

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے محمد بن کثیر نے بیان کیا کہ ہم کو  
سپان نے تجزی، انہیں اٹھانے، انہیں  
ایمان سے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ  
نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے  
کبھی کسی کھانے کوئی عیب نہیں نکالا۔ اگر  
پندہ ہو تو کھایا اور اگر ناپندہ ہو تو چھوڑ دیا۔  
(مشکوٰۃ، حدیث نمبر 5409)

Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited



## Federal Minister favours 20 years tax holiday to GSED

Federal Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has assured Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) to give status of Special Economic District to Gwadar (GSED) with 10 to 20 years tax holiday. The minister was talking to a delegation of ABAD here on Monday. Delegation was lead by Chairman Southern Region ABAD Raheel Rinch. (Details on Page 5)



## Dar for supporting Aviation Sector

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on Civil Aviation issues, at Finance Division, Islamabad on June 14, 2023. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday committed to support the Aviation Sector and directed to take pertinent measures to resume flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to the US, UK and the Europe at the earliest. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziq'a'd 25, Thursday, June 15, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 69

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates 7th Avenue Interchange on Srinagar Highway, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Political stability, key to economic strength, development, prosperity: PM

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that political stability was highly important to achieve economic strength, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country. "Until there is no political stability, there would not be any economic stability as both are inter-linked with each other," he said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the rehabilitated and widened Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road (previously known as IJ Principal Road). Shehbaz Sharif said in a situation where there was political instability in the country, the political opponents were hatching conspiracies everywhere,

spreading false propaganda and misleading the nation; nobody would be ready to invest in the country. Putting the responsibility of current economic crisis on the previous government, the prime minister said it breached its own agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to which the confidence of the Fund in Pakistan shattered and it was now hesitant to resume its agreement. However, he said the current government had met all the conditions of the IMF and hoped that the programme would resume anytime very soon. PM Shehbaz resolved that "under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, we all together would bring the country out of all crises and

make it a stable and developed Pakistan." He said the previous government had ignored development projects and the progress on reconstruction of IJP Road was also going on at a snail's pace. However, he said current government made it possible to complete it in the stipulated time. Appreciating the team responsible for the project to complete it on time, the prime minister said the project, previously known as IJ Principal Road, had now been named after Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haidar). He said those nations remained alive and move forward with pride that remembered their martyrs and respected the armed forces. The May 9 incidents ashamed

the whole nation, he said adding the martyrs sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country's security and saved hundreds of thousand children from becoming orphan by making their own children orphans. Imran Niazi kept on terming his opponents as thieves but he himself had been proved to be guilty of corruption cases in Tasha Khana and Al-qadir Trust cases, he added. He informed that a Solid Waste Management would be introduced in the federal capital very soon. He deplored that the previous government had damaged the whole Solid Waste Management system in Lahore. The prime minister said that the government would give 100,000 laptops to the talented

youth and the distribution would start next month. He made it clear that the laptops would be given totally on merit and no reference would be accepted. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said the PML-N under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, had eradicated the menace of terrorism from the country. He said overcoming the electricity load shedding was also hallmark of the PML-N government. Former MNA Hanif Abbasi said the current government provided the biggest package of Islamabad history as it announced Rs 80 billion for transport and road projects in one year. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb was also present on the occasion.

## ECC allows PPL to execute proposed framework agreement with SOCAR



### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Wednesday after a detailed discussion allowed Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) to execute the proposed framework agreement with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) Trading.

The ECC, which met here with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in chair, considered a summary of the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) regarding the framework agreement between Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) and State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), said a press release.

The committee directed the Ministry of Petroleum to determine the country's need for LNG at least three months

in advance on a rolling basis. It approved Rs. 404.769 million as a technical supplementary grant in favor of the Cabinet Division for various requirements of the 6 Aviation Squadron. The ECC also discussed and approved Rs. 157.734 million additional funds in favor of Ministry of Industries and Production for the payment of employees' salaries of Heavy Electrical Complex (HEC), markup to Bank of Khyber, and operating/running expenses, subject to reconciliation of figures from Finance Division. It further directed the Privatization Commission to complete the privatization process of HEC by June 30, 2023. Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Power Khuram Dastagir Khan, Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi MNA/Ex-PM, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, federal secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## PM paid homage to martyrs by inaugurating Captain Karnal Sher Khan Avenue: Marriyum



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid homage to the martyrs of the nation by inaugurating the avenue named after the hero of the nation, Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed,

who compelled the enemy to acknowledge his unparalleled courage and bravery. In her tweet, she said that after the tragedy of May 9, this was a salute from the nation to martyrs and Ghazis. She said it was also a message to those who desecrated the memorials of martyrs that the Pakistani nation respected and honoured its martyrs.

## Talha announces successful impact of Hajj Portal



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood held a press conference on Wednesday to discuss the positive impact of the Hajj portal on pilgrims in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He emphasized the portal's significance in addressing various issues faced by pilgrims during their sacred journey. Senator Talha highlighted his personal commitment to facilitating direct communication with pilgrims by employing a team of information technology experts at his own expense. This team had developed a state-of-the-art Hajj portal, enabling pilgrims to lodge complaints and providing the minister with a platform to monitor and promptly address their concerns. In addition, the minister informed the audience that the ministry had established complaint centers in Makkah and Madinah to further assist in resolving pilgrims' issues.

## PMD alerts authorities of widespread rain in Sindh, Balochistan districts

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: ue to the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (BIPARJOY) over Northeast Arabian Sea. The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) "BIPARJOY" over northeast Arabian Sea moved north-northeastward during last 06 hours, and now lies near Latitude 21.7°N and Longitude 66.4°E at a distance of about 370km southwest of Karachi, 355km south-southwest Thatta and 290km south-southwest of Keti Bandar. Maximum sustained surface winds are 150-160 Km/hour gusts 180 Km/hour around the system center and sea conditions being phenomenal around the system center with a maximum wave height 30 feet. The favorable environmental conditions (sea surface temperature of 29-30 degree Celsius low vertical wind shear and upper-level divergence) are in support to sustain its strength through the forecast period. Under the existing upper-level steering winds, the VSCS "BIPARJOY" started to recurve North-northeastward and likely cross between Keti Bandar (South-east Sindh) and Indian Gujarat coast on

## Trial under army laws meets global fair trial requirements, says Tarrar

### TLTP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar expressed on Wednesday that trials under army laws meet the 'globally acknowledged minimum requirements' that form the basis of a fair trial. Tarrar enjoys a reputation as a criminal lawyer amid main role in Bar politics. Soon after attending the meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council in Islamabad on Wednesday he was talking to the top court reporters. To lend strength to his argument, he particularly cited Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 regarding a fair trial, which he said gave the right to appoint a counsel of choice, reduce defence evidence, have access to the relevant record and seek a judicial review. The army laws "covered all these [aspects]" and that is why it is said that they meet the internationally acknowledged minimum requirements pertaining to the procedure and law", he added. When asked whether any "special considerations" were being mulled regarding the trial of women under army laws, the minister replied saying (Matters pertaining to military trials) will be decided according to the operation of the law. It is not the choice of the federal government or any institution.

## Balochistan's development funds doubled in budget 2023-24: Ahsan Iqbal

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said Balochistan's development funds doubled in budget 2023-24 and megaprojects completed in Gwadar in record time. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting to review progress of projects in Gwadar. In the budget 2023-24, he said allocation of development funds for Balochistan had been doubled which indicated the federal government's commitment to uplift the province. The meeting noted that since the incumbent government came into power in April 2022, the CEPC has been revived which remained neglected during the tenure of the previous government. The minister said several projects had been completed by the incumbent government in Gwadar particularly related to water and electricity that were neglected by the previous government deliberately. During the last three months, as many as 8 projects related to education, health, social sector to facilitate the people of Balochistan had been completed, the minister said while reiterating that the government would continue its efforts for uplift of the province to end its sense of deprivation.

## Effective tracking of Cyclone Biparjoy continues with all safety measures in place: Sherry informs NA

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman on Wednesday informed the National Assembly the government was ensuring effective monitoring of the tropical cyclone Biparjoy, moving with full intensity and likely to hit the coastline of Pakistan and India on Thursday. "All tracking institutions of Pakistan including PMD and Suparock are working round the clock with international satellites, especially of Bangkok, as it is inching towards Pakistan and India's coastline with intensity. Tomorrow it is expected if it remains as per the expected trajectory,



which stood correct so far," she said while briefing the House about the cyclone's movement and the precautionary measures taken by the government. She said it could affect the coastal areas of Karachi with landfalls and gusty winds, and going away from Balochistan its 'intense hit' was expected at the KT Bundar Khaas. "Currently it is moving at the speed of around 140-50 kilometer per hour. Its center has much speed and density."

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on Civil Aviation issues, at Finance Division on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Dar for supporting Aviation Sector

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on Civil Aviation issues, at Finance Division, Islamabad on June 14, 2023.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday committed to

support the Aviation Sector and directed to take pertinent measures to resume flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to the US, UK and the Europe at the earliest.

The minister chaired a meeting on Civil Aviation issues, which was also attended by the Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Law & Justice

Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa and Mansoor Usman Awan Attorney General of Pakistan.

The Secretary Aviation, Secretary Law and Justice DG CAA, DG ASF, and senior officers from Finance and Aviation attended the meeting, said a press release.

The secretary Aviation

briefed the Chair on the issues being faced by the aviation sector pertaining to regulation, service provision, security, and enhancement of state capacity in aviation.

The meeting discussed pragmatic options to resolve the issues without affecting the service provision and to raise the standards of aviation in Pakistan to match the international practices.

The meeting also discussed legal and financial hurdles being faced by the aviation sector in this regard and deliberated upon the prospects and opportunities available.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the measures and efforts being taken for improving standards of aviation in the country and committed to support the aviation sector.

## Advisory Committee inches closer to finalize syllabus on inclusion of Constitution in Curriculum



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Wednesday said that the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan reflects resilience and strength of our nation and inclusion of it in the curriculum would benefit students by fostering civic education, legal literacy and constitutional awareness.

He made these remarks while chairing the 7th meeting of the Advisory Committee constituted to oversee preparations of the Golden Jubilee

of the Constitution, 1973 at Parliament House

He said the inclusion of Constitution in curriculum would promote democratic values, critical thinking skills and ensure long-term stability in the society.

It would also empower students to understand their rights, participate actively in civic life and contribute to a more inclusive and democratic nation, he added.

Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, while

providing an update on the proposed introduction of a syllabus on the inclusion of the Constitution, shared that the fundamental elements of the curriculum had been developed in consultation with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Federal Education Board and that, following the Committee's approval would be taken up with other educational bodies for further consideration.

She also suggested revising the current curriculum to better connect it with the

nation's democratic values. She also highlighted that in order to broaden the scope of this effort, the Committee may consult with the provinces. The ideas presented by the Minister were approved by the Committee.

The Committee also took stock of the progress on construction of Bagh-e-Dastoor, restoration of old National Assembly Hall and thoroughly examined various designs for Yadgar-e-Dastoor (Constitution Monument).

Besides Speaker Raja

Pervez Ashraf and Convener Mian Raza Rabbani, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb (virtually); Members of National Assembly Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani, Dr. Nafisa Shah, Ms. Asiya Azeem, Mohsin Dawar, Mehnaaz Akber Aziz; Senator Kamran Murtaza Special Invitees Farhatullah Babar, Zafarullah Khan and government officials from CDA, NADRA, NESPAK and representatives from National College of Arts.

## MQM boycott resulted in JI's LG-polls victory, says Memon

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said MQM-P boycott resulted in Jamat-e-Islami (JI)'s Local Government (LG)-polls victory.

As per details, Sharjeel Memon claimed that PPP has a maximum number of voters for Karachi mayor election, Jamat-e-Islami (JI) is in second number while Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is in third.

He said that the 30 PTI members revealed JI registered FIRs against them but PTI members warned JI to squash the FIR otherwise they wouldn't cast their vote.

Sharjeel Memon refuted the rumours that PTI LG members are abducted he claimed that all 30 members are at their homes.

## NDMA conducts National Monsoon Coordination Conference with key stakeholders

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik has presided National Monsoon Coordination Conference and outlined discussion areas for the conference.

The conference was aimed to foster coordination and review monsoon preparedness measures among all stakeholders.

Chairman Indus River System Authority (IRSA) and representatives of Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCCC), Ministry of National Health Services and Regulations (MoHSR), provincial, state and Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs, SDMA and GBDMA respectively), Emergency services, Pakistan



Meteorological Department (PMD), Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), National Highways Authority (NHA), Armed Forces, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICT), Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF), National Humanitarian Network (NHN), Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Emergency Response Agencies and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WHH Represent-

tatives attended the conference, a news release said issued here on Wednesday.

The Chairman underscored the significance of preparedness by learning from the experiences of Floods 2022, timely training of responders and reviewing stock positions for monsoon contingencies.

He instructed to issue tangible advisories and guidelines for general public, humanitarian organizations and line departments. He noted that proactive measures were essential in mitigating disaster impact and called for tangible actions before disaster strikes.

The PMD briefed on weather outlook for next three months and predicted that there was a possibility of extreme weather events in the summer of 2023, which could lead to riverine floods, flash flooding, landslides, and urban flooding. Farmers should be prepared for these events and plan accordingly.

The chairman IRSA updated on position of water reservoirs and informed that 2.33 million acre feet (MAF) water being maintained as of June 14.

The PDMAs, GBDMA, and SDMA presented details of public awareness campaigns and mock exercises for monsoon contingencies.

The Chairman NDMA directed Provincial Authorities to coordinate with local NGOs and humanitarian organizations to maximize outreach to local communities and alignment of their resources according to PMD's weather projections.

## PM Shehbaz arrives in Baku on two-day official visit

### Spokesman Report

BAKU: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived in Baku on a two-day official visit to Azerbaijan at the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev.

Upon his arrival, the prime minister was warmly welcomed by First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Yagub Eyubov, Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov, Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov and Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee.

It is the maiden visit of PM Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan after assuming his office.

On Thursday (tomorrow), the prime minister will visit the tomb of Heydar Aliyev, a national leader of Azerbaijan and lay a wreath. He will also pay a visit to the martyrs monument.

The prime minister will meet

President Ilham Aliyev and both the leaders will later talk to the media.

A delegation of Azerbaijan ministers will also call on the prime minister to discuss the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in trade and energy sectors.

Pakistan issued two tenders seeking spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes for the first time in nearly a year on Tuesday, while also announcing a deal that will see Azerbaijan provide the country with one LNG cargo per month.

Dependent on gas for power generation and running short of foreign exchange to pay for imports, the country has struggled to procure spot cargoes of LNG after global prices spiked last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, leaving it to face widespread power outages.

However, Asian spot LNG prices this year have eased from record highs of \$70/mmBtu hit in August, and are now trading below \$10.

## Pak Army troops engage in evacuation, relief activities amid Biparjioy



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army after Tropical Cyclone Biparjioy intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS) has expedited its efforts for the evacuation of vulnerable communities of coastal areas on a fast-track basis.

The Pakistan Army has also issued statistics pertaining to the masses relocated from the areas to be impacted by the cyclone.

Over 82 per cent population of the to-be impacted areas have been shifted to safer places and the evacuation process would complete by tonight (Wednesday).

According to recent data, some 60,442 people have been relocated out of the total 73,843 to safer locations. Pakistan Army has established some nine relief camps in Thatta, and 14 each in Sujawal and Badin.

The Corps Commander Karachi has directed to complete the reloca-

tion process in the night at all costs.

The Army and Rangers Troops have been directed to remain alert for the next 72 hours.

The Corps Commander Karachi has said that the Army troops deployed in the field would extend all possible assistance to the masses with the help of the civil administration during these times of distress.

Pakistan Army soldiers have also evacuated people stuck in the Village Musa Tehsil Kharochan during their continuous efforts in the areas to face the impacts of the cyclone.

The local population thanked the Pakistan Army for providing timely relief during the cyclone. Pakistan Army shifted the trapped people through vehicles and buses to safer places. The village population included women, men, children and older people.

The villagers paid tribute to Pakistan Army for its timely evacuation of the local masses.

## CTD kills four TTP terrorists in Balochistan

### News Desk

CHAMAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Balochistan killed four alleged terrorists in Chaman.

According to CTD officials, four terrorists were killed who were involved in the attack on Muslim Bagh headquarters. The TTP and TJP terrorists were killed in an operation by the security forces.

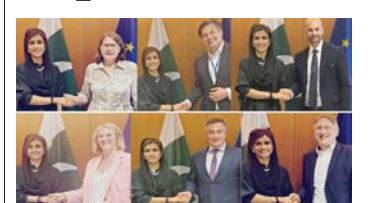
The spokesperson further said that the operation was carried out on the information provided by an arrested terrorist Ali Muhammad aka Chota Qadri.

Explosives, arms, and ammunition were seized from the possession of the killed alleged terrorists. A car that was used in the Muslim Bagh attack was also confiscated from their possession.

Read more: CTD arrests six 'Militants' of banned outfits in Punjab The Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Saturday claimed to have arrested nine terrorists of a banned outfit in separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs), ARY News reported.

The authorities seized explosive material, detonators, bullets and cash from the arrested terrorists. He further said the arrested terrorists belonged to various banned organizations. The terrorists were identified as Atiq, Rasheed, Riyaz, Sadiq, Shoaib, Raheeq, Zahid, Kashif and Maqsood, the officials said. Nine cases have been registered against the arrested suspects and an investigation is underway, they further said.

## Pakistan, EU agree to enhance parliamentary cooperation



### Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Pakistan and the European Union (EU) have agreed to enhance parliamentary cooperation.

The understanding to this effect was reached during a meeting between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and EU Chair of Delegation for relations with countries of South Asia Nicola Procaccini in Brussels.

The Minister of State stressed that stability in South Asia is imperative for global peace.

Pakistan EU ties, parliamentary cooperation

Hina Rabbani Khar also held a fruitful exchange with the Rapporteur of the Trade Monitoring Group for South Asia and the member Sub-Committee on Human Rights Krah Max. She also met the Vice President of the European Parliament and Rapporteur of the new GSP Plus Heidi Hautala.

Speaking on this occasion, she said GSP Plus is an effective tool for Sustainable Development Goals.

She said it has an immense impact on growing EU-Pak trade especially job creation, increasing exports and inclusive growth.

# Kashmir issue as the oldest unresolved issue pending on the UN agenda: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has expressed his grave concern over the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian Occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued here today, the PM, while terming the Kashmir issue as the oldest unresolved issue pending on the UN agenda, said that a just and equitable solution to the lingering dispute was



imperative to ensure durable peace and stability in South Asia. Denouncing India's unilateral and illegal actions taken on and after 5th August 2019, the PM said that after stripping Kashmir of its special status, Modi government was now hell bent on changing the region's demography and converting the Muslim majority into a minority.

The PM pointed out that the issuance of fake domiciles to outsiders, delimitation of constituencies and allowing non-Kashmiris to buy land and properties in the disputed terri-

tory were part of this grand conspiracy. Terming Occupied Kashmir as the world's most militarized zone, the PM said that the presence of 9 lakh occupying forces in the disputed area belied the Indian government's claims of normalcy.

The PM also took strong exception to the seizure of the office of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar, confiscation of properties and destruction of civilian properties in the name of an anti-encroachment campaign in Occupied Kashmir.

# Joint launch of Nourishmaa Campaign by Nutrition International

News Desk

KARACHI: Nutrition International partnered with the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and Health Department Sindh launch NourishMaa Campaign – an initiative aimed to promote maternal nutrition agenda in the province. The joint efforts of the partners aim to improve the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers (HCPs) and frontline health workers (FHWs) in four districts of Sindh with the overall goal to improve maternal nutrition status in the targeted areas.

The health, nutrition, and wellbeing of women during preconception, pregnancy, and post-partum periods are vital for positive pregnancy outcomes and long-term wellbeing of both mother and child," emphasized Mr. Nasir Hussain Shah, Provincial Minister of Sindh for Local Governments. Mr. Shah expressed appreciation for the efforts of Nutrition International in launching this initiative, and assured government's ample support to successfully implementing the campaign in the province.

The latest National Nutrition Survey 2018 confirms the macro and



m micronutrient deficiencies amongst women of reproductive age (WRA) are very alarming, 14.4% WRA are underweight similarly 42% of them are anaemic while 22% are vitamin A deficient. These high rates of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among WRA indicate a vicious cycle of malnutrition in the country which needs to be urgently addressed. The NourishMaa campaign envisioned to complement the Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy 2022-27, aims to help address the maternal malnutrition issues in the country by leveraging the critical role of HCPs and FHWs.

Speaking at the launching event, Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain, Additional Director General Health Services Sindh said that altogether over 400,000 medical professionals and outreach workers are working in the country. However, most of them never received any formal training on maternal nutrition. By developing models and channels, this campaign is expected to enhance the knowledge of the health care providers on the subject to have a positive impact on maternal health statistics.

The campaign launch was attended by more than 100 participants,

including key stakeholders such as Dr. Farhana Memon, Additional Director General of Health, Sindh; Dr. Khalid Memon, Additional Director General of RMNCH, Sindh; Dr. Khawaja Masood, National Coordinator Nutrition/National Fortification Alliance; Dr. Farhana Shahid, Country Advisor for Nutrition at BMGF; Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, Secretary General of Pakistan Medical Association; Prof. Dr. Saba Khan, Treasurer of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Pakistan (SOGP); as well as representatives from UN agencies, development partners, civil society, and media.

# Best arrangements made for establishing of cattle markets, says Wahab Riaz

News Desk

KHANEWAL: Adviser to Chief Minister of Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs and International Cricketer Wahab Riaz visited Khanewal to review cattle markets, law and order situation and sports activities. K-Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu and DPO Rana Umar Farooq were present together. Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab Wahab Riaz while addressing the meeting said that according to the policy of the Punjab government, traders and buyers in the temporary cattle markets of Khanewal district Best arrangements should be made for sports activities to be started at the school level.

He said that on the instructions of Punjab



Minister Mohsin Naqvi, work has been started at the grass root level for the promotion of sports in the province. Involvement of more children should be ensured. Talking to the media, he said that an annual sports calendar will be made to bring out the

talent. Best arrangements will be made for the establishment of cattle markets.

Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu, while giving a briefing, said that temporary cattle markets in the district will be made functional from June 16. The overall law and

order situation is satisfactory, the protection of life and property of the people is the first priority of the district police—the officers of the district administration, sports department, education, health, colleges, livestock departments participated in the meeting.

# SI Global Solutions serves over 650 customers globally in 8 years

City Desk

KARACHI: SI Global Solutions, one of the emerging IT and IT-enabled companies, has celebrated its 8th work anniversary at its headquarters in Karachi and globally with its associated consultants, remote employees, and freelancers, marking a success of serving more than 650 customers worldwide.

CEO SI Global Solutions Noman A. Said said, "SI Global's success story is a testament to their vision for an inclusive and innovative future. We are delighted to celebrate our accomplishments and reaffirm our commitment to our customers and the communities we serve."

SI Global Solution Private Limited is the fastest growing IT company having a presence in the USA, UAE and local branches in Pakistan spread across Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad. The company specializes in delivering application software, web-based, e-commerce, and cloud services as well as core networking solutions.

# Pakistan: World Bank approves \$200mn in support of Citizen-Driven Rural Investments and Post-Floods Rehabilitation for KP Province

ISLAMABAD: As part of the program agreed with the Government of Pakistan to respond to the devastating floods that hit the country in the summer of 2022 and build a climate-resilient Pakistan, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved on Tuesday \$200 million in financing to strengthen state capacities to deliver basic services and climate resilient rural infrastructure in the newly merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including investments for post-floods rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Investment and Institutional Support Project (KPRIISP) is the first phase of a multiphase programmatic approach

that aims to increase access to resilient and reliable basic services for rural households in the Newly Merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under this first phase, investments will focus on strengthening state responsiveness and facilitating citizen-driven service delivery, as well as rehabilitate infrastructure affected by the devastating floods of summer 2022.

"KPRIISP aims to address development gaps in rural areas that are among the poorest in the country, directly benefiting around 5.5 million people by extending public service delivery systems, investing in basic infrastructure like water supply and sanitation, and boosting agricultural productivity and livelihood opportu-

nities," said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "It will also support post-floods reconstruction and rehabilitation, while strengthening resilience to such climate-related shocks, particularly in the Newly Merged Districts of the Province."

The project will support the extension of state systems to deliver public services in the Newly Merged Districts as well as investments in critical and basic rural infrastructure. It will also support emergency reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood protection infrastructure damaged by the 2022 floods. Infrastructure investments in water supply and sanitation, rural roads, agriculture, and irriga-

tion will be done in a way to strengthen climate-resilience, in the face of increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events in Pakistan.

"In addition to investments in critical infrastructure, this new project will provide conditional grants to village councils to finance local infrastructure preferences in line with community preferences and women's priorities," said Anna O'Donnell, Task Team Leader of the project. "It will also ensure that communities are involved in participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring, and improving social accountability systems, while focusing on institutional strengthening and capacity building of village councils."

# Saudi GACA security assistant team visits Multan Airport



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Visit of Saudi GACA Security Assistant Team to Multan Airport to operate direct flights of Saudi Airlines

On arrival at the airport, the Saudi security team was briefed.

GACA security team inspected the Multan Airport Terminal building.

The Saudi Aviation Security Team reviewed the ASF security search. The 'GACA' security delegation also reviewed the security arrangements of the Private Cargo Company.

The Saudi delegation also reviewed the airport's security perimeter. The Saudi GACA security delegation also inspected the catering company's security measures

# World Railway Gate and Track Crossing Day Observed

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: 14th and 15th June is observed as World Railway Crossing Awareness Day all over the world. An awareness seminar and walk regarding railway gate and track crossing was organized yesterday at the wood market gate. In which railway officers, employees, local business community, District Emergency Officer of RESCO 1122 Dr. Kaleemullah and City Traffic Officer Rao Muhammad Naeem along with his team participated.

In his address, the speakers congratulated DS Railway Hamad Hasan Mirza for organizing this seminar and appreciated his efforts, along with informing him of the necessary information regarding railway gate/track crossing.

On this occasion, DS Railway Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza said that International Level Crossing Day is celebrated in Pakistan on June 14 and 15 like all over the world.

And especially when the train is about to pass or the gate is closed, haste can lead to death, so during these two days, awareness seminars and walks are organized in different countries to provide awareness and awareness to the citizens and Avoid walking on the tracks and also use legal routes for level crossing to save their precious lives as well as their precious organs.

# Jamaat-e-Islami believes in democratic values. Dr Safdar Hashmi



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The PPP should know that the conditions of 1970 are no longer there, it is everyone's responsibility to pass the democratic traditions. Dr. Safdar Hashmi

Demonstration of Jamaat-e-Islami at Multan Chowk Kachheri against PPP's fascism and mandate theft in Karachi. The demonstration was led by the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Multan, Dr. Safdar Hashmi, while speaking on this occasion, he said that Jamaat-e-Islami believes in democratic values. After a while, municipal elections were held in Karachi, but through bullying and rigging, the first majority was turned into a minority.

# foodpanda partners with SIEHS to enhance rider safety

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: foodpanda, the leading food delivery service in the country, conducted a comprehensive basic life support training session for its dedicated riders last week. The company recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of its riders, who serve as the backbone of the food delivery service.

Muntaqa Peracha, CEO of foodpanda, stated, "Our riders are an invaluable part of the foodpanda family, and their safety and well-being are our utmost priority. We believe that providing them with basic life support training is essential, given the challenges they face during their daily tasks. This training equips them with the skills and confidence to respond promptly and effectively in emergency situations. We are committed to continuously enhancing the safety measures and support systems for our riders."

# All Pakistan Mobile Phone Traders Association Delegation Visits PTA



ISLAMABAD: A delegation representing the All Pakistan Mobile Phone Traders Association led by General Secretary, Mr. Munir Baig Mirzavised Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Headquarters, Islamabad today.

The delegation met with Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, and discussed matters concerning the business interests of mobile phone traders, particularly in relation to mobile devices, applicable FBR duties, and the subsequent impact on the traders. The Chairman assured the delegation of PTA's cooperation to pursue their business interests.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:08 pm
Asr	5:08 pm
Maghrib	7:19 pm
Isha	9:03 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHO	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
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

**AIOU announces schedule for online workshops**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced workshops schedule for BS and B. Ed (ODL programs) offered in semester spring 2023. Workshops for the first batch will be held from June 19 to 24. These workshops will be conducted online on Microsoft teams through AIOU's Aaghi Learning Management System (LMS) portal. Login information (username & password) has been shared with the students and they are instructed to participate in these workshops through Aaghi portal. All those students who have not received their username and password are instructed to contact their nearest AIOU regional office.

As per the instructions of Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the workshops of remaining batches of these programs will be held after Eid. Students of the remaining batches are advised to keep checking the LMS portal and the university website for the schedule of workshops.

**PRCS celebrates 'World Blood Donor Day'**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) celebrated World Blood Donor Day on Wednesday, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of regular blood donations and express gratitude to voluntary donors for their life-saving contributions to those in need.

Under the theme "Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often," a ceremony took place at the PRCS National Headquarters in Islamabad. The event was attended by PRCS Member Managing Body Brig (Retd) Abdul Hadi, Secretary General Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, representatives from IFRC, ICRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners, staff, volunteers, healthcare professionals, and regular blood donors.

In his message, Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari emphasized the critical need for regular and voluntary blood and plasma donations to ensure the availability of safe and life-saving products for those in need. He highlighted that by donating a part of ourselves, we have the power to share the gift of life and positively impact countless individuals.

Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed appreciated the PRCS's efforts in managing and supplying blood to deserving patients, emergencies, and accidents. The Red Crescent volunteers play an active role in collecting and ensuring the timely availability of blood donations. He also acknowledged the commendable services of the Regional Blood Donor Center (RBDC) under the Red Crescent's auspices.

The World Blood Donor Day serves as an opportunity to urge governments and



national health authorities to allocate sufficient resources and establish systems and infrastructure to enhance the collection of blood from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors, as highlighted by Chairman PRCS.

On this occasion, Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abaidullah Khan appreciated the efforts of PRCS Regional Blood Bank and thanked all the esteemed blood donors for their blood donations and the RCRC Movement partners for the upgradation of PRCS Regional Blood

Donor Center.

Brig. (Retd) Abdul Hadi also spoke on the occasion and encouraged all the participants to donate blood. General (ret'd) Mustafa Kamal Akbar, who donated blood more than 160 times at the age of 84, delivered a motivational speech.

Overall, the PRCS's World Blood Donor Day celebration successfully brought attention to the importance of regular blood and plasma donations, recognizing the selflessness of donors and emphasizing the need for continued support in saving lives.

**Hardwork**

ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in his work at Sector G-7 during high temperature to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Paymob and easypaisa drive digital payment acceptance in Pakistan**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Paymob, the leading omni channel financial services enabler in the Middle East, North Africa, and Pakistan (MENA-P), and easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital payments platform, have announced that they have partnered to process easypaisa digital wallet payments through Paymob's payment infrastructure, accelerating digital payment

acceptance in the country.

Fawad Abdul Kader, Paymob's Country Manager in Pakistan commented, "We are extremely pleased to be joining hands with a leader in Pakistan's Fintech industry. Together, we have set off on a journey to empower 100,000 SME merchants across Pakistan and guide them in bridging the financial access gap, one digital payment at a time. M. Mudassar Aqil, CEO Telenor Microfinance Bank

& easypaisa said, "Technology and collaboration have been the driving forces behind the rapid advancement of digital finance in recent years, providing solutions that simplify our lives. At easypaisa, we are committed to promoting financial inclusivity by developing innovative solutions for individual customers as well as small businesses through our open platform. Paymob is committed to

serving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by simplifying the process of managing and growing businesses through access to the most innovative and modern financial technologies. The partnership between Paymob and easypaisa will empower merchants to accept digital payments that will serve to boost their profitability while making e-commerce accessible to a broader segment of the population in Pakistan.

**Pakistani startups showcase their products at London Tech Week 2023**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: London Tech Week 2023, a global celebration of tech, uniting the most innovative thinkers and talent of tomorrow in a week-long festival, is being held from 12th-16th June, 2023 at Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London. It brings together industry leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers from around the world to explore the latest advancements and trends in technology.

Continuing with its tradition of powering Pakistan's startup ecosystem, Ignite National Technology Fund, a public sector company with Ministry of IT & Telecom, participates in London Tech Week 2023 showcasing six exciting startups from its different National Incubation Centers (NICs). NIC startups participating include Xylexa (NIC Islamabad), CrieFlex (NIC Islamabad), EyeSmarty (NIC Peshawar), CalCart Technologies (NIC Islamabad), Gridizen (NIC Karachi), and SLOSH AI Solutions (NIC Islamabad). Pakistan's High Commissioner in UK, Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan, met Pakistani startups at the event and appreciated their work and passion to generate new leads for sales and investments in future.

Asim Shahryar Husain, CEO Ignite said, "Over the last two years, Pakistani startups have raised investments of \$733 million. Considering that Pakistani startups have raised more than \$800 million over the last 5 years against average equity of 25%, the total valuation of Pakistani startups is estimated to be around \$3.2 billion at present which is expected to reach \$10 billion by 2030 or earlier. The upward trajectory of foreign investments in Pakistani startups during 2021 to 2022 is a testament to interest of foreign investors in our startups. Two founders of Pakistani startups, Bioniks (healthtech) and Kalpay (fintech), made it to the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list this year which reflects the young entrepreneurial talent of Pakistan. Events like Londontech Week provide an opportunity to startups to showcase their products to find partners, customers, and investors."

**Shell's statement regarding the sales of its holding in SPL**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has announced its intention to sell its holding in Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL), simplifying Shell's portfolio.

Shell Pakistan has been in the country for 75 years and has a substantial retail footprint and a strong lubricants business.

Any sale will be subject to a targeted sales process, the execution of binding documentation and the receipt of applicable regulatory approvals. Shell is seeing strong interest from international buyers.

SPL remains committed to delivering safe, reliable operations.

**JS Bank partners with Adal Fintech to launch a digital lending platform**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: With the aim to digitize the loan application process for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan, JS Bank has joined forces with Adal Fintech to introduce a digital lending solution to provide credit facilities to SMEs and offer a seamless process for loan applications.

The collaboration aims to create a platform that addresses the challenges faced by SMEs when obtaining loans. The Digital Lending Solution will integrate with JS Bank's mobile application and core banking solution to automate the complete lending lifecycle from origination to liquidation.

Basir Shamsie, President and CEO, JS Bank, commented on the initiative; "This collaboration is a step in the direction towards our vision to leveraging modern technology into the daily banking operations. With this initiative, we hope to revolutionize credit access to SMEs in the country and create a product that's efficient and scalable."

The platform will have features such as loan product definition and configuration, integration with external systems such as NADRA, ECIB, and an embedded rules engine for defining and maintaining credit parameters on a per-product basis.

JS Bank and Adal Fintech aim to develop a highly scalable and high-quality lending process and solution for SMEs. With this partnership, they hope to significantly expand the pool of lending prospects and reach out to currently unbanked SMEs.

**Capacity building webinar on Sustainability Disclosures and Reporting held by SECP & ICAP**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) held an awareness and capacity building webinar on Sustainability Disclosures and Reporting.

Participants included officers of SECP, Central Depository Company (CDC) and Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

Ms. Musarat Jabeen, Executive Director, in her opening remarks stated that SECP has been closely following international developments on sustainability disclosures and appreciated ICAP's role as partner in capacity building efforts in context of International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) standards. She reaffirmed SECP's commitment to facilitate inclusive economic growth and emphasized need for collaboration amongst stakeholders for advocacy and capacity building initiatives.

The webinar was led by technical presentation from Mr. Sohail Malik, Senior Director ICAP, detailing sustainability disclosures as per ISSB standards followed by an interactive Q/A session by participants.

**Rawal Literature Festival has reached its peak**

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: On the second day of the Rawal Literature Festival organized by the Punjab Arts Council, the first session titled "Literary Organizations and Their Role" was held in which Mazhar Shehzad, Khaleeq-ur-Rehman, Sabah Kazmi, Ali Aszar Samar, and Nargis Jahanzeb participated as panel members. The famous writer Jahangir Imran acted as the host in the session. The participants of the discussion said that the promotion of literary organizations plays an important role in literature. Literature is a part of the civilization of any society.

As civilization changes, so does literature. As civilization advances, so does language. His vocab-

ulary increases and his rules become clearer. The second session titled 'Fiction mai bolta shehar' was hosted by Dr. Qasim Yaqub, in which Irfan Ahmed Arfi, Farheen Chaudhry, Dr. Arshad Waheed, Mohammad Asim Butt, Akhtar Raza Salimi and Dr. Humira Hamad participated. The participants expressed their views that fiction is a bright book of life. Books are not life, they are only ether, vibrations, but fiction is a vibration that can shake the whole living being.

It is something that is not just a matter of poetry, philosophy, science or any other bookish movement. The names of cities in fiction are as old as the word fiction itself. In the session "Literature and Humor" Muhammad Suleman was the host while the panel members included Yar

Muhammad, Anjam Malik, Saeed Anwar, Aslam Mughal, Hameed Babar, Shagfita Khan and Imran Rushdie. Discussing humor, the participants said that humor does not limit itself to making people laugh.

Humor exposes the imperfections of the individual in such a way that the readers laugh out loud. The first traces of humor in Urdu prose are found in ancient stories, on the contrary, examples of standard humor and elegance are found in the letters of Mirza Ghalib.

During the fourth session "Film and Culture" there was an interesting discussion between Irfan Ahmad Urfi and writer & director Shoaib Haroon. Shoaib Haroon said that culture is not a static object but a dynamic element.

Culture changes with time. The promotion of culture is subject to the development of film. The film is more effective than other mediums or sources in terms of communication power. The act of making and watching a film is the result of the mobilization of the will.

The film encompasses all the arts, conveys serious messages to the audience in the guise of entertainment. Sham-e-ghazal was also organized during the Rawal Literature Festival, in which famous ghazal singer Muhammad Ali and Aqdas Hashmi enthralled the audience by singing ghazals. The audience was also entertained by Isfandiyar Khattak's performance of Kathak dance. A large number of people from the root cities participated in the festival.



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# Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani: A symbol of peace and king of politician - I

**S**yed Yousaf Raza Gillani was born on June 9, 1952, in Karachi, Pakistan. He comes from a political family background, with his father, Makhdoom Alamdar Hussain Gillani, serving as a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Punjab and his uncle, Makhdoom Hamid Raza Gillani, being a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan.

Gillani's family is also well-known for their religious and spiritual beliefs, with his great-grandfather, Syed Jafar Shah Gillani, being a revered Sufi saint and his father founding the Darul Uloom Mohammadia Ghausia, a religious seminary in Multan.

Yousaf Raza Gilani is the country's second longest-serving Prime Minister, after Liaqat Ali Khan who still holds the prestigious honour. The tall quiet man from Multan, was never seen as a political figure that would rise to the topmost position, on the contrary, his mild nature made him appear as the perfect candidate Asif Ali Zardari (co-chairperson and ex-president of Pakistan) wanted as the face of the government that he controlled from behind the scenes. Say what they might, no one can refute the facts that would paint a different picture, a portrait of a loyal proud Pakistan, a true son of Multan and a believer of Bhuttoism.

Hailing from one of the most respected families of Multan, Yousaf Raza Gilani is the successor to a lineage that includes signatories of Pakistan Resolution, Federal and Provincial ministers as well as the first Muslim mayor of Multan. His initiation into politics was through membership of the conservative Muslim League led by Mian Nawaz Sharif on the behest of Gen Zia ul Haq. However, given his sufi muslim ancestry and moderate nature, He was automati-

cally inclined to join the left-liberal PPP after his first meeting with the head of party, Benazir Bhutto. And ever since he has been a beacon of loyalty to the party and its values.

Once merely a member of the party due to his strong support base in Multan, Yousaf Raza Gilani, not only rose to the top when given the opportunity but also proved his worth and claimed his position silencing the critics through his masterful political maneuvering.

## Consolidation of Power

In a country marred with political uncertainty and upheaval, it is quite remarkable what Gilani was able to achieve right after assuming power. While working in a dictator's shadows, Gilani proved to be the perfect guy for a job that no one prior could do, let alone achieve any positive outcomes. Consolidation of power in 2008, while Gen Musharraf held on as President, was Gilani's master stroke that announced the start of his era. Even the army strongman, who led the country for many years with an iron grip, could only watch as Gilani's cabinet (a mix of members from PPP, PML-N, Awami National Party, Jamiat e Ulema-e-Islam and FATA) with full force curtailed the president's power and eventually forced Musharraf to resign. On that day Gilani famously remarked "Today we have buried dictatorship forever", marking an end to the mockery that was a dictator's democracy. In a way it was Yousaf Raza Gilani who put democracy back on track in Pakistani politics.

## Energy Crisis

In 2012 Pakistan was engulfed in severe energy crises with widespread

protests being organized countrywide, looting and plunging ensued in Punjab, while other regions mirrored similar emotions. It is important to highlight that at this stage on his visit to the US during the Nuclear Security Summit, Gilani raised his concern over the country's energy needs not being met and suggested Pakistan should look into using nuclear means to address its energy deficit. Declaring "Pakistan does not

harbour any aggressive designs against any state, but it is determined to defend its territorial integrity.... That is why we need to maintain a balance in conventional forces suitably backed by minimum credible

deterrence. Pakistan will continue to "develop her military potential that guarantees peace with honour and dignity". "Our military capability is basically for the deterrence purpose while peace remains the ultimate cherished goal for Pakistan." As a result Gilani government, through setting up nuclear power plants in Chashma and then two in Karachi, was able to level up the Nuclear Energy Programme by ~78% during its tenure.

## Foreign Relations

During the later years of the "war on terror" there was an atmosphere of distrust towards Pakistan and allegations were being levelled by Western allies relating to the country's role in the war. There were harsh comments passed by the British leadership, which stained the bilateral relations between UK and Pakistan. It was through Gilani's diplomatic maneuvering during this time that he was able to reconcile with his counterpart David Cameron, who called for

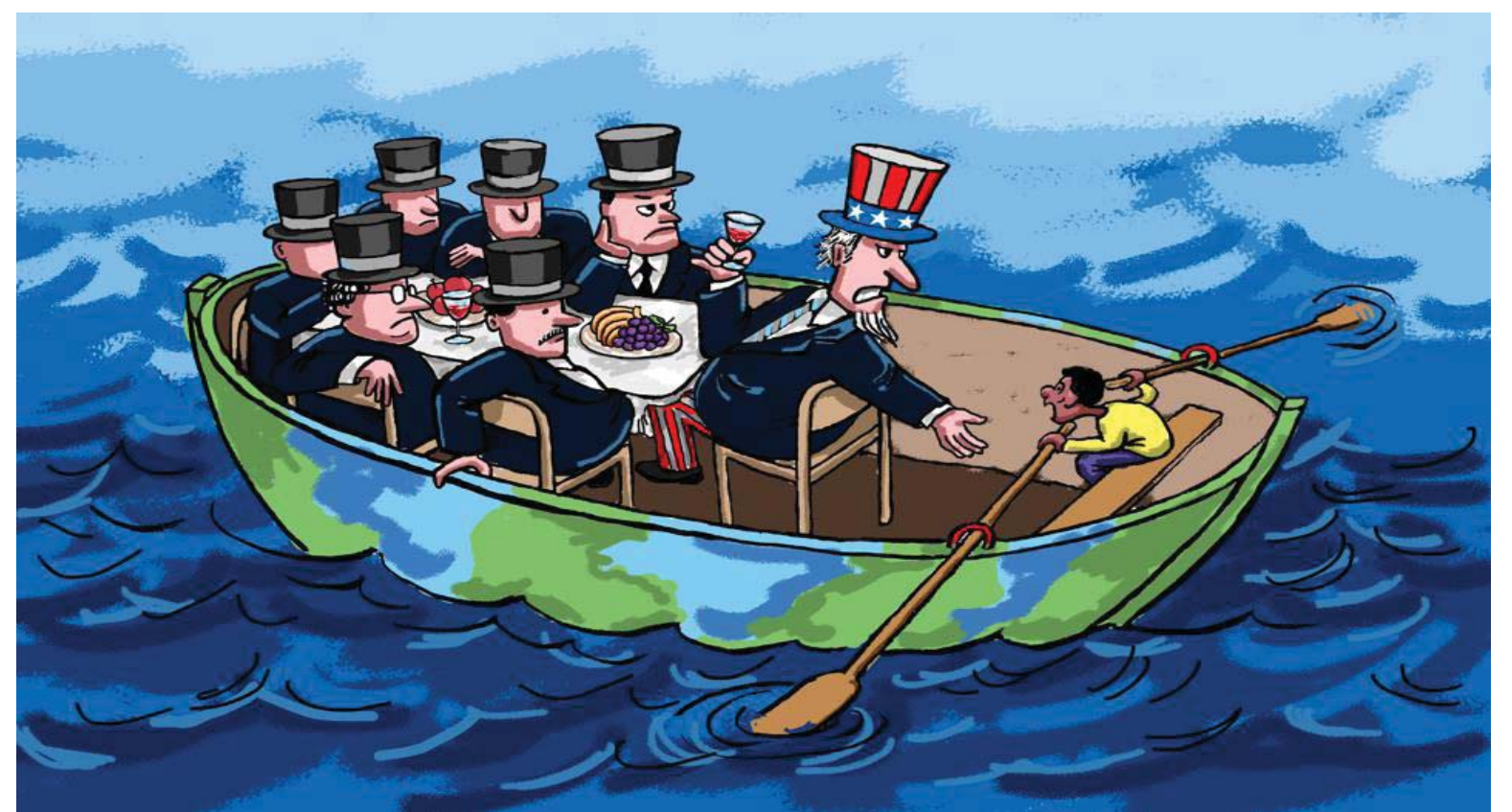
a "fresh start" during his visit to Pakistan in 2011. If this is not enough testament to his supreme diplomatic charm, one can also look at his efforts to improve relations with India by declaring the neighbour as "most favoured nation", a new transit trade agreement with Afghanistan or foreseeing a new era of China's dominance as the world leader, when in 2011 at the Boao Forum for Asia he said "If we do not establish a regional harmony based on trade, investment and economic growth, we fear, we will remain hostage to the past. The 21st century is the "Asian century", and Asia's role in the global economic order has changed rapidly."

It is also worth remembering his stance against US President Barack Obama's drone programs active in Afghanistan, which were accused of killing innocent civilians across the border in Pakistan. He joined the list of courageous leaders who were not scared to call out a US leader when he claimed the drone programs were aimed to bolster Obama's image in the upcoming US elections.

## Development in Multan-3D Strategy

By far his most commendable political feat has been the development of the biggest city and most populated region of southern Punjab. The fact that central Punjab remains the only developed region in the most populated province of the country, speaks to the unfairness of past administrations. While developing Lahore has been the favourite activity for PML-N and affiliates, Gilani's 3D strategy (Dialogue, Development, Deterrence) is one that must reaffirm your faith in Pakistani politicians. It is incredible to look at the Multan region's current development and wonder why it was not done before.

*To be continued*



## Code of conduct for pilgrims

**T**he Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), in collaboration with Dar-ul-Iftha Pakistan, has released a comprehensive code of conduct for pilgrims, urging them to observe religious decorum and abide by the regulations set by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi who is also the prime minister's special representative on interfaith harmony and the middle east, made the announcement during a press conference, highlighting the significance of Hajj as a sacred act of worship aimed at seeking Allah's pleasure.

He commended the Saudi government for its exceptional arrangements, describing them as unparalleled in the history of Islam.

He emphasized that it was the responsibility of pilgrims to refrain from engaging in religious or political gatherings or discussions during their stay in Saudi Arabia and strictly adhere to the government's rules and regulations for Hajj.

The code of conduct advised pilgrims to follow the teachings of the Saudi Ministry of Interior and the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, showing respect to instructors in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah, and displaying good manners towards fellow pilgrims and encouraging the younger pilgrims to serve and assist the elderly, he added.

Ashrafi highlighted that within the Haram's jurisdiction, every prayer offered carries the reward of a hundred thousand prayers. Additionally, he stressed the importance of maintaining good health during the Hajj days and clarified that the new Mina area was an integral part of Mina, dispelling any doubts.

The chairman urged pilgrims to exhibit patience and compassion and refrain from engaging in conflicts, using abusive language, or indulging in political and sectarian discussions.

He expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its people, and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman for their dedicated services to pilgrims and devotees.

Ashrafi also acknowledged the commendable support provided by the Saudi government through the Road to Makkah project, and also praised the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, under the leadership of Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, for their remarkable improvements, ranging from the selection of assistants to the accommodations for Pakistani pilgrims.

During the press conference, he expressed concern over baseless campaigns by certain Pakistani elements in the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), and European countries in the name of human rights.

He criticized the irresponsible role played by some political party leaders in this regard.

Ashrafi assured that a committee had been formed by the PUC to investigate the events of May 9, and a report containing all the facts would be submitted by July 15.

The committee aimed at presenting its findings to the nation and the world, including the ambassadors of the US, European countries, and the UK, urging action against both the political workers and those behind them.

## Heartiest Repentance Way out Vs Biporjoy Cyclon - I

**T**he International Media is giving the true satellite picture of the Biperjoy cyclone which is going to hit with a height of 60- feet and it can smash unexpectedly?

The Pakistani system cannot find its gravity which is being clarified by the sources of international Media.

Something that resembles a whirlpool, the hellish vortex of battle Time.: a mass of fluid (such as a liquid) with a whirling or circular motion that tends to form a cavity or vacuum in the center of the circle and to draw toward this cavity or vacuum bodies subject to its action, especially: whirlpool is noted as a vortex.

Allama Iqbal said; Although the style of expression is not very flamboyant,

It may be like dead talk in your heart

or continuous takbeer in the vastness of the heavens or glorification and prayers in the embrace of dust.

Surah Al-Tawbah gives us all the pictures of our deeds?

Allah and His Messenger abhor those polytheists with whom you made a covenant. Doubt of Allah is the one who humiliates the disbelievers (2) and people are informed by Allah and His Messenger on

the day of the Great Hajj that Allah and His The Messenger is disgusted with the polytheists, so if you repent, it is better for you, and if you do not believe, then know that you are not the ones to humble Allah, and give glad tidings of a painful punishment to the disbelievers. He had made a promise, then he did not commit any fault with you and there is no support for anyone compared

to you(4) Then when the honorable months have passed, kill the polytheists wherever you find them and seize them and surround them. And wait for them everywhere, then if they repent and establish prayer and give alms, leave their way. Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (5) And if a polytheist seeks refuge with you, give him refuge until he hears the word of Allah, then lead him to his place of peace. This is because they are ignorant. 6) Is it possible for the polytheists to make a covenant with Allah and His Messenger, yes, those with whom you entered Masjid Haram? What is a covenant? If they remain firm, then you also remain

firm. Verily, Allah loves the pious. (7) Why make peace and if they dominate you, do not consider your kinship, nor the covenant. (8) They sell the signs of Allah for a small price, then they prevent them from the path of Allah. Verily, what they do is evil (9). These are the people who are transgressing (10) If they repent and establish prayer and pay alms, then they are your brothers in religion. (11) And if they break their oaths after making a covenant and find fault in your religion, then fight the leaders of disbelief, their oaths have no validity. So that they come back (12) Beware! Why don't you fight against people who broke their oaths and intended to exile the Prophet and they first broke their covenant with you? Do you fear them? If you are believers (13) then fight them so that Allah may punish them at your hands and humiliate them. Give you dominion over them and cool the hearts of the Muslims (14) and remove anger from their hearts, and Allah grants repentance to whomever He wills, and Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise (15)

Do you think this? Perhaps you will be left, even though Allah has not yet separated such people who waged Jihad from among you, and Allah and He has not made anyone as a friend except His Messenger and the believers, and Allah is aware of all your deeds. (16) It is not the duty of polytheists to build mosques of Allah while they are witnessing their disbelief against themselves. All their actions are useless and they will always be in the fire. But those who believe in the Hereafter and establish prayer and give alms and do not fear anyone but Allah, then those are the candidates to be among those who are guided, equal to him who believed in Allah and the Last Day and fought in the way of Allah. They are not equal, and Allah does not guide the wrongdoers (19). (20) To them their Lord gives them from His grace and favor and glad tidings of gardens in which They will have eternal rest (21) They will remain in them forever. Indeed, there is a great reward with Allah (22) O you who believe! Do not be friends with your fathers and brothers if they prefer disbelief over faith, and those of you who befriend them are the wrongdoers (23)

*To be continued*

## Role and Responsibility of Global Kashmiri Diaspora - II

**Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai**

**E**mulation by the Kashmiri people will follow and generate the dynamics indispensable for the inevitably arduous struggle for self-determination. Time has come that all Kashmiri diaspora Organizations, Councils, Associations, Forums, Coalitions, Missions, Movements, Foundations, etc. must pursue one single agenda item: unfettered right of self-determination of the people of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. If need arises, we can gladly agree to disagree.

The North Star for diaspora leadership must be feasible, not the utopian. The world is unsentimental. On the international stage, might is customarily more powerful than right. National interests ordinarily trump intellectual consistency, international law, democratic rights and professed universal standards of justice. But there are exceptions, God only knows why? such as East Timor, Namibia, Southern Sudan. Moral suasion occasionally exhibits teeth. Diaspora must be skillful in orchestrating the complex array of cynical and high-minded motives of nations to achieve a symphony playing the lofty theme of self-determination for Kashmiris. Such orchestration will be more an art than a science and will require sleepless labors and lucubration's to succeed. It is not a task for the indolent or dull.

Diaspora must neither stumble nor waver in the task of attaining self-determination for millions groaning under repression and grim privation.

In approaching a Kashmir resolution, the sole non-negotiable issue should be respecting the consensus of the people of all five regions of the state of Jammu & Kashmir with whom sovereignty resides.

Diaspora leadership not only has to maintain its narrative, but narrative should be equally coherent. We do not need to invent it. It is already there with international sanction. Here is a prime example of the international recognition of Kashmiri narrative.

When India felt that the people of Kashmir will never

vote to accede to India, its delegate, V. P Krishna Menon delivered speech of record length at the Security Council where he said "In any case, the changed conditions since then had made the agreement obsolete, and the merger of Kashmir with India could not be revoked." The response to this fabricated narrative came from a person no less important than Professor Joseph Korbel, former Chairman, UN Commission for India, and Pakistan (UNCIP), who wrote in "The New Leader" on March 4, 1957, entitled, "Nehru, The UN and Kashmir." "This new Indian stand raises issues which far transcend the problem of Kashmir. For if a nation which has accepted a United Nations commitment can blithely assert that 'circumstances have changed' and the commitment is no longer binding, then the effectiveness of the United Nations has been dealt a staggering blow."

Professor Korbel added, "More is at stake in Kashmir than the fate of a remote Asian province. On the UN's handling of this question may depend much of its future moral and political authority."

Joseph Korbel also wrote in "Danger in Kashmir" on page 351, "The people of Kashmir have made it unmistakably known that they insist on being heard. What ever may be their wishes about their future, they must be ascertained directly or through their legitimate, popular representatives." "If it (solution of Kashmir) is not achieved, India and Pakistan, indeed the whole free world may reap the harvest of shortsightedness and indecision of unpredictable dimensions." (By the way, Professor Korbel was the father of Dr. Madeline Albright, and teacher of Dr. Condoleezza Rice at Colorado University, both former United States Secretaries of State).

Let us take a leaf from the vision of Professor Korbel and move forward unitedly to try to achieve our ultimate objective: the unfettered right to self-determination for the people of the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

## Concluded

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# Federal Minister favours 20 years tax holiday to GSED

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has assured Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) to give status of Special Economic District to Gwadar (GSED) with 10 to 20 years tax holiday.

The minister was talking to a delegation of ABAD here on Monday. Delegation was led by Chairman Southern Region ABAD Raheel Rinch. Former Chairman ABAD Arif Jeeva and ABAD Gwadar Chapter's leading members Affan Qureshi and Humayu Qadir were also present on this occasion.

ABAD delegation highlighted importance of Gwadar and requested the federal Minister to take up issue of granting Special Economic District status to Gwadar with Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif to speed up the process. Balochistan government has already approved status of Special Economic District for Gwadar and has requested federal government to announce Gwadar Special Economic District as soon as possible for the economic development of the country.

The delegation also requested minister to grant 35 years tax holiday for Gwadar but the minister said that he



can try to convince federal government to grant 10 to 20 years tax holiday for Gwadar. He also assured the delegation to take up this matter with the Prime Minister and all stakeholders immediately as this issue is very important for the economic development of Pakistan. He said that a special meeting will be held with the Prime Minister in Gwadar on GSED with delegation of ABAD and

other stake holders.

The meeting also discussed for sharing of TORs and special economic district model of neighbouring countries with the government, especially with the Ministry of Planning and Development as well as the Ministry of Finance. They also discussed to initiate Tourism promotion plans on most urgent basis on coastal belt

of Makran, especially coastal areas of Gwadar Range in consultation with Balochistan coastal development authority.

Chairman South Region ABAD Raheel Rinch invited the Planning and Development Minister to visit ABAD House in Karachi, which was accepted by the minister and assured to visit ABAD House sooner.

# PIDE conference concludes with a powerful tribute to remarkable women

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The conference concludes with a powerful tribute to remarkable women who are catalysts for change, empowering others and fostering hope for future generations. Shattering stereotypes and paving the way for Pashtun women to dream bigger and reach for the stars.

Today was the 2nd and concluding day of the conference. The day started with the Session titled: Breaking Barriers: Women's Journey towards Equality and Empowerment; the Session was dedicated to celebrating the courage, resilience, and determination of these women who have challenged traditional societal roles and made their own mark.

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Shad Begum, Ms. Kainat Zia, Ms. Shagufta Malik, a Women Parliamentarian, Dr. Feriha Peracha, and Dr. Noor Jehan, Ex-VC, Swabi



said that the KP Women are no exception to this and have repeatedly proven that they are not behind in any count. They have shown exceptional resilience and strength in the face of adversity and have persevered to impact their communities positively. As we celebrate the achievements

of Pashtun women, we must also acknowledge the challenges they continue to face. Our society is responsible for creating an environment encouraging and supporting women to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

In another session titled "Sustainable Tourism is the

way forward for a better tomorrow," panelists said that as the tourism industry continues to grow, it is essential to ensure that it is sustainable and that the impact on the environment and local communities is minimal. To achieve this, we must focus on several areas, including human

resources, academia, women's participation, and poverty alleviation.

Dr. Durre Nayab, a renowned researcher, expert, and advocate for youth empowerment, took center stage to facilitate an engaging and dynamic session titled "Youth Voices: Unleashing the Potential of the Next Generation." The Session, held as an Open Mic Session, provided an invaluable opportunity for young individuals to actively participate and express their thoughts on the recently concluded two-day conference.

The "Youth Voices: Unleashing the Potential of the Next Generation" session enriched the conference experience and provided a powerful reminder of the importance of engaging young voices in decision-making. We can pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future by actively involving youth in discussions and listening to their perspectives.

# Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management Limited outsources its Back Office Functions to ITMinds Limited

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management Limited (AHRML) has entered into an outsourcing arrangement with ITMinds Limited (ITMinds), a wholly owned subsidiary of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCPL), whereby ITMinds will provide Back Office Accounting Services to AHRML. The agreement was signed by Mr. Muhammad Ejaz CEO-AHRML with Mr. Iqleemuz-Zaman Khan CEO-ITMinds in the presence of Mr. Badiuddin Akber Director-ITMinds & CEO-CDCPL,

Mr. Waqas Ashraf CFO- ITMinds, Mr. Razi CFO-AHRML and other senior members of both the Companies.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Muhammad Ejaz, CEO-AHRML, said that this arrangement will enable AHRML to concentrate on its core business of managing various types of REITs while outsourcing the back office functions to a professional Fund Administrator. Also commenting on the occasion, Mr. Badiuddin Akber, Director ITMinds & CEO-CDCPL, said that the concept of outsourcing non-core critical business activities has proven to be efficient and cost-effective in today's business



world. Hence, we have commissioned ITMinds with this aim to enable REIT Management Companies (RMCs) and other organizations to outsource their back office functions to a competent and reliable BPO partner, thus

facilitating them to augment the focus of their management on their critical business activities which are integral to their commercial success while achieving efficiency, scalability & transparency of processes.

## The annual Siraj Al Manira conference was held at Saghran

Arif Chaudhry

BOLTON: The annual Siraj Al Manira Conference was held at Saghran Masjid Bolton by the management Chaudhry Zafar Ali-Chaudhry Mohammad Ashfaq and their team. Amir Hazrat Pir Abdul Qadir Awan of International Mazhabi Scholar Series Naqshbandiyya Owaisiyya took special part. A large number of lovers of Rasool participated and rekindled their faith. Khan-Chaudhry Ashfaq Topa-Chaudhry Nasir-Mokhtar Ismail-Chaudhry Faisal Ishaq-Muhammad Aslam-were included. Hazrat Pir Abdul Qadir Awan said that unity and agreement within the community with the Ummah is taught so that our character gives a practical invitation to the religion of Islam and then the religious and worldly training of the young generation is done so that as Muslims they are taught our values. Take it forward and the third effort is to be practical. Zamir Awan said that its purpose is to obey Allah and the Messenger and to satisfy the purity of the soul. Amir Najam Chaudhry of Naqshbandiyya Owaisiyya UK said that the purpose of the conference is to train and guide ourselves and the younger generation. K. Irfan Mohsin said that he is deeply grateful to the people who contributed in making the conference possible. Chaudhry Zafar Ali and Muhammad Ashfaq of the management committee expressed their sincere gratitude to Hazrat Abdul Qadir Awan and the participants in the conference and hoped that they would organize a bigger conference in the coming years. The conference started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and after that, Haji Dr. Muhammad Yunus Faraz had the privilege of showering flowers of devotion in the court of the Lord of the Universe. The participants in the conference were felicitated with a special anchor.

## Citizens protest continued from 143 days for restore suspended train service on the ML2 Track



Azad Baloch

DADU: The call of social organization Sita Sarjhanhar Forum protest continued from 143 days for the restoration of the suspended train service on the ML2 Rohri-Larkana-Dadu-Kotri railway track, Protesters raised slogans against railway administration in front of Rahmani Nagar railway station for the 143rd day today. A protest was recorded under the leadership of Mashhoor Memon, Shahzad Memon, Professor Ghulam Mustafa Samo, Allah Bux Janwari Ghulam Hussain Malak and others.

Leader of social organization Mashhoor Memon said that it has been 12 months since the floods and rains and with the connivance of the railway administration and the private transport mafia, the poor people have been deprived of cheap and safe train rides. Private transport mafia is charging double fare from public due to closure of train service. The services of Bolan, Khushal Khan Khattak and Moin Jo Daro Express running on ML2 track have been stopped without reason.

He said instead of restoring the suspended train service on the ML2 railway track, the elected representatives of Sindh are running their coach and van service, which is a proof of anti-people. He has demanded the railway minister and the railway authorities to provide relief by restoring the suspended train service in the area.

## FIA arrests CEO Aqua Plast on account of IPR violation, takes 3-day physical remand

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Faisalabad raided Aqua Plast, manufacturers of UPVC conduits and water distribution system and in this connection arrested CEO Kashif Azad on infringement of IPR violation of Brand of the Year Award's Logo.

On complaint by Brand Foundation, an entity in private sector, FIA in accordance with by-laws of brand violation rules registered under FIR-C/187/2023 CRO 66/67 copyright ordinance 1962 case at FIA Circle Faisalabad.

FIA after taking three days physical remand of Kashif Azad from Intellectual Property Tribunal has started interrogation in matter besides using Brand of the Year Award's Logo illegally.

FIA has also confiscated all published marketing materials inscribed with Brand of the Year Award Logo illegally. Meanwhile, Kashif Azad talking to journalists, "Admitted he was using logo with mala fide intentions."

However, Brand Foundation has imposed Rs 100 million on Aqua Plast as compensation in milieu of violation of Brand Logo. On other hand, Brand Foundation asked FIA to take strict legal action against firms violating Brand of the Year Award Logo.

According to details, Brands Foundation is real and legitimate owner of trademark and copyrights of 'Brand of the Year Award's logo and sole intellectual rights ownership of this brand and logo have been registered in name of Brands Foundation for last 14 years.



# UAJK to promote youth excellence through co-curricular activities, VC UAJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In an inspiring event held at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, commended the exceptional potential of AJK's youth and highlighted the importance of providing them with an enabling environment and mentorship to excel both regionally and nationally.

Speaking as the chief guest at the Interdepartmental Bilingual Declaration Contest-2023, organized by the Directorate of Students Affairs, Prof. Dr. Abbasi passionately encouraged

the students to embrace such healthy activities with devotion, dedication, and commitment.

The Interdepartmental Bilingual Declaration Contest-2023 showcased the extraordinary oratory skills of students from various departments of the university. The Vice-Chancellor shared his unwavering commitment to enhancing the university's educational infrastructure, fostering an empowering environment, and promoting enriching activities like declamation contests and sports.

A significant announcement was made by the Vice-Chancellor, who revealed plans to host a state-level declamation contest among AJK universities in

October or November this year. This grand event will serve as a platform for talented students to demonstrate their prowess and represent their respective institutions at the regional level.

The newly established state-of-the-art King Abdullah Campus, Chatter Kallas, was also highlighted by Prof. Dr. Abbasi, emphasizing its contribution to delivering top-notch quality education. He urged the students to maximize the advantages offered by this enhanced educational facility.

Prof. Dr. Abbasi expressed his appreciation for the Director of Students Affairs, Dr. Imtiaz Awan, the dedicated members of the UAJK Debating Society, and

all the students who participated in the contest. Their collective efforts were acknowledged as the driving force behind the resounding success of the event.

Dr. Imtiaz Awan, the Director of Students Affairs, affirmed his unwavering commitment to continue organizing such extracurricular activities, creating a conducive and enriching learning environment at UAJK. He expressed gratitude to the esteemed judges, including Prof. Ejaz Noumani, Sultan Ali Tahir, Mubashar Imtiaz, and Qasim Bukhari, for their invaluable insights and tips shared with the participants.

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir's dedi-



cation to nurturing talent and promoting academic excellence through events like the

Interdepartmental Bilingual Declaration Contest-2023 demonstrates its commitment

to empowering the youth and positioning them as leaders in their fields.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,514.44	41,538.72
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,744.43	41,448.61
Index Value	Change
2,361,360,201	-24.28
Percentage	Time
-0.06%	14 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,602.74	+7.96
Percentage	Time
+0.10%	14 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,086.41	-125.71
Percentage	Time
-0.37%	14 Jun, 1:07 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,502.42	+483.77
Percentage	Time
+1.47%	14 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	757.18	765.18
Canadian Dollar	226	228
China Yuan	39.77	40.17
Danish Krone	41.22	41.62
Euro	314	317
Hong Kong Dollar	36.34	36.69
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2	2.08
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.33	935.33
Malaysian Ringgit	61.68	62.27
New Zealand \$	175	177
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	739.67	747.67
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	77.7	78.5
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	314.37	316.87
Thai Bhat	8.22	8.37
U.A.E Dirham	81.2	82
UK Pound Sterling	367	371
US Dollar	292	295

# If we can buy oil from Russia, why not gas from Iran: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday welcomed the arrival of cheap Russian oil, terming it a great step to improve energy security and save foreign exchange.

Attempts should be made to continue this process after the immediate inspection and refining of the trial cargo to give some relief to the public who are worried about inflation, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that if oil can be imported from Russia, which is engaged in war with the west then why can't gas be imported from Iran, another opponent of the Western bloc?

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that according to the government's claim, Russian oil is 15 to 18 percent cheaper than other sources, which will not only save costs but will also have to be paid for later.

Payments for the Russian oil can also be made in Chinese currency, which will not burden the foreign exchange reserves but will help stabilise them, he added.

The business leader said that if Pakistan were to import 50% of its oil from Russia, it would be possible to save one and a half to two billion dollars annually, and this could become the basis for Pakistan's energy security, which would further improve relations between the two countries.

He said that the move can transform friendship into brotherhood; it will also help to control inflation and balance Pakistan's relations with



the Western bloc and the Eastern bloc.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that India is importing forty percent of its oil from Russia, while we have wasted a lot of time in this regard. Indian refineries are modern and 'deep conversion' refineries, producing more diesel and petrol and less furnace oil.

If the refineries in Pakistan are upgraded, more value added products can be produced, which will benefit the Pakistani economy, he said.

In May last year, a litre of petrol was available for Rs150 and a litre of diesel for Rs144. Although there has been some reduction in the price of petrol and diesel by the current government in the past month, still the price of diesel and petrol is very high compared to the last financial year, due to which inflation has crossed 38%.

Pakistan imports more than eighty percent of its crude oil and petroleum products to meet its domestic demand.

The reduction in inflation in the country will be possible if electricity generation is shifted to solar energy instead of petroleum products and also import of crude oil from Russia for a long period of time is ensured.

## Watermelons

ABBOTABAD: Vendors are arraigning watermelons at their setup to attract customers at Fruit and Vegetables Market in City.



Photo: Online

## Indus Motor takes centre stage in advocating for safer roads in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Indus Motor Company (IMC) joined the world to mark the 7th UN Global Road Safety Week, becoming the first automobile manufacturer in Pakistan's history to undertake such an initiative. The catchphrase, "I am a Road Safety Leader", resonated across the country as it stressed for the need for safer roads across the country during the week-long campaign.

The week aptly kicked-off with IMCs CEO, Ali Asghar Jamali's video message to his entire team of over four thousand employees, that emphasized the need to always fasten seatbelts and remaining cognizant of the fact that road safety is every person's responsibility. He also invited them to become Road Safety Leaders.

As part of the immersive awareness raising campaign, IMC launched a dedicated micro landing page on the

company's website where users could test their knowledge on road safety and earn a badge to become a Toyota Road Safety Leader.

Chief Executive, Ali Asghar Jamali, expressing himself said, "Pakistan has one of the highest road traffic accident rates in the world; 75 percent of road crashes in the economically productive age. What we see happening on the roads today is really disappointing; an utter civic responsibility deficit. I strongly feel that what's needed is a 360 degree turn in behavioral change at the individual level.

IMCs Ambassador for Road Safety, Mr Niaz Malik, has played a pivotal role in driving awareness through various channels. His virtual and interactive meet with the company's employees during the global week, garnered much interest as he advocated road safety consciousness through his own near fatal road accident and life altering experience.

## Indonesia is trying to start direct flights from Pakistan: Ambassador

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Tugio has said that Indonesia with a population of 25 million and D8 countries with a population of 1.2 billion Muslims are big markets for Pakistan., Pakistan and Indonesia should work together to increase trade links to the D8 market. Indonesia is trying to start direct flights with Pakistan and talks are going on with the Civil Aviation Authority in this regard. It is expected that by December this year, direct air connectivity will be established between the two great countries of the Muslim world. By setting up an Indonesian warehouse in Gwadar, it wants to gain access to Pakistan and Central Asia. There are vast opportunities for improvement of trade relations and investment between the two countries.

He expressed these views yesterday during a meeting with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, President Islamabad Chamber Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that ASEAN is a huge market for Pakistan. But despite all its efforts, Pakistan has not been able to get the status of a full dialogue partner from a sectoral partner. We wish that Indonesia, being a



major ASEAN country, plays its role in this regard. He accepted the ambassador's invitation to participate in the trade exhibition held in Indonesia in October and said that the delegation of Islamabad Chamber will fully participate in this exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice President Faad Waheed said that the role of the ambassador is very important in bringing Pakistan and Indonesia closer at the commercial level, and he has performed excellently in this regard by

connecting with the business community. Vice President Engineer Azhar Salam said that Pakistan and Indonesia should increase cooperation in the field of research, the increase in scholarship for Pakistani students is welcome. In the meeting, former president FPCCI Zubair Malik, former president ICC I Zafar Bakhtawari, Ashfaq Chatta, Muhammad Ali, Khalid Chaudhry, Chaudhry Wasim, Ameer Hamza, Dr. Usman and others also participated.

## NTDC teams deployed to restore power supply

**News Desk**

LAHORE: On the instructions of Prime Minister of Pakistan, H. E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Energy, Engr. Khurram Dasgir Khan, National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has deputed officers of Chief Engineer (Asset Management) Multan along with their staff to assist HESCO and K-Electric officials for immediate removal of possible disruptions in power supply when the cyclone Biparjoy hits Karachi and other areas of Sindh.

Four teams of NTDC have been deployed for NKI grid, Jhampir-1 grid, EHV Camp

Offices @ Mithi and Hyderabad. Along with this, four teams of NTDC have also been formed for immediate restoration in case of suspension of power supply from 132 kV transmission lines in Thatta, Tando Muhammad Khan, Mithi and Mirpurkhas.

Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan has said in this context that the operation teams of NTDC have been deployed to deal with emergency situation that may arise in Karachi and other areas of Sindh. These teams will play an active role in the power restoration works with the coordination of teams of local power distribution company.

## PTCL Group mobilizes blood donation drive to help give life another chance

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) undertook a massive blood donation campaign at its headquarters in connection with 'World Blood Donor Day'. The initiative stems from PTCL Group's sustained commitment to creating shared value and giving back to society.

The blood donation drive has been organized as part of PTCL Group's CSR strategy, which spanned over two days. Top management, senior executives and employees, along with tenants of PTCL Group Tower came forward to donate blood with full enthusiasm. The Group collaborated with the Fatimid Foundation for this initiative.

On the initiative, Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL Group, Atif Raza, said, "Realizing the importance of life, we engage in various social corporate responsibility initiatives to generate shared good for our people.



Every day, countless lives are at risk due to unfortunate incidents and medical conditions. I believe that a small contribution from our side can create a world of difference for someone who is fighting for life, and our humble initiative aims to create a much larger ripple effect in society. I am thankful to Fatimid Foundation for collaborating in the cause."

PTCL and Ufone 4G have a proven track-record of prioritizing social responsibility initiatives for the common good of fellow citizens. The Group uses its prowess in digital technology and connectivity as a lever for promoting socio-economic enablement, apart from reaching out to the most underprivileged segments of society in times of urgent need. Ends

## Descon receives Diamond Category Award



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Descon Engineering Limited (DEL) has been honored with the prestigious Diamond Category Award in the construction and manufacturing Industry by the Employer Federation of Pakistan (EFP). This esteemed recognition acknowledges DEL's significant efforts in fostering skills development within its workforce.

The Employer Federation of Pakistan (EFP) has commended DEL for its commitment to enhancing skills and capacity building. This award reflects DEL's dedication to empowering workforce through

comprehensive skill development programs.

The General Manager of Descon Technical Institute (DTI) & DEL's President of Manpower and People Services Mr. Murtaza Ali, has been leading this portfolio. Under his leadership, DTI has implemented various training initiatives that have equipped DEL's workforce with market driven skills necessary for success.

This Diamond Category Award underscores DEL's commitment to nurturing talent and maintaining a skilled workforce at the forefront of industry advancements.

## Wavetec Appointed as Channel Partner by NCR



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Wavetec, a leading technology company, has been appointed as the Channel Partner in Pakistan of NCR, top provider of banking & self-service solutions globally. With a legacy of over three decades in delivering innovative solutions to major financial institutions worldwide, Wavetec is poised to provide best-in-class services and solutions in Pakistan through this strategic collaboration.

As NCR's trusted channel partner, Wavetec aims to deliver unparalleled services and solutions that redefine the future of digital self-service banking in Pakistan. The partnership between Wavetec and NCR holds tremendous potential for facilitating branch banking transformation, digitization, and enhancing the financial landscape by introducing innovative banking solutions.

"We are excited to join forces with NCR as their Official Channel Partner in Pakistan," said Raheel Malik, VP Strategy and Business Development, Wavetec. "This collaboration will allow us to leverage our expertise and combine it with NCR's cutting-edge technology, enabling us to deliver exceptional value to financial institutions across the country.

Wavetec's deep understanding of the international market and its strength in tech innovation, combined with NCR's expertise, will enable the development and implementation of solutions tailored to the unique needs of Pakistan's banking sector. This partnership represents a significant milestone in the journey towards creating a more advanced and customer-centric banking ecosystem.

# WTC 2023-25 cycle commences with England-Australia series

Spots Desk

ISLAMABAD: Australia begins their defence of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) title in a high-profile series against England after winning the second edition with an emphatic 209-run victory over India in the final at The Oval on Sunday.

The five-match Ashes series begins in Birmingham on Friday with Lord's, Leeds, Manchester and The Oval hosting the remaining matches.

Australia play nine matches in this cycle away from home, which include two-Test series against New Zealand and Sri Lanka. At home, they play against India (five), Pakistan (three) and the West Indies (two), for a total of 10 Tests.

England feature in 10 Tests at home and 11 away. They host the West Indies (3) and Sri Lanka (2) apart from Australia, while playing away in India (five), Pakistan (3) and New Zealand (3).

India's two-Test tour of the West Indies, where they play in Dominica and Trinidad next month, is also part of the third edition of the WTC.

The structure of the nine-team WTC remains the same with each team playing three home and three away series over a two-year period culminating in the final of a one-off Test. The points percentage system used in the previous



edition will determine the leaderboard with teams getting 12 points for a win, six for a tie and four for a draw.

The series in the championship remain as per the Men's FTP announced last year. The media release distributed at the time of the announcement of the Men's FTP is available here.

Wasim Khan, ICC's General Manager of Cricket said in a statement that the WTC had been great in enhancing interest in Test cricket and wished players all the best ahead of the new cycle.

Wasim Khan: "The third edition of the ICC World Test Championship begins on Friday with another highly

anticipated series between England and Australia.

"This championship has invigorated Test match cricket, bringing context for players and fans, and a high level of competitiveness as teams battle it out to be crowned World Test Champions at the end of the two-year cycle.

## 34th National Games Pakistan Railway got 36 medals

Tahi Amin Malik

LAHORE: Railway got 9th position in the 34th National Games out of 14 National department or Provincial teams, at one time Railway Department always dominated in Sports and had great achievements in Sports and has clinched many title in all sports.

In the 34th National Games Pakistan Railway got 36 medals included 3 Gold, 8 Silver, and 25 Bronze which is not a good performance after poor performance as well as poor management.

The office bearer posted in Railway Sports Board failed to bring laurel for their department. President Sports Board handed over all authority to vice-president Hamdan Nazir & Secretary General Farman

Ghani to make their efforts to achieve success. But all office bearer failed badly as there was no plan. They all are beating about the Bush saying Railway Sports Board has financial crises. That's the reason of failure. (On contacting Minister Railway Kh Saad Rafiq official, they said, no Sports Board Railway officers never contacted Minister to make him in his knowledge for their financial problems. (They don't want to plan seriously) They have an annual Budget of 4 to 5 crore.

The performance of these officer is not encourageable and due to this the players performance not very good which put the image of Pakistan Railways very badly. All their policies flopped badly. President Railway Sports Board Samin Ullah Khan,

CEO, Chairman Railway and Minister Railway Kh. Saad Rafiq should take necessary action immediately and will have to take better step to improve the Railway sports and for this new officer bears should depute Sports Board and coaches immediately.

Coaches are enjoying Spair from their official work for the sake of sports (financial burden) and the result is zero. An official Junior clerk is posted and working as Sports officer/ Railway Sports Board for more than a year, how a under scale person hold a very important seat work.

It is not out of place to mention, that there is no official Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball or football teams on roll in Pakistan Railway. In past Pakistan Railway was honoured as a champi-

on Specially Women hockey, Railways has credit to built Pakistan National teams. But unfortunately non technical officers of Pakistan Railway Sports Board totally damaged the image of sports standards.

The Sports lovers of Pakistan Railways requested to the chairman and minister of railways to take necessary action immediately on (favouritism) and should take the action who are involved in the poor performance of Pakistan Railway in 34th National Games and new faces should be come ahead in future for the betterment of Pakistan Railway Sports.. In Such kind of situation Railway will have to take some step to hire the coaches, Technical staff, officials who could play vital role for the Railway players.

## Chairman NC calls on Olympian Arshad Nadeem

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Football Federation Normalisation Committee Haroon Malik met Pakistan's Olympian javelin thrower, Arshad Nadeem, at Football House Lahore.

Dr. Asad Abbas, Chairman Pakistan Olympic Medical Commission was also present on the occasion.

Matters of sports and devising plans to motivate maximum youth towards sports came under discussion. Chairman Haroon Malik appreciated the performance of Arshad Nadeem in the Commonwealth Games 2022 and his achievement of bagging a gold medal for the longest distance of 78.02m in the Javelin throw at the 34th National Games in Quetta. He also highlighted the importance of motivating athletes



and providing support to them in various ways.

Arshad Nadeem expressed his gratitude to Haroon Malik for inviting him and appreciated the respect he received. He said when athletes are

appreciated for their hard work and accomplishments, it not only enhances their confidence but also inspires them to pursue even greater success. Such gestures can be fruitful for any sportsman, he added.

## Shahbaz believes more funds needed to put hockey back on track

Spots Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former skipper Olympian Shahbaz Ahmed Snr on Wednesday lauded the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) for issuing a special grant to the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for ensuring Pakistan team's participation in the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy but proposed that more funds should be injected on yearly basis to put the national game back on track.

The PSB on Tuesday issued a cheque of Rs 25 million to the PHF for making arrangements for the Asian Champions Trophy, scheduled to be held in Chennai, India in August. Shahbaz, who led Pakistan to the 1994 World Cup victory, termed the grant a "welcome sign", but said he believed Pakistan hockey needed more financial backing.

"It is heartening that the government



has provided the much-need financial support to hockey. Hockey is our pride but currently, it needs backing from all quarters. We were a force to reckon with in the past, but then unfortunately priorities were changed in the last 25 to 30 years. The old hockey was replaced with modern hockey but we failed to adapt to the changes.

"Now, we will have to inject more money into the game. I don't believe in an overnight change. I think we will have to adopt a realistic approach and move

step by step to once again raise a formidable side.

"Our first priority should be to become Asian Champions and break into the top 10 sides of the world. Hoping to win World Cup or clinch a medal at the Olympics in the near future sounds great but that is too ambitious at this stage," Shahbaz told APP.

He said a substantial amount should be earmarked in the annual budget to put the national game back on track.

"Similarly, I think the Pakistan Cricket Board should also step out and ask each profit-making Pakistan Super League franchise to contribute at least Rs 20 million after every edition. They generate huge revenues every year. This amount [Rs 20 million] should not be a big problem for them. Revival of hockey is a national cause and they must contribute to that," he added.

## Stuart Broad chosen for England's first Ashes Test, edges out Mark Wood



Stuart Broad has been selected over Mark Wood to join James Anderson and Ollie Robinson in England's pace attack for the first Ashes Test against Australia. Anderson, who has recovered from a groin injury, and Robinson, who has overcome an ankle problem, are set to line up in the team for the match at Edgbaston on Friday.

Off-spinner Moeen Ali, who came out of retirement to replace the injured Jack Leach, is included in the XI. England is eager to regain the Ashes after losing them in 2017-18.

Captain Ben Stokes, who has been nursing a long-term left knee problem, bowled at full intensity during training in Birmingham on Wednesday. However, due to ongoing doubts about Stokes' fitness, England opted for the big-game experience and resilience of Broad over the extra pace of Wood, who would have been limited to short spells.

The England XI for the first Ashes Test against Australia includes Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jonny Bairstow (wicketkeeper), Moeen Ali, Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson, James Anderson.

Both Anderson and Robinson sat out the Test against Ireland at Lord's earlier this month as they managed injuries sustained in county cricket. England hopes to avoid a situation similar to four years ago when Anderson returned from an injury to play in the first Ashes Test but bowled only four overs before being ruled out for the rest of the series.

At 40 years and 321 days, Anderson is set to become the oldest England player to open the bowling in an Ashes Test since George Geary in 1934. Broad, 36 years old, will have the opportunity to build on his impressive record against Australia, as no England bowler has taken more than his 131 Ashes wickets. He will also renew his battle with Australia opener David Warner, whom he dismissed seven times in 10 innings during the 2019 series in England.

## Pakistan Sports Journalist Federation visit of State of Art DHA Hockey Arena



LAHORE: On occasion the visit of State of Art DHA Hockey Arena a Group photo of Pakistan Sports Journalist Federation President Muhammad Iqbal Harper, General Secretary, Muhammad Babar, Finance Secretary Abdul Qayyum with Brig Aamir Mustafa officer incharge DHA Hockey Arena, Former Olympian and Director DHA Hockey Arena, Manzoor- Ul- Hassan, Director Sports and Training DHA Colonel (R) Umar Sabir, and former Olympian Saeed Ahmed Khan, Assistant Director, DHA Hockey Arena.

## Election of Regional Cricket Association Karachi Completed

Arif Hafeez

KARACHI: The first General Body Meeting of the Regional Cricket Association Karachi was held on Saturday 10th June, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Nadeem Omar President RCAA at Omar House. In the Meeting Tabish Jawed Elected as Vice President while M. Touseef Siddiqui as Joint Secretary, Mohammad Sami Khan and Zia Ahmed Siddiqui as Member Executive Committee also Elected.

Earlier Nadeem Omar and Jawed Ahmed Khan Elected unopposed President and Secretary of the Association in the Election conducted by Election Commissioner PCB.

The following Zonal Office Bearers also Elected in the Election conducted by Election Commissioner PCB at National Stadium Karachi on the various dates.

ZONE-I Ajmal Naseeb President, Arif Waheed Secretary, Muhammad Tariq Hafeez Treasurer.

ZONE-II Jameel Ahmed President, Nusrat Ullah Khan Secretary, Zafar Khan Treasurer.

ZONE-III Mohammad Raees President, Afzal Hussain Qureshi Secretary, Ali Hussain Treasure (unopposed)

ZONE-IV M. Musarrat Raza President, Aftab Alam Secretary, Naushad Ahmed Khan Treasurer (Unopposed)

ZONE-V Mohammad Sami Khan President, Mohammad Saeed Jabbar Secretary, Imran Anjum Shaikh Treasurer.

ZONE-VI Zia Ahmed Siddiqui President, Ejaz Khan Secretary, Muhammad Raeesuddin Treasurer (unopposed)

Zone-VII Mazhar Ali Awan President, Abdul Rauf Secretary and Zaheer uddin Khan Treasurer.

Meanwhile, Azam Khan, Manager Quetta Gladiator, Khalid Nafees, Zafar Ahmed, Muhammad Ahmed Naqvi, Wisaal Ansari, congratulated all the elected office bearers.

## Babar Azam slips in batting rankings after WTC Final



A Sports

DUBAI: Pakistan's all-format captain and star batter Babar Azam saw a dip in his Test batting rankings following the conclusion of the World Test Championship (WTC) Final.

As per the latest Test Batting Rankings update by the International Cricket Council (ICC), Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam slipped to fifth as Australia's centurion in the WTC Final Travis Head and Steve Smith moved up.

Scoring 163 across the first two days of the WTC Final against India at The Oval, Head jumped three places to claim the third position with 884 points and strengthened Australia's stronghold on the Test batting rankings.

Besides Travis Head, Steve Smith also climbed up in the Test batting to seize the second position with 885 rating points at the back of his gritty first innings century.

Despite failing to score big in the WTC Final, Marnus Labuschagne remained at the summit with 903 rating points.

Consequently, Australia now hold the top three spots in the Test batting rankings while Usman Khawaja (9th, 777 rating points) makes it four Australians in the top 10.

Notably, The last time three batters from the same side occupied the top three positions in the Test rankings was in December 1984 when Gordon Greenidge (810), Clive Lloyd (787), and Larry Gomes (773) from West Indies formed the top trio.

## Regional Inter-District U19 One-Day Tournament 2023

LAHORE: The Regional Inter-District U19 One-Day Tournament 2023 is set to commence tomorrow, bringing together aspiring young cricket talents from across the nation. The tournament will take place simultaneously in 15 regions, with Hyderabad region hosting the matches from 19 June onwards.

This prestigious tournament serves as a platform for showcasing the immense potential and skill of budding cricketers in the country. A total of 2,080 players have been selected to participate in the tournament, featuring 104 teams, the squads of which have been selected after nationwide trials conducted earlier this year.

The performing players from the trial matches underwent a medical examination after which the top 20 players were chosen to represent their respective sides in the 104-team tournament.

To be eligible for participation, players born on or after 1 September 2004 have been selected.

The 16 regions include Abbottabad (seven districts), AJK (five districts), Bahawalpur (seven districts), Dera Murad Jamali (five districts), Faisalabad (six districts), FATA (10 districts), Hyderabad (seven districts), Islamabad (four zones and one district), Karachi (seven zones), Lahore (three zones; six teams), Larkana (six districts), Multan (seven districts), Peshawar (five districts), Quetta (10 districts), Rawalpindi (four districts) and Sialkot (seven

districts)

The Regional Inter-District U19 One-Day Tournament follows a competitive format where the top team from each region will be declared winners.

Moreover, the tournament serves as a gateway to even greater opportunities. The outstanding performers from the Regional Inter-District U19 One-Day Tournament will earn a chance to play in the Inter-Region U19 Championship (three-day) and Inter-Region U19 Cup (one-day) tournaments, a nationwide event that will be held from August to October 2023. This championship will provide a stage for the brightest talents to shine and gain recognition on a national level.