



### UK appoints first female British High Commissioner to Pakistan

The United Kingdom (UK) has announced the appointment of Ms Jane Marriott OBE as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan. The first female British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane is due to take up her role in mid-July. (Details on Page 8)



### Ayaz Sadiq vows to tackle smuggling, tax evasion for economic growth

Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated his firm resolve of the govt to take all appropriate measures to end menace of smuggling and tax evasion for enhancing revenue collection to attain sustainable economic growth in the country. Addressing the ceremony of study conducted by Ipsos on "Unveiling tax evasion: a close look at five sector in Pakistan", the minister stressed the need of complete harmonization among... (Details on Page 8)

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## New era begins

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev meeting in Baku on Thursday.

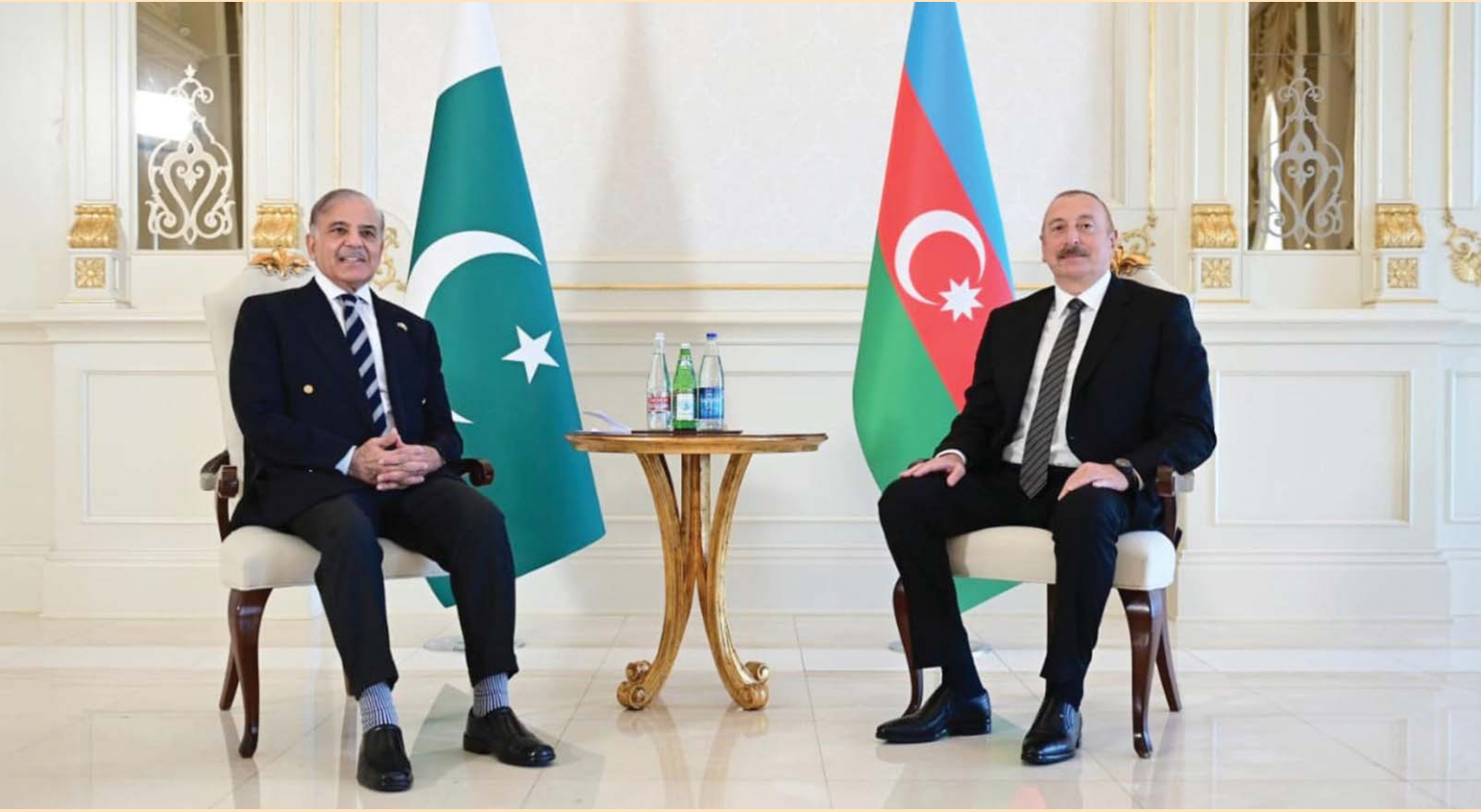


Photo: PID

# Pakistan, Azerbaijan agree to enhance trade & energy cooperation, start Islamabad-Baku flights

### Spokesman Report

BAKU: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and aviation to reflect the decades-old strong relationship between the two nations.

The bilateral relations were discussed at length in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev here at Zugulba Palace.

The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation, is on a two-day official visit to Baku at the invitation of President Aliyev.

At a joint press stakeout following their bilateral meeting, the two leaders told the media of agreeing to introduce flights of Azerbaijan Airlines between Islamabad and Baku, and enhance number of military exercises, besides exploring the avenues of cooperation in the areas of energy, investment and education.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who

earlier visited the mausoleum of Azerbaijan's first president Haider Aliyev and the martyrs monument, spoke high of President Ilham Aliyev's leadership to build the city's infrastructure and impressive horticulture.

Citing the "pleasant surprises" of neatness and beauty of Baku, the prime minister requested the Azerbaijan president to lend their experts in horticulture and waste management to Islamabad.

He told the media that during the "wonderful" discussion, there was a "total unanimity" of views on various bilateral and multilateral issues as the relationship was built on mutual trust and sincerity of purpose.

The prime minister said the Pakistani flags all across Baku manifested the love between the two peoples.

"Though our ties are so strong since ages, these do not reflect their intensity through trade and investment, exchange of visits and other important areas of cooperation," the prime minister remarked.

Emphasising cooperation in

the energy sector, he said being an energy-deficient country, Pakistan depended upon costly imported fuels spending \$27 billion last year which was becoming unaffordable owing to the challenges of imported inflation and oil price hike due to the Ukraine crisis.

The prime minister said his government was committed to replace the costly imported fuels with solar energy to support industries, exports, commerce and offices.

He thanked the Azerbaijan president for abolishing duties on Pakistani rice to facilitate the export of the commodity to the friendly country.

He said Pakistan welcomed the Azerbaijan Airlines to start its operations to Islamabad and invited the country's aviation minister to Pakistan to work out Baku-Karachi flights with a view to promoting bilateral tourism.

The prime minister thanked Azerbaijan for being a staunch supporter of Kashmiris' rights and highlighted the Indian acts of terror and atrocities in the occu-

ried Valley, including the violations of United Nations resolutions.

He reiterated that Pakistan was committed to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and appreciated the bravery of its forces for fighting for the country's rights.

Highlighting the immense opportunities the Gwadar Port offered, the prime minister said both countries could cooperate to enhance trade.

He told the media that the Pakistan-Azerbaijan cooperation in defence was not a secret as it was meant for peace of the region, not any aggression.

Extending an invitation to President Ilham Aliyev to visit Pakistan, the prime minister said he also looked forward to the Azerbaijan delegations of economic, aviation and energy ministers to discuss at length the cooperation in petroleum and solar energy sectors.

In his remarks, President Ilham Aliyev welcomed the prime minister and his delegation to Baku and said both countries had agreed to

enhance cooperation in the fields of energy, defence and education.

He said Azerbaijan hoped to host more Pakistani students and Azeri students studying in Pakistani universities contributed to strengthening the bilateral relations.

He told the media that the two sides had agreed to increase the number of military exercises as military capability was of the utmost importance considering the changing circumstances.

He said strong military capacity guaranteed independence and territorial integrity as Azerbaijan also liberated its Karabakh region through its military might, not dialogue.

He said Pakistan and Azerbaijan always stood shoulder to shoulder as both the peoples shared the same views on a host of issues.

Appreciating the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz, the Azerbaijan president congratulated the people of Pakistan for having such a great leader with vision and commitment to the country's development.

## President Okays Daycare Centres Bill for capital's offices

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday signed the Daycare Centres Bill 2023, under which such setups for minor children will be established at the public and private departments in Islamabad.

The president inked the document in line with Article 75 of the Constitution, the President's House said in a statement.

According to the Bill, the federal government will ensure the setting up of daycare centres at the departments



having at least 70 employees. In case of violation of the law, a fine up to Rs 0.1 million will be imposed after the first warning.

For further delay in the establishment of a daycare centre, a confinement of six months will be executed.

## Bharia Town fined over Rs 33 mln for continuous contraventions of PEPA Act 1997



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Environmental Protection Tribunal Islamabad on Thursday imposed a fine of Rs 33.5 million on Bahria Town Private Limited for persistently not seeking prior environmental approval of its housing schemes in contravention of Section 12 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997.

The tribunal announced its decision on a complaint filed by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) against the Bahria Town for initiating its Bahria Enclave-I project in Morian, Malot, Jagi-ot, Begwal, Tumair, Sihaili and Darkala mouzas in under Zone-IV of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) without seeking any approval from the Agency.

Environmental Protection Tribunal Registrar Bakhtawar Irshad told APP that it was the highest ever penalty imposed on any firm or entity flouting the PEPA Act 1997.

EPA's Deputy Director Legal and Enforcement Aamir Abbas Khan presented the case before the tribunal.

The Bahria Town pleaded before the tribunal that the scheme had already sought

environmental approval from the relevant agencies and initiated its construction work after meeting the codal formalities, and tried to prove by presenting documentary evidence indicating proper approvals in the back dates.

The tribunal, however, directed both the complainant and the respondent to presented Google images of the project sites before the complainant and after the reported time period to check the on ground situation.

It was noted that the images confirmed that the construction work had started prior to the dates indicating environmental approval for the project, including excavation work at various spots.

The tribunal, citing Section 17(1) of the PEPA-1997, in its order stated that whosoever contravened or failed to comply with the previous Sections 11, 12, 13, or Section 16 or any order issued thereunder should be punished with fine which may extend upto Rs one million and in the case of continued contravention or failure with an additional fine of Rs 100,000 for every day during which such contravention or failure continued.

The tribunal fined Bahria Town Private Limited a sum of Rs 1,000,000 and for continued violation over a prolonged period of time by carrying construction activities imposed an additional fine of Rs 50,000 per day for 650 days violation from the date after the first site inspection was reported by the complainant (Pak-EPA) on September 02, 2021.

## Govt announces to keep petrol, diesel prices unchanged

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced to keep the prices of petrol and diesel unchanged.

Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that the prices of petrol and diesel will remain unchanged as. The decision to keep the petroleum products prices unchanged is taken in view of international rates.

Earlier, Minister of Defence of Pakistan Khawaja Asif said that the petrol prices will be reduced further before the budget 2023-24. He said that International Monetary Fund (IMF) has no issues with targeted subsidies.

## Denmark to cooperate Pakistan in developing green energy infrastructure

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Dan Jorgensen on Thursday agreed to enhance cooperation in building climate-resilient green energy infrastructure including wind energy to overcome the challenge of climate change and to resolve energy problems in Pakistan.

Talking to the media here after exchanging Joint Action Plan under Green Framework Engagement Agreement, the foreign minister said the agreement would set stage for joint initiatives and projects in renewable energy and green transi-



tion. The minister hoped that policies would be formulated on behalf of the federal government to encourage international companies to invest in Pakistan's wind and other green energy sectors.

He said Pakistan was facing climate change challenges and last summer, historic floods hit the country resulting in the loss of precious lives and property. The foreign minister said the Danish government had been a leading voice and leading advocate for the green energy transition of climate agenda within Europe and Pakistan.

He said partnering with the European countries on this ambitious agenda of green energy transition would not only have positive implications on Pakistan within the climate context but the economy as well.

Termining the agreement as very important, Danish Minister Dan Jorgensen said: "We share the same ambitions as we also want to fight climate change and both feel that international efforts to overcome the challenge are going too slow".

He assured the foreign minister of his country's full support in Pakistan's fight against climate change. He also called upon the international community to cooperate with Pakistan in this regard.

## Pervaiz Elahi's health has deteriorated, claims wife

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president and former chief minister Punjab Pervaiz Elahi's wife claimed that her husband's health has deteriorated.

As per details, Pervaiz Elahi's wife said that doctors told her over phone that his health has deteriorated and he was shifted to jail before the completion of his medical tests. She claimed that she reached hospital with Pervaiz Elahi's medical reports but Punjab police did not allow her to meet her husband. However, the wife of former chief minister was called for meeting with her husband for one day. She said "I met Pervaiz Elahi today in morning" but the PTI president has physically gotten weak.

## Cyclonic Storm 'Biparjoy' lies at a distance of 220km South of Karachi

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) "Biparjoy" over northeast Arabian Sea has moved further northeastward during the last six hours and now lies at a distance of about 220 kilometers south of Karachi, 210 km south of Thatta and 130km south of Keti Bandar.

The "Biparjoy" is likely to continue moving northeastward and cross between Keti Bandar and Indian Gujarat coast by Thursday evening as a VSCS with packing winds of 100-120 Km per hour gusting 140 km per hour. PMD's cyclone warning center, Karachi is continuously monitoring the system and will issue update accordingly.

## UN Offices in touch with Pakistani authorities as Cyclone Biparjoy approaches: Spokesman

### News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations offices in Pakistan and India are in touch with the concerned authorities for any support as Cyclone Biparjoy heads towards the two countries' coastal areas, a UN spokesman said today.

"All the country offices in the countries potentially impacted are in touch with local authorities to see how they could best help, support", Spokesman Stephane Dujaric told the daily noon briefing in response to a question. Biparjoy was on track to make landfall between Pakistan's port Keti Bandar and India's Gujarat by this evening.



## Returns

BAKU: After completing his 2-day official visit to Azerbaijan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departed from Baku for Pakistan on Thursday. Azerbaijan's First Deputy Prime Minister Yagub Eyyubov and other senior Azeri officials



Photo: PID

# Pakistan, Azerbaijan sign agreement to boost bilateral trade relations

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Thursday signed a statement of understanding, which aims to enhance trade cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was represented by Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Minister of Econ-

omy Mikail Jabbarov, said a press release.

The signing ceremony took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, during a state visit by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The statement of understanding establishes a framework for fostering closer collaboration between Azerbaijan and Pakistan to promote trade between the two countries.

Recognizing the importance

of expanding their friendship and economic partnership, the ministers expressed their dedication to diversifying trade and enhancing economic development through this agreement.

Under the agreement, both countries will collaborate to create favorable conditions for bilateral trade by sharing trade information, organizing events, conducting studies to identify exportable products, and promoting economic cooperation.

For this purpose, both countries agreed to mobilize their efforts to finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement by early August of 2023.

The ministers expressed their enthusiasm and optimism for the future of Azerbaijan-Pakistan trade relations.

They emphasized the potential benefits that the preferential trade agreement would bring and affirmed their commitment to working collaboratively to realize

the shared goals outlined in the Statement of Understanding.

The signing of this agreement marks a significant milestone in the economic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, strengthening the foundation for increased trade and economic cooperation.

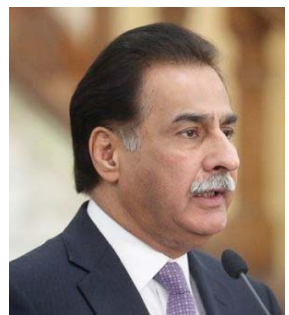
It is expected to create new opportunities for businesses, enhance bilateral investment, and contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of both nations.

# Ayaz Sadiq vows to tackle smuggling, tax evasion for economic growth

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday reiterated his firm resolve of the government to take all appropriate measures to end menace of smuggling and tax evasion for enhancing revenue collection to attain sustainable economic growth in the country.

Addressing the ceremony of study conducted by Ipsos on "Unveiling tax evasion: a close look at five sector in Pakistan", the minister stressed the need of complete harmonization



among the federal and provincial tax collecting authorities to plug the tax leakages.

The minister said that government was striving to take all the stakeholders on

board for making viable tax policies to stop tax evasion and enhance local revenue collection, besides incentivizing local manufacturing sector to discourage the imports.

He said the unrealistic policies of last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have sparked the imports as it jumped to \$85 billion, which not only put huge pressure on local foreign exchange reserves but it also suffered the domestic industry.

First time in the history of Pakistan, the transfer and postings were put on sale during

last four years, he said adding that as a result all those who purchased these posts work for their vested interests rather than serving the country.

He stressed the need to bring all the industry under track and trace system to stop tax evasion, besides removing tax anomalies at federal and provincial level as well as simplification of tax return by the Federal Board of Revenue to overcome accumulated losses of Rs 500 billion.

He said that the Federal Board of Revenue was also directed to expedite work

on track and trace system to discourage the smuggling, besides controlling the tax evasion.

The IPSOS, a global market and social research organization, in its latest report highlighted that the mammoth gap in tax collection, arising from illicit trade in five sectors of Pakistan including Real Estate, Tobacco, Tyres and Auto Lubricants, Pharmaceuticals and Tea. "The total loss being caused by these 5 sectors alone is approximately Rs 956 billion to the national exchequer", it added.

## Pakistan, Belgium discuss collaboration at int'l forums, regional developments



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Second Session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Belgium was held here Thursday wherein two sides discussed collaboration at international forums, including at the United Nations and important regional and global developments.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) Ambassador Muhammad Saleem while the Belgian delegation was led by Director General, Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium Ambassador Jeroen Cooreman, a Foreign Office press release said.

The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and set the agenda for bilateral engagement and cooperation for the next year.

# UK appoints first female British High Commissioner to Pakistan

## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom (UK) has announced the appointment of Ms Jane Marriott OBE as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan. The first female British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane is due to take up her role in mid-July.

Prior to this appointment, Jane Marriott was the High Commissioner to Kenya from September 2019 to June 2023, a press release said.

In this role she delivered a new UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership, strengthening ties across mutual prosperity, sustainable development, security and stability, people-to-people links and tackling climate change.

Under Jane's leadership, she oversaw the launch of new clean, green, sustainable energy projects as well as delivering UK-Kenyan cooperation to create the first-ever Kenyan Marine Commando Unit, underlining the UK's commitment in the fight against terrorism in Kenya and the region.

Jane also supported the restoration of over 1,000 hectares of deforested land, and under her leadership, the UK established a 'Digital Access Programme' in partnership with Kenyan stakeholders in the tech industry to train users on digi-



tal inclusion, cyber hygiene, and the regulation of online content.

Jane brings a wealth of thematic and regional experience to her new role having joined the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) in 2001, following roles in the Cabinet Office and Home Office.

She has previously served as: Director of the UK's Joint International Counter-Terrorism Unit; Joint FCDO Director for the Middle East and North Africa; Ambassador to Sana'a, Yemen (2013-15); Deputy and Acting Ambassador to Tehran; and as an adviser to the US Special Representative to Afghanistan and

Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke. She has also completed two diplomatic postings to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

Following the announcement of her appointment, Jane said, "I am incredibly excited to be appointed as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan - a country I am delighted to have visited twice before. I am looking forward to getting to know this culturally rich and deeply diverse country even better."

She added, "The United Kingdom's relationship with Pakistan is rooted in shared history. Our people-to-people ties bind our countries together in common partnership, which I will be aiming to strengthen further."

Jane Marriott was appointed OBE in 2004 for services in Al Amara, Iraq. Dr Christian Turner held the Position of British High Commissioner to Pakistan from December 2019 to mid-January 2023. Dr Turner is now the Director General Geopolitical (Political Director) at the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The Deputy High Commissioner, Andrew Dalgleish, took on the role of Chargé d'affaires to cover for the position of High Commissioner in mid-January 2023. He will continue this role until the arrival of Jane Marriott.

# Second round of talks between TLP, government held

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq held the second round of talks with the negotiation committee of the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) on Thursday.

The TLP committee was comprised of Dr Shafiq Ameeni, Ghulam Abbas Faizi, Mufti Muhammad Umeer Al-Azhari, Maulana Ghulam Ghaus Baghdadi, and Jeelan Shah.

During the talks, both sides agreed to conduct an impartial and speedy trial for the individual who blasphemed against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

They also agreed to install a filtering system to remove profane and indecent content from social media.

Furthermore, in order to prevent blasphemy against the sacred elements of Islam, a consensus was

reached to enhance capacity and efficiency of the existing institution, enabling it to effectively carry out its work.

It was also agreed in the meeting to take steps toward the formal establishment of the Counter Blasphemy Department.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry would issue a letter to the American government within three working days to seek the release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui, and the government would take more serious measures toward her release and repatriation.

Additionally, they agreed to de-notify all PEMRA and PTA notifications against TLP, and the accused under 295C would also be charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) section 7.

The negotiations were underway between them regarding the reduction of petrol prices and other demands.

# Cyclone Biparjoy: Federal Minister for Energy visits Jhimpir Wind Corridor



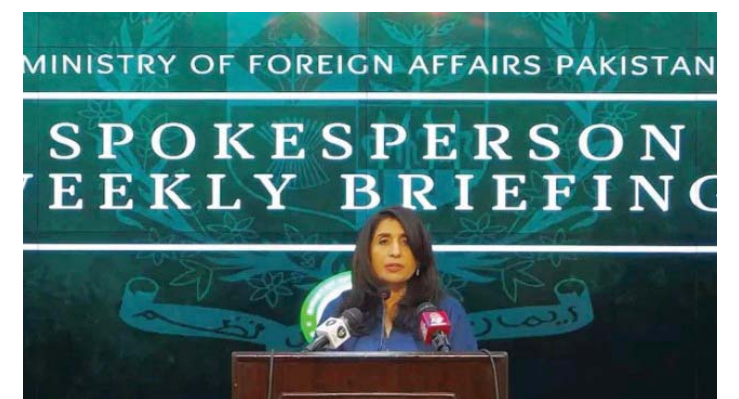
## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan visited Jhimpir Wind Corridor for inspection of transmission towers affected by rainfall and extreme weather conditions due to Cyclone Biparjoy. The affected transmission towers caused a disruption of 60MW. The minister visited the area for inspection and got in touch with the teams to ensure

uninterrupted power supply. Jhimpir II grid station is functioning as per normal schedule and 134MW are being supplied to the national grid.

Earlier, Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan briefed the Federal Minister about the restoration works on damaged Transmission line, being carried out by NTDC. MD NTDC assured the Minister that restoration work will be completed as early as possible.

# Pakistan condemns India for seizing properties of Kashmiri activists in IIOJK



## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned India for confiscating the properties of Kashmiri activists and human rights defenders in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

"We are concerned about the recurring acts of confiscation of properties by India in IIOJK," the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said India's National Investigation Agency and the State Investigation Agency (SIA) had moved "aggressively" to seize immovable properties of several Kashmiri activists.

"It is concerning that just SIA has attached 124 such properties since its establishment in 2021," she said.

She said, "We condemn India's recent move to confiscate the property of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Spokesperson and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat leader, Ayaz Akbar, in Srinagar."

Akbar remains behind the bars since 2017 on fictitious charges.

The FO spokesperson said India must end dispossessing the political leaders and human rights defenders of their rightful properties.

"Kashmiris are the rightful heirs to their own land. It is unfortunate that

non-Kashmiris are being encouraged to buy land and property in the disputed territory while the properties of Kashmiris are being confiscated and destroyed," she said.

During the ongoing visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan, she said, the two sides would exchange views on diverse areas of bilateral cooperation including in energy, culture, banking, education, defence, information technology, science and technology, and trade and investment.

Also, the two countries would sign a programme of cultural cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the foreign service academies of Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

The FO spokesperson said the 12th round of Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) would be held in Tehran on June 17-18 June.

The Foreign Secretary will lead Pakistani delegation while Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of Iran, Ali Bagheri Kani will lead the Iranian side, she said. Baloch said regarding the progress on implementation of decisions of last session, the BPC would review all aspects of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations covering political, economic, trade, investment, border security, education, climate change and culture domains.



# A delegation of lawyers called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of lawyers called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq here today. Besides Member Legislative Assembly Ms. Nabila Ayub Advocate, the delegation was comprised of Vice Chairman Bar Council Muhammad Nadeem Khan Advocate, Members Bar Council Muhammad Tariq Basheer Advocate, Chaudhry Yasir Mahmood Advocate, and Chaudhry Wasim Sabir. Vice Chairman Bar Council Muhammad Nadeem Khan congratulated Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq on assuming the post of Prime Minister.

While talking to members of the delegation, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that the legal fraternity



should lend its full support to the government in implementing good governance measures. "Power is the

gift of God", he said, adding that it is He who gives power and takes it back. "So long as I am in power, I will remain

committed to serving the people", the PM said. Stressing the need for introducing proper checks and balances, the PM said that the government cannot sustain or move forward without a strong system of checks and balances.

"As a responsible citizen of the state, we have to maintain a proper balance between rights and duties", he said. He said that significant improvements would be made in the fields of education, health, tourism, livestock and information technology. He said that the production sector was given priority in the budget. Vice Chairman Bar Council Muhammad Nadeem Khan on the occasion appreciated the steps taken by the Prime Minister in relation to good governance and expressed his best wishes for his success.

# Driving license issuance services ongoing 24 hours seven days continuously: Naeem Shahid

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: An awareness session on road safety and traffic rules was organized in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan in collaboration with Traffic Police, Multan. Addressing the participants, Chief Traffic Officer Rao Muhammad Naeem Shahid said that road safety through fines and punishments. No, it is possible with consciousness and awareness.

Don't create problems for people and don't get yourself killed, he said that 30% of the accidents are happening to motorcyclists. We can avoid accidents only by respecting seat belts and traffic rules, he said that the traffic police Multan is providing multi-purpose services and is facing problems due to lack of town planning. It cannot be done, he added that the driving license issuance services are ongoing 24 hours seven days continuously, biometric system and paperless documentation is being done.

Vice President of the House Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed from the session while paying tribute to the



Traffic Police Multan's traffic awareness and services on the roads said in his address that by following the traffic rules, precious lives can be protected despite the problems of the Traffic Police Multan.

In the session, former president Khawaja Muhammad Usman,

former senior vice president Syed Iftikhar Ali Shah, former vice president Khawaja Muhammad Farooq, Khawaja Muhammad Fazil, member of the Mahlis Ameela Ehtshamil Haq, Sheikh Muhammad Waseem and Sheikh Tahir Amjad also pointed out the traffic problems and also gave

suggestions and emphasized the need for their solution. Muhammad Shafiq, Secretary General of the House also addressed the session, while Khawaja Muhammad Usman also presented the Iwan Kashaan to the CTO Rao Muhammad Naeem Shahid and thanked him for coming to the House.

# Local bodies system imperative for devolution of power to the grassroots level: President AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said a strong and stable local bodies system was imperative for devolution of power to the grassroots level.

While talking to a delegation of newly elected chairmen of ten district councils who called on him here today, the president said that after successful conduct of the LG polls it was his earnest desire to see that the transfer of powers to the local level was carried out in the true sense and problems faced by the people were resolved at their doorsteps.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said, "Holding local body elections in Azad Kashmir after 31 years is a big milestone".

On this occasion, Chairman



District Council Mirpur Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga, Chairman District Council Muzaffarabad Sardar Imtiaz Ahmad Abbasi, Chairman District Council Kotli Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor Javed, Chairman District

Council Poonch Sardar Javed Sharif, Chairman District Council Siddhuanati Sardar Amjad Javed, Chairman District Council Bhimbar Dr. Yusuf Chaudhry, Chairman District Council Bagh Sardar Asif, Chair-

man District Council Haveli Javed Iqbal Dar, Chairman District Council Jhelum Valley Tayyab Manzoor Kayani, Chairman District Council Neelum Ghulam Mujtaba Mughal were present.

# CLAS organized a Seminar on Post Budget Challenges at Islamabad Chamber

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Center for Law and Security (CLAS) in collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) organized a Seminar on Post Budget Challenges: Macroeconomic Indicators and Way Forward for Pakistan last day says a press release.

Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of State for Petroleum were the Chief Guest of the event. Mr. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Mr. Haroon Sharif, former Chairman Board of Investments, and Mr. Shehbaz Rana, Economy Correspondent at The Express Tribune. The Seminar was moderated by Mr. Rehman Azhar Executive Director CLAS.

Chairman Advisory Board CLAS Dr. Faisal Mushatq TI, in his opening remarks highlighted the work done by the Center and also thanked speakers and the audience for attending the Seminar.

Mr. Musadik Masood Malik



explained the major points and government priorities in Budget 2023-2024. He also evaluated upon the role of investors and businessmen in Pakistan's economy and its growth. He said government is prioritizing making budget for the common man and also working towards providing relief to rural as well as urban population. Mr. Fahd Waheed discussed the need of enhancing tax culture in the coun-

try and pointed out various difficulties being faced by the business community in the last two years. Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas emphasized the role of youth in economic development. He also pointed out that the government must act swiftly to prevent brain drain in the Country. Mr. Haroon Sharif, while evaluating the economic policies of successive governments, emphasized the need for shrinking the size of government entities and

related expenditures in Pakistan. Mr. Shehbaz Rana, discussed the dynamics of amnesty schemes and economic policies that would ensure long-term sustainable economic development of Pakistan.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam, Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) delivered his closing remarks and thanked speakers and the audience for attending the Seminar. He also emphasized the need for having more such events and dialogues where various stakeholders would be able to share their experiences with each other.

A large number of law students and people from academia attended the event. At the end of Seminar, souvenirs were presented to the speakers and Chief Guest by Dr. Faisal Mushatq TI Chairman Advisory Board CLAS and Founder & CEO Roots Millennium Education Group and Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

# Rescue Teams reached at sea storm areas: Mehrullah Yar Bharwana

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The rescue team of Multan Electric Power Company (MAPCO) has reached Thatta district of Sindh. On the direction of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), MAPCO teams reached Hyderabad and Thatta areas after passing through Kandiaro, Nowshera Feroze, Skarund and other areas of Sindh. Under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana, Chief Engineer Operations Muhammad Shehzad Rai and Incharge Regional Complaint Center Abdul Hafeez Bhatti are heading the teams of MEPCO. Chief Engineer Operation Muhammad Shahzad Rai has said that 60 teams comprising of 309 staff of Mapco will carry out operations to restore power to the areas affected by hurricanes (Sea Storm) and heavy rains and under the direction of CEO Mapco, the teams of Mapco will complete T&P, Equipped with safety devices and necessary equipment



# Public complaints including Railway Employees in Social Media Live Open Kahchhari

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent of Railways Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza on the instructions of Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq listened to public complaints including railway employees in Facebook Live Kauchari. 354 complaints were received in the Facebook live court, most of which were redressed on the spot, while DS Railway gave orders to the concerned officers for immediate redressal of other complaints. Issues related to posting of transfer of employees, recruitment on TLA in railways, pension and dues of retired employees, payment of marriage grant were discussed in Facebook Live E-Kachhari. Apart from this, DS Railways has ordered a departmental inquiry on the complaints related to the lease of railway quarters.

# Crackdown started against smugglers in South Punjab: Dr Rahmatullah Wastro

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: In order to prevent smuggling in South Punjab, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has requested modern scanners to scan big vehicles, trucks and buses. Collector Multan Enforcement Dr Rahmatullah Wastro told a press conference at Customs Collectorate Multan. He said that Multan is a surrounded area between four provinces. The chain of smugglers has been broken by our efforts.



But this month, two hundred thousand liters of smuggled diesel have been caught till June 15, which is a proof of our good performance. Now, under the additional authority given by the government, we can also raid various warehouses and catch smuggled goods. Customs Collectorate Enforcement Multan has adopted an aggressive policy to prevent smuggling, which has helped in the prevention of smuggling.

# Lust & unethical attitudes have started to tear us into pieces: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: How can the nations who could not learn to stand on their own feet be helpful to others? Lust & unethical attitudes have started to tear us into pieces. I wish we understood the religion of Islam and followed it, then it would be one for the whole world become a good role model like our ancestors, this was stated by the Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan:

He has further expressed great concern over the personal hittings with one another which has totally diverted our real focus which our homeland Pakistan always demands from us all in all respects.

# Making integrated plans to increase the literacy rate of women: Capt Saqib Zafar

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The preparation of a working plan for women's development and gender equality has been started for South Punjab. In this connection a consultative workshop was organized in collaboration with South Punjab Secretariat and UN Women. A large number of women associated with different sectors participated in the workshop. Women representatives of United Nation, Vice Chancellors of Women Universities of South Punjab and office bearers of Women Chamber of Commerce participated in the workshop. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar, Head of Food and Agriculture Organization

Imelda Berjela and Administrative Secretaries of South Punjab also participated in the workshop. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar, in his address at the workshop, announced construction of separate toilets for women in all government offices in South Punjab and said that

Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar said the preparation of gender action plan is the need of the hour and Organizing the workshop with the support of UN Women is a historic moment for South Punjab. He hoped that

all stakeholders can change the lives of the women of South Punjab together. He said, as a result of this consultative workshop, Working papers on Gender Action Plan will be prepared and the South Punjab Secretariat will ensure the implementation of this Gender Action Plan. Secretary Schools Education Department Rana Salim, Secretary Higher Education Altaf Baloch, Secretary Specialized Health Care Nasir Afzal Khan, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care Mehr Muhammad Hayat Luk, Secretary Livestock Nasir Jamal Hotiana, Secretary Forestry Sarfraz Khan Magsi, Additional Secretary Home South Punjab Rana Rizwan Qadeer and Additional Secretary Coordination Muhammad Farooq Dogar participated in workshop. Similarly, the representatives of the UN Women Sharmila Rasool, Nabila Zafar Malik, Nadia Tariq, Vice Chancellor Women University Multan Rabia Jawaria, Vice Chancellor Sadiq Women University Bahawalpur Dr. Saqia Imtiaz, Principal Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur Dr. Sophia Farrukh, Manager Volience Against Women Center Maniza Butt, focal person of the workshop and Additional Secretary Sadia Mehr and Bariha Zainab also participated in the workshop.





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:13 am  
Zohr ..... 12:08 pm  
Asr ..... 5:08 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:20 pm  
Isha ..... 9:03 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
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

**Chairman Anjuman Tajran meeting with the CEO Health**

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: The government of Punjab has allocated a specific budget of billions rupees to provide health facilities to the public, but in practice the situation is being seen much different & it is a question mark despite allocation of heavy budget-2023 for health, because the poor is within the vortex of complexities due to lack of medical facilities.

According to the details, the chairman Anjuman Tajran Registered Tandlianwala Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed on his meeting with the CEO Health Dr. Isfand Yar pointed out the problems in hospital's medical treatment.

He has further said informing that a detailed discussion regarding Tehsil Headquarters Hospital and RHC took place where the dialysis machines, blood bank and immediate medical assistance in emergency as well as immediate implementation of dozens of suggestions have also been assured to streamline the Institutions which are our societal beauty and our survival depends on their real survival. Chairman Mushtaq assured that the Association of Traders Registered Tandlianwala will always stands by all and sundry.

Chairman confirmed that the poor totally depend on governmental hospital & they should be compassionately considered on special basis.

**Hamdard Thinkers' Forum calls for urgent action on misogyny in Pakistan**

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The members of the Shura Hamdard Thinkers' Forum Karachi chapter expressed serious apprehensions regarding the prevailing misogyny within the country and called for tangible measures to effectively curb this disturbing phenomenon, in a meeting held yesterday at Hamdard Corporate Head Office, presided over by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President Hamdard Foundation Pakistan on the topic "Respect for Women". A renowned journalist and writer Zubaida Mustafa was invited as a guest speaker. The meeting was moderated by Deputy Speaker Shura Col (r) Mukhtar Ahmad Butt.

Zubaida Mustafa highlighted the invaluable contributions made by women in the Pakistan Movement, emphasizing their active engagement across diverse fields since the inception of the nation in 1947.

She also said "A concerning trend emerged during the 1980s, as the representation of women gradually diminished. Regrettably, the act of flouting laws has become normal-



izing within the country, undermining societal values. While other nations have successfully utilized social media to raise awareness, the negative exploitation of this platform in Pakistan has diminished its significance."

She added that Tragically, women bear the brunt of cyberbullying on social media, with men, particularly the younger generation, engaging in derogatory behavior. Moreover, the victims of rape are blamed for their choice of clothes, which is highly condemnable societal behavior.

Professor Dr. Tanveer Khalid emphasized that the mistreatment of women on all social levels represents our collective failure as a nation. Regrettably, women are often accorded respect solely based on their societal roles rather than being recognized as equal human beings. To address this issue, it is crucial to incorporate topics related to respect for women into the curriculum at all educational levels.

Qudsia Akbar expressed, "Regrettably, our society remains entrenched in archaic traditional thinking, overshadow-

ing the progress of modern times. Consequently, an intellectual conflict arises between individuals who recognize the significance of contemporary demands and those adhering to backward orthodox social concepts.

Dr. Rizwana Ansari said "It is an unfortunate reality that despite being an Islamic society, it is distressing to observe that women have no safe spaces in society. "While legislation exists on paper, the true measure of success lies in the prompt and effective enforcement of these laws.

Noshaba Khalil Sattar said "This societal malaise has deeply impacted an entire generation, making it exceedingly challenging to change their mindset. It is imperative to foster an understanding among women that they should refrain from distinguishing between their sons and daughters, thus promoting gender equality and unity."

Professor Dr. Hakim Abdul Hanman, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Engr. Syed M. Pervez, Cdre(r) Sadeed Anwar Malik, Dr. Amjad Jaffri, Dr. Abubakar Shaikh and Usman Damohi also spoke on the occasion.

**Chaudhry Khizr met to Sardar Attique**



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

RAWALPINDI: (All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference) Central Chairman of Public Liaison Board Chaudhry Khizr Hayat met with the President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan at his residence Mujahid Manzil Rawalpindi on party and political issues. A detailed discussion was held. In the meeting, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the Muslim Conference is the pioneer of the ideology of Pakistan's accession and the protector of the ideological borders of Pakistan and Kashmir.

He said that the Muslim Conference has guarded the unity of the state and will continue to guard it. The Muslim Conference will highlight the issue of Kashmir in every forum. He said that the people of Kashmir love their motherland dearly and they are embracing death with a smile in the love of the country. What tactics have been resisted and will continue the freedom struggle in the future. The people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are creating an eternal story of sacrifices for Pakistan. He appealed to the international community to take effectiRawalpindi (All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference) Central Chairman of Public Liaison Board Chaudhry Khizr Hayat met with the President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan at his residence Mujahid Manzil Rawalpindi on party and political issues.

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**Financial Woes: AJK Universities Seek Solutions from HEC Chairman**



**Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD: In a crucial meeting held on Thursday, the Vice Chancellors of the five public sector universities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir met with Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The Vice Chancellors expressed their concerns regarding the universities' financial, administrative, and other pressing issues.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellors unanimously conveyed to the Chairman that implementing the recent federal government budget's 30 and 35 percent salary increase for employees would be impractical for the universities. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, acknowledging the challenges faced by the universities, assured the Vice-Chancellors that the HEC is committed to addressing these issues as a priority.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed informed the Vice Chancellors that the allocation for the recurring budget of higher education in the fiscal year 2023-24 amounts to 67 billion rupees, while an additional 70 billion rupees have been allocated for development projects. The recurring grant being provided to HEC by the federal government is 67 billion since 2017 while salaries and allowances have increased almost 100 percent over the past six years. Now it has become nearly impossible for the universities to meet their operational expenses with the current allocation.

Highlighting the financial difficulties faced by universities nationwide, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed mentioned that on the request of HEC, the Baluchistan government has already provided a grant of 4 to 5 billion rupees to support universities in the province. Similar recommendations have been made to the Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments, urging them to address the financial constraints faced by universities in their respective provinces. Moreover, the HEC has appealed to the Punjab government and the Azad Kashmir government to prioritize and allocate resources from their budgets to alleviate the financial burden on universities within their jurisdiction.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasized that provincial governments must utilize their budgets to provide financial assistance to the universities within their jurisdiction, as there are no alternative avenues available since the passage of the constitutional amendment. The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor AJK University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice Chancellor of Mirpur University of Science and Technology, Brigadier (R) Dr. Muhammad Younis Javed, Vice Chancellor of the University of Poonch Rawalkot, Prof. Dr. Zakaria Zakir, and Vice Chancellor of Women University Bagh, Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed.

**Monuments**

ISLAMABAD: A view of the fallen monuments of traditions of different provinces at D-Chowk, as such scenes are seems everywhere after speedy winds during storm last night, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Mega City will transform Gujjar Khan into a new and modern city, CEO Mega City**

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Mega City Gujjar Khan is the most prestigious residential project of GT Road and is approved by Rawalpindi Development Authority.

Development works are going on fast to ensure provision of all modern facilities. Mega City Management also has the Honor of record development in a very short time. This was said by CEO Mega City Sheikh Tayyab Zahid while addressing the event. He added that Gujjar Khan

is a beautiful and suitable city for investment, the dream of development was in everyone's heart.

The foundation of the society had become the important need of the time. The purpose of the foundation of this society was to provide adequate living standards to the people as well as to fulfill all the needs.

It is going to be a good social environment for progressive people where they can enjoy luxurious life.

Sheikh Tayyab said that the society is located in Gujjar

Khan city, from where people can easily access Rawalpindi, Islamabad within few minutes, residents are provided with complete security, electricity supply, personal water supply, roads.

There will be facility of near presence of network, market and shopping malls. Apart from this, parks, mosques, recreational centers and educational institutions will also be built in the society so that people can easily fulfill all the professional and leisure needs of their daily life. The mega city project is

also unique in the sense that there are small plots in easy installments which will fulfill the dream of owning a house for the job seekers, he said, adding that this project will change the history of Gujjar Khan. And in the future, Mega City will emerge as a modern city even from Islamabad, Rawalpindi.

He said that if the government and independent institutions cooperate with the real estate sector, it can be possible to provide a roof for a house to every citizen of Pakistan.

**CEO Pakistan Railways surprise visit in Faisalabad at Railway Station**

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pakistan Railways (RR) Mr. Arshad Islam Khattak made his first surprise visit in Faisalabad at Railway Station after his appointment during the annual inspection.

CEO assured that, Railway journey shall be made an exemplary & extraordinary travelling in Pakistan as well as a safe, sound & luxury to satisfy its passengers in all respect.

The FGIR Ali Muhammad Afridi, DS Lahore Division Muhammad Sufyan Dogar, CME Muhammad Itfikhah, CCM Maryum Gilani, COPS

Naveed Mubashr and other principal officers, Prime Union Central Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry & other divisional and local officers were also present on this gracious occasion. He was accompanied by the railway station, platform, loco shed of the railway station. He inspected the hospital, dispensary and other departments and declared their performance is found satisfactory.

While speaking on this occasion, he said that the top management is very satisfied with the performance of Faisalabad Railway Station & the citizens of Faisalabad should be given every opportunity to facilitate their jour-

ney at any cost. He further elaborated that there would be provided all possible facilities as per expected standard.

He pointed out that, Faisalabad Railway Station's income and regular train operation schedule are the proof of its dutiful performance of the railway employees here, for which the railway administration is proud of its efficiency.

He also Inspected DK departments and performance of loco shed to judge its problems.

DME Rana Muhammad Imran, AME Muhammad Usman Khattak and employees of the shed welcomed with

garlands and petal leaves on his arrival at the locomotive shed. On this occasion Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Railways Mr. Arshad Islam Khattak, FGIR Ali Muhammad Afridi, CME Muhammad Itfikhah Also inaugurating plantation drive by planting saplings in Locoshed.

On this special occasion, Khalid Mahmood Ch. said in his expression that PREM Union of PR will fully coordinate and cooperate even Gay will foil any conspiracy to disrupt the normal services of the Railways & Union will play its role by day and night to satisfy the passengers & the higher authorities, because it is the basic mission of the PREM



Union to work, work & work. He (Khalid) informed Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Railways Arshad Islam Khattak about the concern of the employees over the delay in the salaries of the



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## Arrogance of Captain

Imran Khan's political career has been full of blunders. He never stayed with what he himself said and promised. Here are few examples out of many others where he failed to stay with his sayings and promises;

During the second cabinet meeting, Imran Khan imposed ban on foreign visits of his cabinet members. But, he himself accompanied half a dozen ministers in his each foreign tour. In one of his visit to China, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Asad Umar, Adviser on Commerce and Trade Abdul Razzak Dawood, Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid, Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal and others accompanied the premier. Imran Khan announced that his government would give nationality to Afghan and Bengali citizens. However, later the decision was taken back due to untold reasons. After the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif as prime minister, Imran told the nation that he would not allow any disqualified person to run party's affairs. However, Jahangir Tareen played key role in forming the PTI government in Punjab as he brought many independent candidates on the PTI platform. In fact, Imran Khan made him convenor of a task force for livestock and agriculture. Before coming into the government, Imran Khan used to criticize the political influence in Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) affairs. He promised that he would depoliticise the PCB. However, after coming into power, he nominated his close friend Ehsan Mani for the post of PCB chairman. Imran Khan promised that he would keep his cabinet short and will appoint up to 20 ministers. However, the federal cabinet was almost double than he had promised. Imran Khan, in his first address to the nation promised that he will answer the questions of parliamentarians every week during the parliamentary sessions. However,

despite passage of 100 days, Imran Khan only attended seven out of 28 National Assembly sessions. Imran promised to make Pakistan as 'Riyasat-e-Madina' where everyone will be equal and there will be no concept of VIPs. However, the reality was opposite and practically he done nothing to eliminate VIP culture.

Imran promised that PM, CMs and Governor Houses would be converted into educational institutions. However, not only Imran Khan was shifted to the PM House, but his party's CMs and governors were also shifted into CM and Governor Houses. Imran Khan's Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood issued a controversial statement about CPEC.

Dawood in an interview to Financial Times revealed that the government is planning to review the CPEC projects. However, the adviser ate his words after the criticism on the PTI government. Khan was also critic of Nawaz Sharif for inaugurating different development projects as, he thought, this should have been done by the head of the concerned department. Then public saw him going against his own preaching when he inaugurated Rawalpindi-Mianwali Express the other day. Imran Khan promised that he would never welcome the electables in his party as they blackmail the governments. However, Imran Khan is one of the biggest recipients of electables during 2018 elections. He also justified his decision of welcoming the electables in his party by saying that they know the art of contesting elections. Imran Khan promised he will not include any NAB-tainted person in his party or in his cabinet. However, many leaders including Defence Minister Pervaiz Khattak, Zulfi Bukhari who were facing NAB investigations were also members of federal

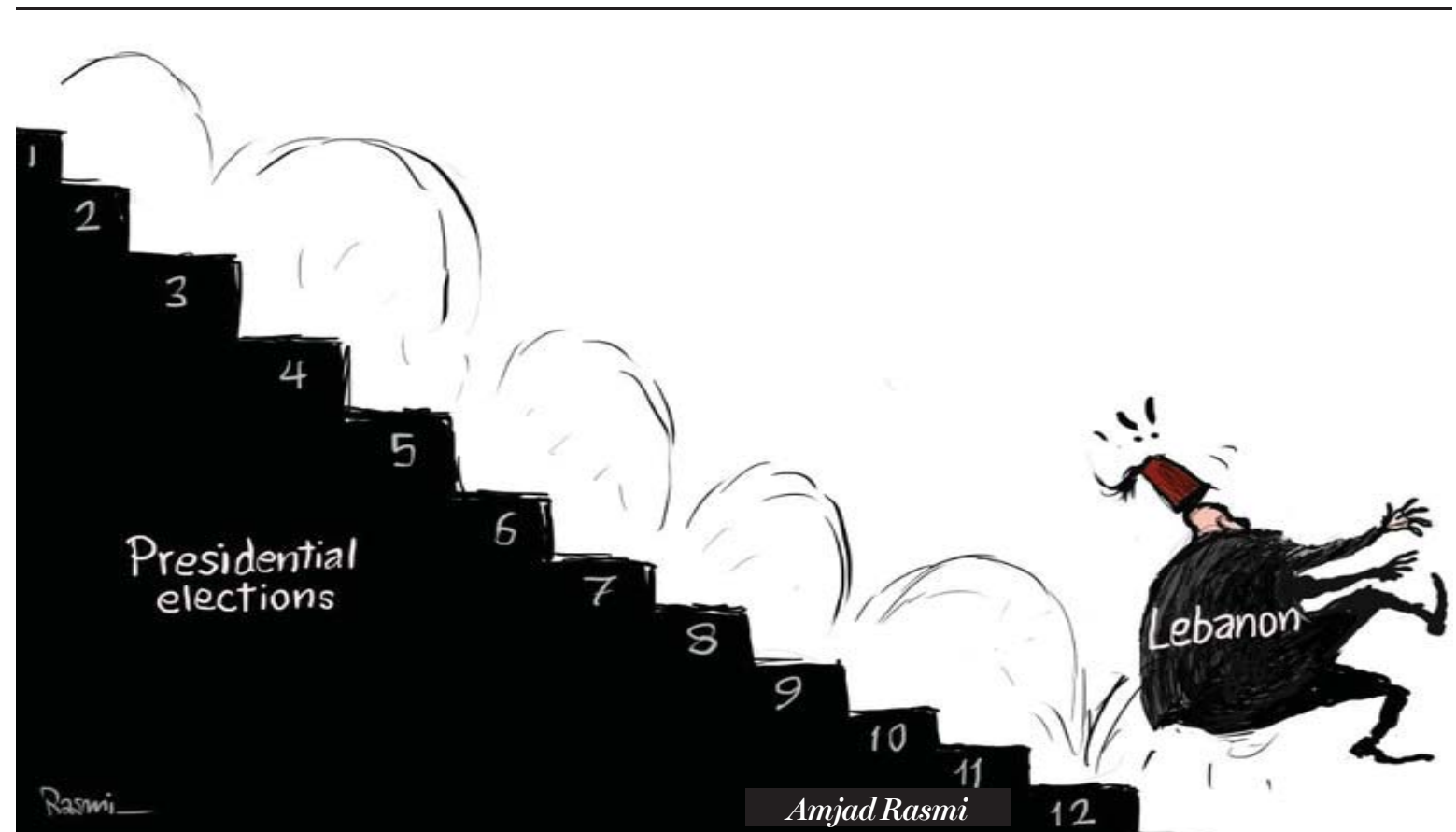
cabinet. Imran Khan used to criticise the previous governments for inducting dual nationals in the key government posts. But Zulfi Bukhari was the prime example in Imran Khan's government who has a dual nationality. Imran Khan promised that the nation would witness an obvious change during his first 100 days in government. However, he later said his government should be given at least six months to judge his performance. Later few ministers of the PTI started claiming that they had never talked about 100 days. "I will not appoint Sheikh Rashid even as my peon," Imran Khan once claimed in a TV talk show long time ago. However, Sheikh Rashid was not only a member of Imran's cabinet but he was one of his key advisers as well. During the first cabinet meeting of Imran Khan-led government, it was decided that the prime minister and his cabinet will not use special plane for their foreign visits. The PM and his cabinet would travel through commercial flights. But Imran Khan used the Airforce One — a special plane for PM in all his foreign tours. Even Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood used a chartered plane for his visit to Afghanistan.

Imran Khan used to criticise his political opponents for nepotism. He always promised that he will appoint eligible persons on key posts as he is against nepotism. However, all his close friends including Zulfi Bukhari, Naemul Haq, Awn Chaudhry were given roles in his government. Imran Khan promised the nation that he will not tolerate political interference in police and will bring reforms in Punjab Police. He promised that he will appoint Nasir Durrani — former IGP KP as head of the police reforms committee. However, after the

incident of DPO Pakpattan, Durrani resigned as head of the committee in protest against political interference in the police department. "I will not take corrupt people in my team," Imran promised the nation before general elections. However, many key members of his provincial and federal cabinets were facing NAB cases including Pervaiz Khattak, Aleem Khan and Zulfi Bukhari. "I will prefer committing suicide instead of begging from the IMF," Imran promised to the nation before the elections. However, he not only given a go-ahead to his finance minister for availing a bailout package from the IMF, but he himself also approached other countries for financial aid to take Pakistan out of economic crisis. Fakhar Durrani gave very comprehensive comparison of Khan's lies in his article.

Readers, then come to another point. Political Parties of Pakistan have seen many bad times. Liqat Ali Khan was killed, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was hanged, Zia Ul Haq's plane was crashed and Benazir Bhutto was assassinated but their political heirs and followers never took law in their hands. I am big critic of Asif Ali Zardari but his worst enemies say that he saved Pakistan by raising the slogan of "Pakistan Khappay." On the other side what Khan, his party's leaders and followers done is not hidden. They attacked the defenders of the country who sacrifice their lives and rest for ensuring our security.

Imran Khan's arrogance remained on peak during his government. He targeted and victimized his political opponents via policing and NAB cases. He refused to sit and shake hand with opposition. Media was also targeted during his times. The point for the people is to understand what is a single reason to follow and trust him? Nation doesn't stand with the one who attacked the real defenders of the country just for personal political interests.



Amjad Rasmi

## Heartiest Repentance Way out Vs Biporjoy Cyclon - II

those they want (31). Extinguish the light of Allah from your mouths. Allah will not remain without fulfilling His light, and even if the disbelievers disapprove (32). He has sent His Messenger with guidance and the true religion so that all may follow it. (33) O believers! Many scholars and poor people eat people's wealth unjustly and prevent them from the path of Allah, and those who collect gold and silver and do not spend it in the path of Allah. On the day they will be heated in the fire of Hell, then their foreheads and sides and backs will be burned with it. This is what you collected for yourselves, so taste what you used to collect. (35) Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve months in the Book of Allah, from the day Allah created the earth and the heavens. Four of them are honorable, this is the straight religion, so do not oppress yourselves among them, and fight all of you with the polytheists as they do. All fight against you, and know that Allah is with the pious (36) This removal of months is disbelief and progress, but they fall into error. They keep it haram so that they complete the counting of the twelve months that Allah has honored, then they make it halal. The evil deeds of those whom Allah has forbidden appear good to them, and Allah does not guide the unbelievers (37). Have you left the hereafter and become happy with the life of this world? The benefit of this life is for the hereafter. There is very little in the contest (38) If you do not come out, then Allah will afflict you with a painful punishment and will create other people in your place and you will not be able to harm him, and Allah is Able to do all things. (39) If you do not help the Messenger, then Allah has helped him

at the time when he was driven out by the disbelievers that he should give. The second of me was when they were both in the cave, when he was saying to his companion, "Do not be sad; indeed, Allah is with us." Then Allah sent down peace on him from His side and sent to his aid the armies that you have not seen. And lowered the speech of the disbelievers, and the speech of Allah is exalted, and Allah is Mighty (and) Wise (40) Whether you are light or heavy, go out and fight in the way of Allah with your wealth and lives. This is better for you if you understand. They would have been with you, but they saw that the distance was long and now they will swear by Allah that if it is possible for us, we will be yours (42) Allah has forgiven you, why did you let them go until the truth would have been revealed to you and you would have known the liars (42) 43) Those who believe in Allah and the Last Day do not ask you for leave except to spend their wealth. And fight against souls, and Allah knows best the pious (44) Those who ask you for leave are those who do not believe in Allah and the Last Day, and their hearts are in doubt, so they wander in their doubt. (45) And if they wanted to leave, they would have prepared some equipment for it, but Allah prevented their rising. He did not like it, so he stopped them and it was ordered that you should sit with those who were sitting (46). There are also spies and Allah knows the wrongdoers well (47). They have been turning things upside down for you until the truth

came and Allah's command prevailed and they remained unhappy (48) and some of them say: Give me permission and do not put me into temptation, beware! They have fallen into temptation, and Hell will cover the unbelievers (49). (50) Say: Nothing will happen to us except that which Allah has given us. Therefore, it is written that He is our doer, and in Allah alone should the believers put their trust (51). May some punishment come upon you or by our hands, wait for us, we wait with you (52) Say whether you spend willingly or unwillingly, it will never be accepted from you. Verily, you are disobedient people (53) and nothing prevents them from accepting their spending except because they have disbelieved in Allah and His Messenger and are slow in coming to the prayer and spend unhappily (54) So they do not be surprised by wealth and children, Allah wants to punish them in the life of this world because of these things, and their souls will die in a state of disbelief (55) And I swear by Allah that they will surely be among you. Although they are not of you, they fear (56) if they find a place of refuge or a place of refuge. (57) And some of them are those who ask for alms and taunt you, so if they get it, they are satisfied, and if they do not get it, they immediately become angry. (58) And what would be better if they were satisfied with what Allah and His Messenger have given them and say Allah is sufficient for us, He will provide us with His bounty, and we are His messengers who attract to Allah (59). It has been

ordained by Allah to pay off the debt of debtors and in the way of Allah and for the traveler And Allah is All-Knowing, Wise (60) And some of them harassed the Prophet and said that this person has no ear. Say: That ear is for your good. He believes in this, and there is mercy for those who believe among you and those who hurt the Messenger of Allah (61) They swear by Allah in front of you to please you, and to please Allah and His Messenger is very important if they believe (62) Do they not know? Whoever resists Allah and His Messenger, for him is the Fire of Hell, and it will remain in him forever. (63) The hypocrites fear that a surah will be revealed to the Muslims that will reveal to them what is in the hearts of the hypocrites. (64) And if you ask them, they will say that we were just talking and entertaining. And you used to laugh at His verses and His Messenger (65). Do not make excuses. After believing, you disbelieved. Because they have been committing sins (66) Hypocrite men and hypocrite women are of the same gender, commanding evil deeds and good deeds. They forbid them from doing things and keep their rests closed. They have forgotten Allah. May Allah forget them. Verily, the hypocrites are the disobedient ones. (67) Allah has promised the hypocrite men and hypocrite women and the disbelievers the Fire of Hell. That alone is enough for them, and Allah has cursed them and for them is eternal punishment (68) Just as the people before you were greater than you in strength and in wealth and children, then they benefited from their share and you benefited from your share, just as those before you benefited from their share. They are the people whose deeds have been lost in this world

and the hereafter And they are the losers. (69) Did they not hear about those who were before them, the people of Noah, and Ad, and Thamud, and the people of Abraham, and the people of Midian, and the news of the towns that were turned over to them? Their messengers came with clear commands, so Allah was not like that who oppresses them, but he oppresses himself (70) And believing men and believing women help each other, enjoining good and forbidding evil, and establishing prayer and giving alms, and obeying Allah and His Messenger. There are people on whom Allah will have mercy. Verily, Allah is Wise. (71) He has promised the believing men and the believing women Gardens under which rivers flow, therein will be dwellers forever, and in good houses and gardens of eternity, and the pleasure of Allah is the greatest of them, that is the great achievement. (72) O Prophet! Fight the disbelievers and the hypocrites and be strict with them and their abode will be Hell. And that is an evil place (73) They swear by Allah that We did not say, and indeed they said the word of disbelief, and after becoming Muslims they became disbelievers, and they intended for something that they could not achieve, and all this. It was a reward for this that Allah and His Messenger have made them rich with His grace, so if they repent if they do, it is better for them, and if they turn away, Allah will punish them with a painful punishment in this world and the Hereafter; and they will not find a friend or a helper on earth (74) and some of them are those who had made a promise to Allah that if He gives us His grace, we will certainly do charity and among the righteous.

To be continued



# Pakistan and Russia sign MoU on exchange of statistical data between Customs

News Desk

SAINT PETERSBURG: Pakistan and Russia today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan Customs and The Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade, at the sidelines of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum here today.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation HE Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan signed the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Customs while Secretary Commerce Mr. Muhammad Saleh Farooqi witnessed the signing ceremony.



In order to implement this Memorandum, the Parties will cooperate in the sphere of exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, its significant changes, as well as the exchange of statistical data on mutual trade, except data, not subject to disclosure or constituting a state or commercial secret.

The purposes of the exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, as well as the exchange of statistical data defined in this Memorandum, will be to provide both Parties with the necessary information on mutual trade.

# IRC, Child Protection and Welfare Bureau to strengthen Child Protection mechanisms in Punjab

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In order to collaborate on child protection initiatives across the province of Punjab, The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB), Government of Punjab, have signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU).

The LOU was signed by Mr. Waqas Dar, Acting Country Director of IRC, and Ms. Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson, the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau, in attendance were the representatives of IRC & CPWB.

Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson of CPWB, Government of Punjab, speaking on this occasion opined "Children are the future of our nation, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure their safety, well-being, and access to quality services. This collaboration will pave way for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by vulnerable children and their families, ultimately leading to a brighter and more secure future for them."



Speaking at the ceremony, Waqas Dar, Acting Country Director IRC, stated, "IRC is delighted to join hands with CPWB, Government of Punjab, in our shared commitment to protect children facing vulnerabilities. Through this collaboration, we aim to make a significant difference in their lives and create lasting change in Punjab."

The signing of this LOU marks an important milestone in the efforts of IRC and CPWB to strengthen child protection mechanisms and extend vital services to those in need. Through the combined expertise, resources, and commitment of both organizations, the collaboration is expected to have a transformative impact on the lives of children in Punjab.

# FINCA becomes Pakistan's 1st Microfinance Bank to provide sign language services

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: FINCA Microfinance Bank Limited (FMBL) is proud to announce a strategic partnership with ConnectHear, an innovative organization that specializes in providing virtual interpretation services to public and private institutions to enable communication and facilitation for individuals with hearing impairment.

The collaboration was announced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations. Mr. Shahzad Sadiq, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of FMBL along with his key management team and Ms. Azima Dhanjee, CEO & Co-Founder of ConnectHear were present at the occasion.

# Man using hands-free on railway track crushed to death

Raza naqvi

ATTOCK: A teenage boy was walking on railway track with his hands-free device plugged into his ears was knocked to death by a passenger train in Awan Sharif area in the limits of Attock Police station on Thursday, police and rescue 1122 sources said. Police while quoting eye witnesses have said that 18 years old Faisal Afridi was walking on railway track with his hands-free device plugged into his ears when a Multan bound passenger train coming from Rawalpindi knocked him though the train honked the horn several time, he did not notice it. Later his body was handed over for burial after fulfilling legal requirements.

Separately a business man was shot dead in target killing case in the Kamra in the limits of Hazro Police station of Attock. Police sources said that Shiekh Muhammad Niaz who was also an activist of Dawat Islami was going towards his house when unknown assailants showered bullets over him resultantly he died on the spot.

# District administration arranged 'Khuli Khachari' at Angoor Adda



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Nasir Khan held a "Khuli Khachari" in Angoor Adda, tehsil birmal near Pak-Afghan border of Lower South Waziristan and heard the problems of the people.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (F&P) Kashmir Khan, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi and heads of all line departments were present with him on this occasion.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower listened to the problems of the people and solved some problems on the spot, while other problems were directed to be solved by the heads of the concerned departments and orders were issued to the officers to take quick steps to solve their problems.

Further, Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower also inaugurated a free shelter home for travelers with the support of the Social Welfare Department at Angoor Adda, Where people will be provided with free accommodation and food, the Deputy Commissioner while addressing the public in an "Khuli Khachari" on the Pak-Afghan border, hat the local administration and all departments are engaged in serving the people and providing facilities to them, our effort will be to provide all the facilities of life to the people living on the Pak-Afghan border, because the people here who are left behind in the field of development, to put them on the track of development, the purpose of my open court today is to make the people aware of the problems here and to make the government aware of these problems and take practical steps.

# We make Pakistan a polio-free country Coordinator Tariq Habib



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Don't connect your demands with children's lives help eradicate this disease by giving two drops of polio vaccine to your children in every polio campaign. So Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries in the world where, unfortunately, the polio virus is still present in these two countries, the most dangerous areas in Pakistan at the moment are the areas adjacent to the Pak-Afghan border where millions of children are facing the risk of polio virus.

We all have to play our part to make Pakistan a polio free country so that we can reach 100% children in future polio campaigns and hundreds of countries in the world have completely eradicated polio from their countries.

These views were expressed by Tariq Habib Coordinator South Region and Dr. Tufail Sherani EPI Coordinator Tank while giving a one-day briefing to the journalists and social media activists of District Tank and South Waziristan Upper held at Deputy Commissioner Office.

Dr Tahir Afridi, Asrar Alam District Health Communication Officer, Nair Zaman Data Support Officer, Dr Tufail Sherani EPI Coordinator along with Additional Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner and Deputy District Health Officer Tank were also present on this occasion.

Tariq Habib and Dr. Tufail Sherani told the participants that if we gave importance to routine vaccinations and immunization, when would we have eradicated polio from the country, can also save the eyes of the world are currently on us because the polio virus is also present here and three new cases of polio have been reported in Afghanistan and one in Pakistan.

# Government focus is to curb powerful tax evaders: Ayaz Sadiq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, federal minister for economic affairs stated that domestic industry and employment generation suffers while Pakistan's dependency on foreign goods ultimately increases due to smuggling and this has been creating a never-ending vicious cycle.

Addressing the briefing session by IPSOS for parliamentarians regarding tax evasion in five sectors of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that it is alarming to see huge tax evasion in 5 sectors, predominantly led by tax evasion in real estate and tobacco. Estimates reveal that the total annualized tax potential of tobacco industry in FY-2023-24 would be more than Rs 500 billion but more than 50% of this is stolen by a very powerful illicit tobacco sector, he added.

The economy will start improving and we will be seen as a business-friendly nation only once we work towards driving a level playing field for fair market competition. Tax harmonization is important for business growth, he further stated.

Qamar Zaman Kaira, advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir affairs & GB said that Pakistan is losing one trillion rupees in tax evasion every year while Pakistan can avoid foreign funding support if tax leakages are controlled through the stringent enforcement of laws and brining the black economy in tax net.

Kaira further mentioned that the highest tax evasion is in only two sectors, namely real estate, and tobacco, close to 750 billion rupees. Illegal trade is not only a threat to legitimate businesses in the country, but also the sovereignty of our country and the employment and livelihoods of our people.

He further said that we need to focus on increasing exports and decrease the imports. Unfortunately wheat and fertilizers also being smuggled out of Pakistan and these mafia are more influential than expectations, he added.

Abdul Sattar Babar, CEO of IPSOS briefed the parliamentarians regarding the latest study on tax evasion in five sectors including real estate, tobacco, tyres and auto lubricants, pharmaceuticals and tea has reached Rs956bn. Estimated tax evasion in real estate sector is Rs500 billion annually while the tax evasion in Tobacco sector touching 240 billion. Loss due to tax evasion in Tyres and auto lubricants contributing 106 billion and pharma industry tax losses reaching Rs 65 billion annually. Rs 45 billion annual tax loss recorded in tea sector.

# Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Amir Muqam cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the 'Saqafati Mela' (Cultural Festival) at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# 'De-risking' should target real Western risks

Xinhua

BEIJING: A few developed countries led by the United States replaced "decoupling" with "de-risking" to target China, but it is just old wine in a new bottle, and there is little difference in what they intend to do. An objective analysis will prove that their so-called "de-risking" proposition is illogical and unfeasible.

Risks should be detected first when it comes to "de-risking." Many realistic and urgent threats to peace, prosperity, and the welfare of humanity derive from those countries that preach the anti-China rhetoric. And it is these real risks that need to be removed.

Not to mention the terrible consequences of Western military invasions in countries such as Iraq and in the past decades, certain powers' frequent provocative military show-offs at the doorstep of others but thousands of miles away from their lands pose severe risks to the world. Last year alone, the United States sent aircraft carrier strike groups to the South China Sea and nearby areas multiple times, and its large reconnaissance aircraft conducted over 800 close-in



flights to spy on China.

The trilateral AUKUS security partnership of the United States, Britain and Australia and related nuclear submarine cooperation create nuclear proliferation risks and may turn the region into an arena for an arms race. Such a dangerous move has raised strong concerns among regional countries. The support and connivance of foreign forces for "Taiwan independence" separatists endanger peace

and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Western politicians should reflect on themselves and stop their irresponsible acts that threaten regional and world peace.

From an economic perspective, so-called "de-risking" means de-globalization. Certain countries have claimed they would limit trade and investment with China. Since entering the World Trade Organization in 2001, China's economy has extensively integrated itself with the global economy. With the development of international industrial divisions, no country can maintain supremacy in all sectors and produce all goods alone. The United States has repeatedly resorted to the use of government power to suppress Huawei and other Chinese tech firms. The acts of politicizing trade and sci-tech issues and overstretching the concept of national security to suppress companies of other countries destabilize global industrial and supply chains.

As a master of economic coercion, the United States has also openly coerced the EU and some countries into restricting the export of semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China. Such acts of tech bullying severely hinder the development of the semiconductor sector and undermine multilateral trade rules and the global economic order. Even worse, Washington has long used its dollar hegemony, shifted crises, and spread U. S. inflation to other parts of the world, worsening economic woes in some developing countries and seriously holding back global recovery. Those are the big risks that need to be addressed.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,369.16	41,514.44
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,639.33	41,269.12
Index Value	Change
2,556,629,796	-145.28
Percentage	Time
-0.35%	15 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,628.26	+25.52
Percentage	Time
+0.34%	15 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,347.61	+368.28
Percentage	Time
+1.08%	15 Jun, 2:09 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,485.49	-16.93
Percentage	Time
-0.051%	15 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	763.63	771.63
Canadian Dollar	226	228
China Yuan	40.17	40.57
Danish Krone	41.83	42.23
Euro	315	318
Hong Kong Dollar	36.34	36.69
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2	2.08
Kuwaiti Dinar	934.93	943.93
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	178.97	180.97
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	745.79	753.79
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	77.7	78.5
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	319.96	322.46
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	80.8	81.5
UK Pound Sterling	365	368
US Dollar	291.5	294.5

# Introduction of Stem Boring Weevils is a Groundbreaking Advancement for Organic Agriculture in Pakistan: Chairman PARC

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Islamabad, in collaboration with CABI, has taken a significant step in combating the parthenium weed, which poses various risks to biodiversity, human and animal health, as well as food security in Pakistan. This invasive species, also known as 'famine weed,' not only triggers life-threatening allergic reactions but also serves as a habitat for malaria-carrying mosquitoes while displacing native plant species. To address this issue, a sustainable approach to managing the parthenium weed has been introduced through the release of 500 stem boring weevils (*Listronotus setosipennis*) at the NARC. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), graced the event as the chief guest, alongside distinguished guests including Dr. Babar Bajwa, CABI's Senior Regional Director for Asia, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, a member of the PSD PARC, and Dr. Shehzad Asad, Deputy DG NARC,



who were present at the release ceremony.

In his Opening Remarks, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, emphasized often-overlooked contributions of researchers and emphasized the importance of recog-

nizing their diligent efforts in developing new crop varieties and environmentally friendly solutions. As the use of pesticides to combat the threat of parthenium continues to rise and pose a significant risk to the organic agricultural

industry, the introduction of stem boring weevil is a groundbreaking advancement in ensuring organic agriculture in Pakistan.

Dr. Babar Ehsan Bajwa, CABI's Senior Regional Director for Asia, revealed that CABI has been actively collaborating with Pakistan since 1957, which marked the establishment of the initial agricultural research station. PARC, representing the Government of Pakistan, has been working closely with CABI in pursuit of shared goals. Notably, a nature-friendly solution has been discovered to tackle the parthenium problem, taking into account the ecological balance of the environment.

Towards the end of the press briefing, 500 Stem Boring Weevils were released at NARC to combat parthenium and to further investigate the effectiveness Weevils in the fields. The eradication of parthenium rosettes and mature plants can be accomplished through the activity of larvae that feed on the plant stems. These larvae play a vital role in effectively destroying the parthenium infestation, contributing to the overall control of this invasive weed.

## Statement of Understanding

BAKU: Pakistan's Minister of Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Azerbaijan's Minister of Economy Mikail Jabarov signed the Statement of Understanding on cooperation in the field of trade.



Photo: Online

## Long-term policies are indispensable to make Pakistan an economic power, Ashfaq Tola



**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of state for finance and Adviser to Prime Minister on Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission Ashfaq Yusuf Tola has said that correct and long-term policies are indispensable to make Pakistan an economic power. We have to bring a transparent self-accountability system, the reports of the country going bankrupt are completely baseless Pakistan is definitely suffering from problems, but we will come out of them soon. He expressed these views yesterday while addressing the post-budget session held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

When Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar returned from London, the dollar fell

from 238 to 212 rupees in four days. Dollar hoarders felt that it would come down to its original value, so they started selling it. He said that 127,000 people are paying 90% tax, people in Pakistan do not file tax returns. So we have to increase this tax net. The government has to pay more than 400 billion due to one percent policy rate increase. How can the economy and the country be run on this policy rate for a long time? He said that the news of the country's bankruptcy is completely baseless, but these are difficult times, but we will come out of these difficult situations soon.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice President Fadi Waheed said that the Pakistani economy lost billions of dollars due to floods.

## We are bringing Pakistan and Ghana closer: Omar Shahid Butt

**Commerce desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) hosted a high-powered business delegation from Pakistan to discuss investment and export opportunities in Ghana.

In a meeting held at the Africa Trade House in Accra, the 8-member delegation, comprising leading businessmen from Pakistan, was encouraged to invest in Ghana by partnering with local companies.

The Pakistani delegation was told that West Africa is a very lucrative market that is attracting investment from all over the world, and Pakistan should not miss the boat.

On the occasion, Pakistani Vice Consul to Ghana Omar



Shahid Butt said that Pakistan sees Ghana as an ideal destination for businesses aiming to do business in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.

He said that many Pakistanis are already engaged in business in Ghana; the delegation

representing various sectors with interests like ICT, sports, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, lubricants, garments, and textiles has made some deals; and they are very serious about promoting trade ties with Ghana.

He said that we are trying

our best to bring both the countries together through enhanced trade ties.

Deputy CEO of GEPA, Albert Kassim Diwura, assured the businesspersons of full support, saying that Ghana is open to all businessmen and that we are committed to supporting companies.

He said that encouraging investment in NTEs falls in line with the implementation of Ghana's National Export Development Strategy, an initiative to increase non-traditional exports from \$3.33 billion to \$25.30 billion by 2029.

Mr. Diwura also urged foreign firms to take advantage of joint ventures and partnerships with Ghanaian companies to boost their businesses.

## Government is trying to take Pakistan in the right direction, Bilawal Bhutto

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan People Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the current government is trying to take Pakistan in the right direction in the economic field. It will take time for us to recover from the economic disaster of the past. All the attention of the coalition government is focused on getting Pakistan out of the current economic problems. The business community should play a central role in the formulation of economic policies. People's Party has inherited the representation of the moneyed sections of the country.

He expressed these views yesterday while talking to the delegation of the business community, The dele-

gation met Chairman United Group Shahzad Ali Malik at his residence. On this occasion, UBG Patron Chief Provincial Minister Punjab SM Tanveer, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtavari, former President of FPCCI Daru Khan, were also present. Chairman People's Party said that the business community always trusted the People's Party. He said that connectivity with regional countries is the manifesto of PP, barter trade with other neighboring countries including Iran will bring positive results.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman United Business Group Shahzad Ali Malik said that Pakistan's economic problems and their solutions are not hidden from anyone. We hope that all other political parties, including the People's Party, will pay attention



to political stability, we need to bring continuity in the policies, the People's Party has the most important role in the country's politics, we hope the involvement of the business community in the formulation of policies will be ensured.

Patron General UBG and Provincial Minister Punjab SM Tanveer said that the most important thing at this time is to continue the development

of the country's industry, increase exports and stabilize the country's economic situation.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtavari said on this occasion that although diplomacy is the first line of defense but Now diplomacy has a fundamental role in the economic development of nations. Pakistan should also move towards economic diplomacy instead

of political diplomacy because after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the nations that have developed have shifted their diplomacy to economics rather than politics.

Former FPCCI President Abdul Rauf Alam, Lahore Chamber President Kashif Anwar, Khyber Chamber President Jawad Kazmi, Sargodha, Sheikhpura, Larkana and Rahim Yar Khan Chamber Group Leaders Aamir Atta Bajwa, Manzoor Malik, Mumtaz Ali Sheikh were present in the meeting. And Rauf Mukhtar, President of Pakistan Business Forum Momin Malik, businessman leader Rehman Chan, Dr. Nauman Butt, Saadat Shah, Sohail Malik, Isfandyar Mandukhel, Muhammad Shafiq, Malik Jahangir and Aziz Rehman Chan Pir Nazim Hussain Shah were also present.

## Budget to spur development despite difficulties



**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hanif Mughal, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday lauded the federal budget which has been designed to achieve growth amid formidable challenges.

The growth target is set at 3.5 percent with the total expenditure set to be 53 percent higher than last year. The minimum wage has been raised from Rs25,000 to Rs30,000. Federal salaries and pensions received a 25 to 35 percent hike and financing for the BISP was increased by 12.5 percent, he said.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the masses and the business community are pinning high hopes on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar who will steer the economy out of its problems.

He said that various initiatives have been announced in the budget for economic development, with the promotion of agriculture, IT, and the SME sector as priorities.

The initiatives will boost the rural economy, which employs sixty percent of the labour force and has a sixty percent share in exports, he added.

Conversion of 50,000 agriculture tube wells to solar energy would not only reduce the input cost for the farmers, but also help reduce demand for electricity and diesel.

PM's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, discounted credit facilities for farmers, and an increase in the agriculture credit target to Rs 2250 billion were some other measures aimed at providing capital to the agriculture sector.

Tax and duty exemptions on combined harvesters, rice planters, seeders, and dryers, and the import of certified seeds and saplings; as well as a five-year tax exemption for agriculture based industries in rural areas, would help increase output and reduce losses.



# Najam Sethi thanks ACC for accepting hybrid model for Asia Cup 2023

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Najam Sethi, Chair of the PCB Management Committee, has thanked the Asian Cricket Council for accepting his hybrid model for the ACC Asia Cup 2023, which is now scheduled from 31 August to 17 September.

This will be the first time since 2008 that matches of a multi-nation cricket tournament will be staged in Pakistan. Fifteen years ago, Pakistan had successfully delivered the six-team ACC Asia Cup 50-over tournament.

Najam Sethi: I am elated that our hybrid version for the ACC Asia Cup 2023 has been accepted. This means the PCB will remain as the event host and stage matches in Pakistan with Sri Lanka as the neutral venue, which was required due to the Indian cricket team's inability to travel to Pakistan.

Our passionate fans would have loved to see the India cricket team in action in Pakistan for the first time in 15 years, but we understand the BCCI's position. Like the PCB, the BCCI also requires government approval and clearance before crossing borders.



In this background, the hybrid model was the best solution and that's precisely why I advocated for it so strongly. The acceptance of the hybrid model means the event will take place as originally planned, the ACC will stay together and united, and the great game of cricket will continue to thrive and move forward in

what will be interesting and exciting times for the subcontinent cricket fans in the coming 20 months.

In the past 15 months, the PCB has delivered high-profile bilateral series as well as two immensely successful HBL Pakistan Super League events in which some of the world's leading cricketers

participated and enjoyed Pakistan's outstanding arrangements and unprecedented hospitality. We look forward to providing similar experience to the participating sides in the ACC Asia Cup, which will be a prelude to the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February/March 2025.

I now look forward to continuing our discussions and deliberations with the ACC and Sri Lanka Cricket to iron out a few minor operational and logistical details so that we can launch our event planning and preparations.

I want to assure the ACC, its commercial partners, participating countries, and the cricket fans in Pakistan and Sri Lanka that the PCB, as event hosts, will not leave any stone unturned in the successful delivery of the event that is so very critical to the sides featuring in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in October/November in India.

I appreciate the efforts of ACC President Jay Shah to strengthen the council so that we can collectively continue to protect each other's interests and also provide opportunities and platforms to emerging Asian nations."

## Women Cricketer Nahida Khan retires from international Cricket

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Nahida Khan has announced her retirement from international cricket 14 years after making her ODI debut in Bogra, Bangladesh against Sri Lanka on 7 February 2009.

Nahida became the only female cricketer from Balochistan to represent Pakistan as she represented the national women's team in 120 international matches, scoring 2,014 runs and taking one wicket. She holds the record for the most catches in an ODI innings, taking four catches in Pakistan's 94-run win



over Sri Lanka in Dambulla in 2018.

She also represented Pakistan in three 50-over World Cups (2013, 2017 and 2022) and in four T20 World Cups (2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018)

Nahida has also made a foray into the field of coaching, having recently worked as the assistant coach of Blasters in the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament held in Karachi. Previously, she deputised head coach Taufiq Umar's Amazons side, which won the Women's League exhibition matches 2-1 against Super Women in March.

Reflecting on her retirement, Nahida Khan said I am grateful to the unwavering support I received throughout my career. I want to thank my family, teammates, coaches, and the Pakistan Cricket Board for their guidance and belief

in my abilities. I also want to thank the passionate fans who supported throughout my journey, both in Pakistan and across the globe."

Head of Women's Cricket, Tania Mallick said: "Nahida Khan's contribution to women's cricket in Pakistan will be remembered. Her dedication, skill, and constant determination have left an indelible mark on the game, inspiring generations of cricketers to follow their dreams and pursue greatness.

As Nahida embarks on the next chapter of her life, the cricketing fraternity, fans, and well-wishers extend their warmest wishes."

## Punjab Classical Chess Championship kicks off today

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Chess Association of Punjab is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Punjab Classical Chess Championship 2023, a FIDE Rated event with the collaboration of Chess Federation of Pakistan, set to take place from June 16th to 18th at the Old Auditorium, University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore.

All affiliated district chess associations have been invited to participate, with players competing based on their allocated quotas. This ensures fair and inclusive representation from all districts.

In addition to the district quota players, the Chess Association of Punjab welcomes players registered with the Chess Federation of Pakistan, hailing from Punjab, to participate in the Open Category.

## Jubilee Life Insurance Sends-Off Pakistan Contingent to Special Olympics World Games at Berlin

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, proudly supported the send-off event for the Special Olympics Pakistan contingent participating in the prestigious Special Olympics World Games, Berlin, 2023. The reception, organized and hosted by Ronak Lakhani, Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, was held in Karachi to honor the athletes and showcase the spirit of inclusivity.

Jubilee Life Insurance recognizes the importance of promoting sports and embracing diversity across all segments of society. As a responsible corporate social entity, Jubilee Life Insurance is committed to supporting initiatives that foster inclusivity and provide equal opportunities for special individuals.

Farhan Akhtar Faridi, Group Head-Retail Operations, Marketing and Administration, Jubilee Life Insurance, expressed his enthusiasm about supporting the Special Olympics Pakistan contingent, "At Jubilee Life Insurance,



we firmly believe in the power of sports to bring people together and include everyone from different segments of the society. It is an honor for us to contribute to the success of the Special Olympics Pakistan team, and we wish them the very best in their endeavors at the Special Olympics World Games."

The send-off reception brought together a diverse gathering of athletes, coaches, parents of the participants, Special Olympics Pakistan's Brand Ambassador, Yasmin Haider,

renowned actress Sarwat Gilani, and other esteemed dignitaries. The event served as a platform to celebrate the exceptional achievements of the Special Olympics Pakistan contingent, who will be representing the nation with pride at the Special Olympics World Games.

The Special Olympics World Games, scheduled from June 17 to 25, is a remarkable international event that showcases the extraordinary talents and abilities of athletes with intellectual disabilities. Pakistan is sending a strong

contingent comprising 87 athletes and 30 coaches, who have undergone rigorous training and demonstrated exceptional skills to secure their place in this prestigious competition.

Jubilee Life Insurance remains dedicated to its vision of serving the community and creating a positive impact on society. Through its support of different initiatives, the company continues to demonstrate its commitment to building a more inclusive and accepting society.

## Zakir, Najmul fifties give Bangladesh huge lead over Afghanistan

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Zakir Hasan and Najmul Hossain both hit unbeaten half-centuries to guide Bangladesh to 134-1 in their second innings and consolidate the hosts' control in their one-off Test against Afghanistan in Dhaka on Thursday.

Bangladesh decided against enforcing the follow-on despite taking a 236-run lead in the first innings and were up by 370 against Afghanistan at stumps on the second day, with Zakir and Najmul unbeaten on 54 apiece.

The pair added 116 runs in their unbroken second-wicket stand with Mahmudul Hasan (17) the only batsman so far dismissed in the second innings.

Ebadot Hossain returned figures of 4-47 with Bangladesh needing just three overs after tea

to wrap up the Afghan innings, with the tourists bowled out for just 146.

Spinners Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Tajjul Islam dismissed the final two batsmen, ending with two wickets apiece.

"This is the first time I have seen such a wicket in Bangladesh. We are fortunate to play with three fast bowlers on this kind of pitch," said Ebadot.

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott all but conceded the match but said his side still had the chance to keep their pride intact.

"Obviously, the way the pitch is playing as well, it's gonna be tough," he said.

"You've just got to fight to put up as strong a performance as possible with a bit of pride and show a bit of character."

Ebadot and Shoriful Islam reduced Afghanistan to 51-4

shortly after the lunch break, before Nasir Jamal and Afsar Zazai put up some resistance with a 65-run fifth-wicket stand.

Mehidy broke the partnership by trapping Jamal lbw for 35 and Ebadot soon dismissed Afsar for 36 to expose Afghanistan's tail.

Bangladesh resumed their first innings at 362-5 but were all out for 382 early in the morning as the hosts lost their last five wickets for just nine runs.

Nijat Masood claimed 5-79 on debut for Afghanistan, while pacer Yamin Ahmadzai finished with 2-39.

But Afghanistan then lost three wickets in quick succession to spoil their storming start to the day.

Ibrahim Zadran nicked Shoriful and was out for six, while fellow opener Abdul Malik made 17 before falling to Ebadot, Zakir

taking a sharp low catch at third slip.

Rahmat Shah was next to fall after he holed out to Taskin Ahmed at midwicket off Ebadot for nine.

Afghan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi departed for nine after the break.

The hosts had shown some positive intent to build on their overnight total before their sudden collapse.

Mehidy was unbeaten overnight but flashed a catch to Amir Hamza at gully off Yamin to end his promising innings at 48.

Mushfiqur Rahim (47) and Tajjul Islam (0) followed Mehidy in the next over from Nijat, before Yamin dismissed Taskin for two. Nijat then bowled Shoriful to wrap up the Bangladesh innings in unexpectedly swift style.

Afghanistan won the only



other Test against Bangladesh when they beat the home side by 224 runs at Chittagong in 2019.



NBP leadership met PCB management at NCA to express keen interest in 2023-24 domestic cricket season and assured cooperation

## Pak special athletes visit historic places in Berlin, Germany



Sports Desk

BERLIN (GERMANY): The Pakistani contingent participating in the Special Olympic World Games was taken on a tour by the organizing committee of the Games in Berlin to visit various historical places.

Special children went to the Wall of Berlin, the German Parliament, the Future Museum, the main railway station, Berlin's largest central park, and a school for special children.

The special children were made aware of the historical background of the Wall of Berlin I, which was built in 1961 and demolished in 1990.

Pakistani players and officials took pictures and selfies with the historic Wall of Berlin.

During the visit to the future museum, the athletes were very impressed by seeing the robots and other modern technology to be produced by Germany in the next 30 years.

Arise Grand Show was organized in Berlin's biggest theatre for the athletes of Pakistan and other participating countries in the World Games, where the organizers welcomed the participants and briefed them on the information regarding the background of the Games and the mega event starting from June 17.

On this occasion, the audience was very entertained by the performance of German cultural dance artists. Meanwhile, the national athletes participating in the mega event will start their training sessions on Friday. Pakistan is participating in 11 different disciplines in the event.

## PCB's hybrid model accepted as Asia Cup's venues, schedule unveiled

A Sports

LAHORE: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Thursday, accepted the hybrid model by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and confirmed the venues and schedule of the Asia Cup 2023.

"We are delighted to announce that the Asia Cup 2023 will be held from 31st August to 17th September 2023 and will see the elite teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal, compete in a total of 13 exciting ODI matches," the ACC said in a statement.

The multi-national tournament will be hosted in a hybrid model with four matches being held in Pakistan, and the remaining nine matches being played in Sri Lanka despite massive opposition by the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI).

The upcoming edition of the Asia Cup features six teams, divided into two groups, the top two teams from each group will then qualify for the Super 4s.

Hosts Pakistan are placed in the same group as arch-rivals India and Nepal while the other group includes defending champions and joint-host Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Asia Cup 2023 will be played in the ODI format and will serve as an opportunity for the Asian teams to bolster their preparations for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup.

This year's Asia Cup was originally scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan. However, the BCCI refused to send their team to Pakistan for the continental event on political grounds.

"Neutral venue for Asia Cup is not unprecedented and we have decided that we will not travel to Pakistan," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah stated.

"I have decided that we will play at a neutral venue," he maintained.

The BCCI then made several efforts to take the hosting rights from Pakistan and to hold Asia Cup at a neutral venue.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was determined not to give away the hosting rights of the tournament and thus the chairman of the PCB management committee Najam Sethi came up with a hybrid model.