Academia, and Industry: The Trinity of Growth," shed light on the interdependence of these three sectors in shaping the country's future. The session emphasized the importance of quality education, nurturing talent, and fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills within academic institutions while highlighting the role of the government in providing necessary support and policies.

The conference provided a platform for fruitful discussions, constructive debates, and exploring ideas to pave the way for a stronger, more independent, and self-sufficient Pakistan. It encouraged young minds to actively shape the nation's future and contribute to a brighter tomorrow.

In conclusion, regulations are necessary to ensure fair and transparent markets. They are not designed to hinder businesses but rather to protect consumers, employees, and the environment. However, the government

## Opening of the Zangezur corridor

Baku: "We have had an exchange of views on the soonest opening of the Zangezur corridor. The sooner it opens, the better it is. Opening of the Zangezur corridor is inevitable," President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said in a press statement following an expanded meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



## Spotify celebrates 10th anniversary of BTS

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Over the last decade, BTS has become a global cultural phenomenon, putting K-Pop on the map worldwide fueled by one of the most enthusiastic fanbases in the world: ARMY. To celebrate the group's 10th anniversary, Spotify and BTS curated a special love letter experience, My top 5: BTS Songs, for Spotify listeners, which launches today.

My Top 5: BTS Songs is an interactive experience that lets listeners rank and curate their personal favorite songs from a selection of BTS's discography, and then share their picks with friends on social media. BTS has curated this special selection with Spotify that celebrates their collective discography of the past decade for the in-app experience\*.

# Karandaaz and Vizpro announce strategic partnership

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Karandaaz, a prominent organization at the forefront of promoting financial inclusion and driving digital transformation in Pakistan, is pleased to announce its strategic partnership with Vizpro, a leading player in the digital payments ecosystem. This collaboration aims to tackle a critical challenge faced by distributors and retailers across the country, which is the lack of easy access to e-money for digital payments. The partnership falls under Karandaaz's esteemed "Pilot to Scale" program, a platform dedicated to fostering innovation and scaling up

transformative projects in the financial sector.

The primary focus of this collaboration is to facilitate the digitization of retailer-to-distributor payments, introduce Raast IDs for merchants, and refine the existing business model while exploring a merchant lending framework. By streamlining these processes, the partnership aims to significantly enhance the efficiency, convenience, and security of digital payments, particularly within the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector.

Waqas ul Hasan, CEO of Karandaaz, stated, "At Karandaaz, our vision is to

foster financial inclusion and catalyze digital transformation in Pakistan. We are thrilled to partner with Vizpro on this transformative initiative, as it aligns perfectly with our mission to empower individuals and businesses with seamless access to digital financial services.

Sharjeel Murtaza, Director - Digital Financial Services of Karandaaz, emphasized the significance of the partnership, stating, "At Karandaaz, our unwavering commitment lies in harnessing the potential of digital innovation for creating a vibrant and inclusive financial landscape in Pakistan. Our strategic partnership

with Vizpro marks a significant leap forward in realizing this vision.

CEO Vizpro, Akbar Ayub Khan talked about the partnership saying, "Vizpro and Karandaaz collaboration is going to be key to scaling-up of Vizpro's operations of digitizing the retail supply chain & helping retailers go cashless. Vizpro looks forward to benefit from Karandaaz's expertise and presence in the digital finance space.

Under the scope of the project, Karandaaz and Vizpro will collaborate on scaling operations and business development, driving market and awareness of the Vizlink App, and enabling the Raast P2M (Person-



to-Merchant) use-case. The aim is to create a seamless and efficient digital payments ecosystem that simplifies transactions for distributors and retailers while ensuring a user-friendly experience.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,538.72	41,782.92	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
42,025.53	41,522.63	
Index Value	Change	
3,363,440,913	-244.20	
Percentage	Time	
-0.58%	13 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,594.78	+24.09	
Percentage	Time	
+0.32%	13 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,254.05	+187.72	
Percentage	Time	
+0.55%	13 Jun, 1:38 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,018.65	+584.65	
Percentage	Time	
+1.80%	13 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	763.16	771.16
Canadian Dollar	227	230
China Yuan	40.15	40.55
Danish Krone	41.38	41.78
Euro	320	323
Hong Kong Dollar	36.61	36.96
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.17
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.48	942.48
Malaysian Ringgit	62.19	62.79
New Zealand \$	175.82	177.82
Norwegians Krone	26.68	26.98
Omani Riyal	745.35	753.35
Qatari Riyal	78.83	79.53
Saudi Riyal	79.8	80.5
Singapore Dollar	220	222
Swedish Korona	26.51	26.81
Swiss Franc	315.38	317.88
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42
U.A.E Dirham	83.5	84.3
UK Pound Sterling	375	379
US Dollar	303	305

# Iranian Investment Minister calls on BOI Minister Ch Salik Hussain

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 13, 2023: A five-member delegation led by Mr. Ali Fakhri, Deputy Minister and Head of Organization for Investment Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI) called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain here on Tuesday.

The delegation comprised of Seyyed Asia Abtahi, Adviser to the Head of OIETAI, Pauria Parto, Adviser to the Head of OIETAI, Mr. Nabi Ollah Shirazi, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Iran and Ms. Zahra Ghadyanlou Second Secretary, Embassy of Iran. From Pakistani side, Mr. Khashi Ur Rehman, Additional Secretary BOI, Mr. Nadeem Bashir, Director General and Mr. Atif Umar Khalil, Director attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to joint investment cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in detail, the 3rd meeting of Pakistan Iran Joint Investment Committee (JIC) has been scheduled to be



held in BOI on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

They also discussed the agenda items proposed by the Iranian side by taking on board all the stakeholders from Pakistan's

side. Two meetings of the Pakistan Iran JIC had already been held virtually on July 14, 2021 and February 14, 2022 respectively.

Both sides agreed to take necessary steps for signing of Pak-Iran Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and negotiations on the draft BIT are ongoing.

Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that under the framework of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan is developing nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and expediting development of four out of these nine SEZs underway, to provide a conducive business environment for local, as well as foreign enterprises.

He said that the investment opportunities and incentives in these SEZs are equally available to all investors from around the world, without any prejudice, adding that therefore Iranian investors are encouraged to avail the opportunities provided by the CPEC SEZs through participation as zone developers or enterprises.

## DEPO has played important role for introducing defense products worldwide, Ahsan Bakhtawari

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Director General Defense Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) Major General Azhar Iqbal Abbasi has said that exhibitions play a key role in the development and promotion of exports of nations. This institution of Pakistan Army has been exhibiting not only the defense products of Pakistan through exhibitions for the past several decades but also working to promote the country's exports in the exhibitions of ideas.

He expressed these views yesterday during a meeting with the delegation of Islamabad Chamber. The delegation met him under the leadership of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. Senior Vice President Fad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Former President Zafar Bakhtawari, Saifur Rehman, Akhtar Hussain Abbasi were included in the delegation.

Director General Defense Export Promotion Organization said that Pakistan has a prominent position in the world in terms of defense products, Pakistan's defense products are introduced to the world through Defense Export Promotion Organization exhibitions. He said that we are receiving invitations from all over the world for many international level exhibi-



tions, we will inform the Islamabad Chamber in this regard and take their representatives along.

Speaking on the occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the establishment of Expo Center in Islamabad is very important for increasing the industrial and commercial activities of the federal capital. This will also boost domestic and foreign tourism, there is a need to improve the infrastructure and hotel industry in Murree and Guliyat, tourist destinations near Islamabad. He said that the cooperation of the Defense Export Promo-

tion Organization is indispensable for the establishment of the Expo Center. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce is working on this project on priority basis.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice President Fad Waheed said that Islamabad Chamber wants to work together with Defense Export Promotion Organization on various issues. In this regard, the two institutions should increase cooperation. Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam said that for the promotion of local defense industry, domestic products should be preferred over foreign products and encouraged.

## Cotton Cultivation Completed in Punjab: Mohsin Naqvi

Kiran Asim



MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi's efforts to restore cotton cultivation in the province have yielded results. In Punjab, the target of cotton cultivation was set at 50 lakh acres, of which 96% of the target has been achieved. South Punjab is the leading region in terms of cotton cultivation and cotton cultivation has been completed on an area of 43 lakh 45 thousand acres. It has been done. In this way, cotton has been cultivated on an area of 1 million acres more than last year. A review meeting on cotton crop was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain R. Saqib Zafar.

Administrative Secretaries of South Punjab participated in the meeting while Commissioners of Multan, Bahawal-

pur and DG Khan and officials of Agriculture Department participated in the meeting through video link. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil briefed the meeting about cotton crop. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain R. Saqib Zafar has assigned the task of cotton crop management to the administrative secretaries and allotted them districts for monitoring the cotton crop. Addressing the meeting on this occasion, Captain Saqib Zafar said that cotton cash Crop is the guarantor of Pakistan's economy, which drives the country's industries.

## Demand for tax holiday to IT industry not honored: Chairman P@SHA

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), has apprised that while the IT industry acknowledges the fact that the industry has been prioritized in the federal budget 2023-24; but, on the other hand, these measures may prove to be inconsistent, unreliable and suffer lack of implementation - as happened with the past many budgets and IT export promotion or incentives schemes. The real issue is the consistency of policies; which may not be achieved with the change in the government, he added.

Mr. Khan added that, for the aforementioned reason, we have unequivocally and vociferously demanded the government and the state institutions to provide a

guarantee of 15 years that the policies will not change; only then we can make strategic investments; attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and establish joint ventures with the multinationals.

One of the key demands of the IT industry was not met, i.e. a tax holiday for a period of 10 years to realize the IT exports potential of \$15 billion within the upcoming 5 years and \$30 billion in 10 years time-frame.

Zohaib Khan added that, at a time, when confidence of the domestic or foreign businessmen in Pakistan's economic conditions is at an all-time low because of high-level of political and economic uncertainty, super tax has been withdrawn for the export-oriented companies; but, still companies are sent notices, they are harassed and their bank accounts are held.

## Meeting with Dar

Islamabad: Delegation of All Pakistan Anjuman e Tajran led by Mohammad Naeem Mir met Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar & extended felicitations on presenting a people & business friendly Budget 2023-24.



Photo: PID

## FO & SIDA a key stakeholders in agreement with World Bank

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: World Bank Task Team leader Francois Onimus has expressed that World Bank SWAT pilot project for modernization of canals not a traditional, but to understand it as future prosperity and major economic change and development in agri sector for Pakistan.

He was speaking to the irrigation officials of Sindh-Punjab and local communities of the area, particularly the Farmers Organization (FO) here at Jarki distributory in Badin district. Mr. Francois Onimus



emphasized direct and indirect stakeholders for mutual consensus on valued Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation project (SWAT) funded by the World Bank. The authorities along with

Farmers Organization (FO) The Hydraulic features and key features were discussed on the occasion and intended to modernized infrastructure was suggested for the socio economic development in the

various parts of the country. On the occasion, Chairman Farmers Organizations (FO) Pir Bux Chang, Vice Chairman Ghulam Qadir Leghari, Secretary Rashid Ahmed, Treasure Allah Bachayo Lashari and the members Mohammad Urs Allah Yar Awan were motivated by Dr Charles Burt Chairman ITRC-Irrigation Training Research Center US California, along with officials Ahmed Junaid Memon UN FAO program Manager and other representatives of Sindh Irrigation Drainage Authority (SIDA), while during the visit of Jarki minor/regulator.

## IMF failed to compel Pakistan to practice fiscal restraint

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Tuesday that despite its strict attitude, the IMF has not been able to force Pakistan to follow fiscal discipline.

"The country is barely avoiding bankruptcy while the inflation is uncontrollable, yet the spending spree continues," he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the displeasure of the IMF is increasing due to continued violations of basic economic principles, open violations of agree-

ments with the lender, and irresponsible fiscal actions.

In a statement issued here today, he said that the current budget is not in accordance with the country's economic conditions and ground realities, and it can be kept alive only with the help of loans worth billions of dollars.

One or more mini-budgets will have to be introduced in the current year to control rapid economic decline, he said, adding that in the current situation, quick restoration of the IMF programme is difficult, without which new loans and rescheduling of old loans will be very difficult.

## RCCI at Senate Committee recommends tax holiday to all new SMEs



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has recommended that the 5 year tax holiday announced in the budget should be extended to all new Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) instead of just agro SMEs. The minimum turnover tax of one percent should be extended to all the companies instead of just publicly listed companies.

The recommendations were made by the acting President RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh who was invited at the Senate Committee meeting on recommendations on Finance Bill 2023-24 presided over by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue at Parliament House. Former Presidents Kashif Shabbir and Raja Amer Iqbal, representatives from FBR, among others were also present on the occasion.

Acting President RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh recommended that the GST for Grandparent chicks should also be removed as it adversely impacts the food chain as chicken is the essential food item and one of the cheapest sources of protein for the masses. RCCI also recommended that the term 'non-filer' also be removed. Moreover, he suggested that custom controls at borders to check smuggling should be tightened rather than harassing traders and retailers.

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, welcomed the suggestions and valuable input for the fiscal budget and assured that the recommendation will be added in the budget.

# President Arif Alvi, Squash Legend Jahangir Khan felicitate the Pak team for participating in Berlin Special Olympics

Arif Hafeez

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has felicitated Pakistan's Special Olympics Team for participating in Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023.

In a video message, he said that Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sports event for special athletes.

He said thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities compete together in 26 sports.

From 17 to 25 June 2023, the Special Olympics World Games will take place in Berlin—the first time that Germany will host the Games.

Meanwhile, squash legend Jahangir Khan also congratulated the special Olympic team for making it to the

mega event through sheer hard work. Their passion and zeal to represent the country is remarkable and must be appreciated by all of us. We are proud of them and pray for their success and salute their zeal and passion, Jahangir Khan said.



A delegation comprising of 138 Athletes has arrived in Berlin to take part the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Germany. Athletes will participate in a total of 11 games.

## Aroob, Tuba take Pakistan to victory in ACC Asia Cup game



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani spinning duo of Syeda Aroob Shah and Tuba Hassan helped Pakistan pull out a super victory against Nepal in their first match of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

Chasing a modest 88-run target, leg-spinners Aroob

and Tuba never allowed the opposing batters to settle and picked up wickets regularly.

The duo ended up taking two wickets apiece, while off-spinner Umm-e-Hani and left-arm spinner Anousha Nasir snapped a wicket each to give Pakistan a nine-run win.

For Nepal, Kabita Kunwar (20, 32b, 2x4s) and Kabita Joshi (15 not out, 17b, 1x4) were the only batters to enter

into double figures.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Pakistan A were bowled out for 87 in 19.2 overs. Opening batter Shawaal Zulfiqar top-scored for her side with a 36-ball 28, hitting one four.

For Nepal, Indu Barma was the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for six runs from three overs. Kabita Joshi, Kabita Kunwar and Sita Rana Magar bagged two wickets apiece.

Pakistan would now take on hosts Hong Kong on Thursday.

Scores in brief: Pakistan A 87 all out, 19.2 overs (Shawaal Zulfiqar 28, Fatima Sana 16; Indu Barma 3-6, Kabita Kunwar 2-12, Kabita Joshi 2-16, Sita Rana Magar 2-16).

Nepal 78-6, 20 overs (Kabita Kunwar 20, Kabita Joshi 15 not out; Syeda Aroob Shah 2-16, Tuba Hassan 2-23).

## Naila Kiani ready to conquer breathtaking Nanga Parbat



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's woman climber Naila Kiani will embark Tuesday on the awe-inspiring expedition to attempt 8,126-metre Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth highest mountain.

"I will be leaving Islamabad tomorrow to climb the majestic Nanga Parbat. I know it is a challenging task but I feel myself fully prepared to conquer the peak," Naila told APP on Monday.

With a death probability of 21%, Nanga Parbat, which is located in Diamer, Gilgit-Baltistan, continues to claim its place in the top five most dangerous mountains in the world. Till now 85 of the climbers have died while attempting it.

Last month Naila etched her name in history when she first successfully sealed Mt Everest (8848m), the world's tallest peak, and then Mount Lhotse (8,516m), the fourth-highest mountain in the world. Climbing Nanga Parbat will mean she will become Pakistan's fastest woman to ascend seven peaks higher than 8,000 metres.

A mother of two kids, Naila is a Dubai-based Pakistani banker and an amateur boxer. She first rose to prominence after images of her wedding shoot at K2 Base Camp in 2018 circulated on social media.

She summited Gasherbrum-II (8,035m) in 2021, Gasherbrum-I (8,068m) and K2 (8611) in July 2022, and Annapurna (8,091m) in 2023. She climbed K2, the world's second tallest peak shortly after Samina Baig, who was the first Pakistani woman to achieve the feat.

## Special Olympics World Games: Pak contingent arrive in Berlin

Arif Hafeez

BERLIN: Pakistan contingent comprising athletes and officials have arrived in Berlin to participate in the Special Olympic World Games to be played in Berlin, Germany from June 17 to 25. Officials of the World Games Organizing Committee welcomed the Pakistani contingent and officials at the airport.

Seven thousand athletes from 190 countries along with their unified partners participated in the World Games. As many as 36 different sports competitions will be held in the mega event. Special Olympic Pakistan athletes are participating in eleven sports. The National squad will feature in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bocci, Cycling, Futsal, Hockey, Powerlifting, Swimming, Tennis and Table Tennis.

Before leaving Germany, the special athlete of the national team, Abdul Haq, said that representing Pakistan is a matter of honor for us.

We are very enthusiastic and dedicated to the national spirit for the mega event and inshallah the nation will be given a good news of a good result.

Athlete Simran said that he is carrying the spirit of victory for Pakistan. Mohammad Bangash said that Pakistani athletes are very talented and eager to learn. The athletes have trained hard for the championship.

Head of delegation of the national team and chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ronak Lakhani said that our athletes have made extensive preparations for the World Games.

The athletes will try their best to reach the victory stand by showing their hundred percent performance.

Ronak Lakhani further said that the best teams of the world are taking part in the Games, but we also have good preparation. We hope that the young players will do their best to get medals for the country. All abilities will be utilized to win laurels for the country, Ronak Lakhani concluded.

## PSB grants Rs 25 million to PHF for participation in Asian Champions Trophy



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has issued a check of Rs 25 million to Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) to make arrangements for the national team's participation in the Asian Champions Trophy, slated to be held in Chennai, India in August.

Secretary General of PHF Haider Hussain received the check from Director Finance and Audit PSB Faizan Janjua and Accounts Officer PSB Muhammad Akram Bhatti, Olympians Kaleemullah, Hanif Khan and Rahim Khan were also present with him on this occasion, a PHF press release said on Tuesday.

Haider thanked Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari and Director General of PSB Shoaib Khoso for issuing special grant to the Federation.

He said the minister had assured that if Pakistan players would perform well, the government would fully support them. He said the minister has expressed satisfaction at the national junior team's performance in the recently-held Junior Asia Cup in Oman. "He has also fulfilled his promise for which I am grateful to him."

He said: "The PHF is making all-out effort for the betterment of the national game and strong representation of Pakistan at the international level."

Haider said: "The recent outstanding performance of Pakistan juniors has been highly appreciated by hockey fans as well as the government of Pakistan."

"We have also included all the 18 members of our junior outfit in the probables for the Asian Champions Trophy, he added.

Haider said: "The players have been encouraged and are eager to perform." He said that the IPC minister wanted to improve the national game of hockey and was keen to see Pakistan team performing well at the international level.

He said that all the victories achieved by Pakistan hockey in the past had been possible due to the financial support of Pakistani governments.

"Development of Pakistan hockey and participation in international competitions is not easy without the financial backing of the government of Pakistan," he added.

## PCB announces Match Officials Panel for 2023-24 season

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced its panel of match officials for the expanded 2023-24 cricket season, which will see the return of regional and departmental cricket after four years, thus, substantially increasing the number of matches. Ninety-seven First XI matches were held in the 2022-23 cricket season alone, but following the restoration of the PCB Constitution 2014, around 200 First XI matches will be held in the 2023-24 season.

To cater for the enhanced requirement and following an annual appraisal process, the PCB has increased the number of match officials in each category. This will provide more opportunities to the match officials under the current system and also increases the earning chances after the PCB decided to increase the monthly retainers of the elite and supplementary panel by 20 per cent.

Additionally, the PCB has also increased match fees, daily allowances and retirement benefits of the match officials by 20 per cent.

In the elite panel of match referees, the PCB has added seven officials to raise the tally

to 13. The seven new officials, who have been promoted, are: Aleem Khan Moosa, Athar Laiq, Bilal Khiljee, Kamran Chaudhry, Khalid Jamsheed, Mohammad Aslam and Sohail Idrees.

Similarly, and envisaging eight first-class matches will run concurrently, the PCB had increased the pool of elite umpires from 14 to 23. The nine match officials, who have been promoted from the supplementary to elite panel are: Abdul Moqet, Aslam Bareach, Feroq Ali Khan, Ghulam Sarwar, Imranullah Aslam, Kashif Sohail, Majid Hussain, Qaiser Khan and Zulfiqar Jan.

In the supplementary panel, which will be involved in non-first-class and pathways cricket matches but will also be available to cover for the elite match officials in First XI matches, the PCB has promoted nine match referees. This includes Saman Zulfiqar, who becomes the first women's match referee to rise to this level. Others are: Abu-al-Hasnat Rao, Allah Ditto, Fazal Akbar Shah, Ghulam Mustafa, Inamullah Khan, Muhammad Amiruddin Ansari, Samiul Haq and Sohail Khan.

Meanwhile, the PCB has also confirmed women's and inter-

national panel of match officials.

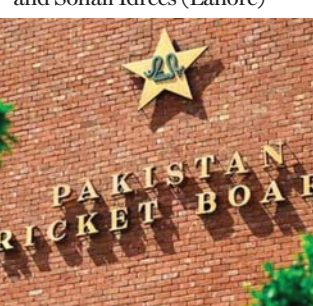
The women's panel of umpires includes, Afia Amin, Humairah Farah, Nazia Nazir, Riffat Mustafa, Sabahat Rasheed, Saleema Imtiaz and Shakila Rafiq, while the international panel of match officials is Aleem Dar, Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz Waqar, Faisal Khan Afridi (all umpires), Muhammad Javed Malik (Multan) and Ali Naqvi (both match referees).

The PCB group that reviewed the match officials' last season's performances and decided on the 2023-24 panel included: Shakil Ahmed Shaikh (Chair - Domestic Restructuring Committee), Aizad Syed (Acting Director - Academics), Haroon Rashid (Chair-Selection Committee and Acting Director - Domestic Cricket), Saqib Irfan (Senior Manager - Domestic cricket), Bilal Qureshi (Manager - Umpires & Referees) and Abdul Hameed (Assistant Manager - Umpires and Referee).

PCB PANEL OF MATCH OFFICIALS 2023-24

PCB Elite Panel of Match

Referees (13)-Aleem Khan Moosa (Karachi), Ali Naqvi (Lahore), Athar Laiq (Karachi), Bilal Moinul Haq Khiljee (Lahore), Ifthikhar Ahmed (Karachi), Kamran Chaudhry (Lahore), Khalid Jamsheed (Lahore), Muhammad Anees (Lahore), Muhammad Aslam (Quetta), Muhammad Iqbal Sheikh (Hyderabad), Muhammad Javed Malik (Multan), Nadeem Arshad (Faisalabad) and Sohail Idrees (Lahore)



PCB Elite Panel of Umpires (23)-Abdul Moqet (Lahore), Aleem Dar (Lahore), Aley Haider (Karachi), Asif Yaqoob (Islamabad), Aslam Bareach (Quetta), Faisal Khan Afridi (Sargodha), Feroq Ali Khan (Abbottabad), Ghulam Sarwar (Sibi), Imran Jawed (Karachi), Imranullah Aslam (Bahawalpur), Kashif Sohail (Khanewal),

Majid Hussain (AJK), Muhammad Asif (Lahore), Muhammad Sajid (Charsadda), Nasir Hussain (Lahore), Qaiser Khan (Lahore), Rashid Riaz Waqar (Lahore), Saqib Khan (Abbottabad), Shozab Raza (Lahore), Syed Imtiaz Iqbal (Karachi), Tariq Rasheed (Lahore), Waleed Yaqub (Lahore) and Zulfiqar Jan (Charsadda)

PCB Supplementary Panel of Match Referees (11)-Abu-Hasnat Rao (Lahore), Ahmer Saeed (Karachi), Ali Gohar (Karachi), Allah Ditto (Islamabad), Fazal Akbar Shah (Peshawar), Ghulam Mustafa (Kasur), Inamullah Khan (Lahore), Muhammad Amiruddin Ansari (Karachi), Saman Zulfiqar (Sheikhupura), Samiul Haq (Faisalabad) and Sohail Khan (Lahore)

PCB Supplementary Panel of Umpires (28)-Abdul Karim (Naseerabad), Aftab Hussain Gillani (Bahawalpur), Ahmed Nadeem (Peshawar), Ahmed Shahab (Lahore), Aqeel Aadil Khan (Karachi), Asif Feroq Awan (Gujranwala), Dilshad Ali (Multan), Haroon Malik

(Sargodha), Hashim Ali (Lodhran), Hassan Mahmood (Lahore), Irfan Haider (Islamabad), Kamran Khalil (Lahore), Khalid Mehmoos Snr. (Karachi), Mir Dad (Islamabad), Muhammad Basit (Lahore), Muhammad Fayyaz (Peshawar), Muhammad Imran (Sargodha), Muhammad Irfan Dilshad (Lahore), Muhammad Kaleem (Lahore), Muhammad Waqas (Lahore), Qaiser Waheed (Lahore), Rafiq Ahmad (Dadu), Rana Muhammad Arshad (Faisalabad), Raza Asghar (Sheikhupura), Saleem Butt (Rawalpindi), Sultan Mahmood (Loralai), Syed Fahim Ahmed Bukhari (Karachi) and Waqar Ahmed (Islamabad)

PCB Development Panel of Umpires (40)-Aamer Atta (DG Khan), Abdul Qayoom (Karachi), Abdul Wasay (Kohat), Abrar Ahmed (Kasur), Adnan Rashid (Lahore), Ajmal Khan (Swat), Akhtar Ali (Karachi), Anser Mahmood (Pattoki), Asim Alvi (Karachi), Feroq Anwar Bajwa (Faisalabad), Feroq Jan (Charsadda), Ghayyur Hussain (Peshawar), Hameed Khan (Quetta), Hidayatullah (Pishin), Jaffar Hussain (Peshawar), Jamshid Hussain (Peshawar), Khalid Mahmood Jnr. (Quetta), Khalil Ahmad Siddiqi

(Kasur), Maqbool Ahmed (Faisalabad), Mesam Turabi (Gujjar Khan), Muhammad Aamir Sharif (Kohat), Muhammad Arif (DI Khan), Muhammad Yousaf (DG Khan), Mumtaz Ali (Loralai), Munir Ahmed (Kasur), Naik Muhammad (Kohat), Nasar Khan (Mardan), Naseer Ahmed (Chakwal), Naushad Khan (Peshawar), Naveed Khan (Nowshera), Noor ul Hakam (Buner), Raweed Khan (Charsadda), Sagheer Ahmed (Lahore), Saifullah Khan (Sargodha), Shahid Qayyum (Faisalabad), Shamim Ansari (Karachi), Sohail Khan (Charsadda), Sohail Zaman Khattak (Peshawar), Waqas Zeb (Lahore) and Zeeshan Arif (Mirpur, AJK)

PCB Women's Panel of Umpires (7)-Afia Amin (Lahore), Humairah Farah (Lahore), Nazia Nazir (Lahore), Riffat Mustafa (Kasur), Sabahat Rasheed (Lahore), Saleema Imtiaz (Karachi) and Shakila Rafiq (Kasur)

ICC International Panel of Match Officials (6)-Aleem Dar (Lahore), Asif Yaqoob (Islamabad), Rashid Riaz Waqar (Lahore), Faisal Khan Afridi (Sargodha) (all umpires); Muhammad Javed Malik (Multan) and Ali Naqvi (Lahore) (both match referees)