

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے آدھے بیان کیا گیا ہے سے ورق
نے بیان کیا ان سے ابن ابی نجی نے ان
سے مجاہد نے بیان کیا کہ ابن عباس رضی
اللہ عنہما نے انہیں تمام نمازوں کے بعد تسبیح
پڑھنے کا حکم دیا تھا۔ آپ کا مقصد اللہ تعالیٰ کا
ارشاد «ادبر السجود» کی تفسیر کرنا تھا۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4852)

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Envoy says I am proud to have Iranian diplomatic responsibilities in Pakistan

He Said Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly Islamic countries and they will try to strengthen the relations further as ambassadors. A prestigious event was organized on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of Musan-viKhvani..... (Details on Page 5)



Suzuki Motors Asia Head meets Commerce minister

A three-member delegation, led by Mr. Masafumi Harano, the Asia Head of Suzuki Motors, calls on the Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar, at his chamber in Islamabad. The purpose of their discussion was twofold: to address matters of mutual interest and deliberate on import-related issues.

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PMLN General Council Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister and President PML-N Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends the PML-N's General Council meeting in the party's secretariat on Friday.



Photo: PID

Nawaz Sharif to return to lead Pakistan on road to progress & prosperity: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday here said Nawaz Sharif would return from abroad to lead the country to progress and prosperity after becoming prime minister for the fourth time.

Speaking after his re-election as President of Pakistan Muslim League(N) for a four year term at the party's Central General Council meeting, he said Nawaz Sharif was the builder of modern Pakistan and during his tenure as prime minister he eliminated energy shortages, laid down the network of roads,

built infrastructure and developed agriculture, industry and other vital sectors of the economy.

He said he would hand over the presidency of the party to Nawaz Sharif after his return to Pakistan.

He thanked the General Council for electing him as its new president and his associates for the leadership positions in the party.

He lauded Maryam Nawaz for courageously leading the party all across Pakistan despite all the difficulties that came in her way.

He said sixty percent of the

population of the country were youth and Pakistan Muslim League (N) needed young leaders for the future.

He appreciated workers of the party for standing by PML(N) despite going through hardships in jails and facing difficulties, adding similarly party leadership also stood its ground and faced oppression and suffering with courage and determination.

He said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was working hard to steer the country's economy out of the present difficulties. Those who were unduly criticizing Ishaq Dar had no place in the party, he added.

The prime minister said the government met all the conditions of International Monetary Fund for meeting financial needs of the country.

He reminded that PML(N) spent its political capital for the sake of the state at a time when inflation was high and international commodity prices skyrocketed.

Despite difficult economic conditions, common man was given relief in the budget and salaries were raised by 35 percent and pensions by 17 percent, he noted adding Pakistani nation was brave and would emerge from the current

challenges. He said his government signed agreement with Azerbaijan to import gas and bought oil from Russia.

He criticized Imran Niazi for spreading lies and false propaganda for his ulterior motives and to mislead people.

The PM said Nawaz Sharif had a comprehensive policy on Kashmir and he forcefully raised the issue of Kashmir at the international forums including the United Nations.

Every Pakistani was ready to offer sacrifices for the freedom of Kashmir and no compromise would be made on the rights of Kashmiri people, he added.

President for AI-based solutions to business, industrial problems



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday urged Pakistan's business and industrial sectors to adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions for solving their problems and boosting their efficiency and productivity.

The president, talking to a delegation from Artificial Intelligence Education Foundation (AIEF), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that exponential advancements in information technology had created new opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs in various fields such as health, education, business and industry, and Pakistan's IT companies should adopt a global outlook

to fully benefit from them.

Chairman Soliton Investment Fund, Dr Mansoor Ali Khan, Founder and CEO of Soliton Group, Dr Fauzia Khan, representative of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, and senior officials of the government attended the meeting.

Talking to the delegation, the president underlined the need for Pakistan's IT companies to develop win-win partnerships with academia and industries at both the local and international levels.

He added that robust and mutually beneficial partnerships among academia and industry stakeholders would help achieve key economic and technological milestones.

Mariyum Aurangzeb elected as PML-N Information Secretary



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The General Council meeting of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Friday elected Mariyum Aurangzeb as Information Secretary of the party for four years (2023-27).

The Council elected the PML-N's cabinet during the meeting which was presided over by the party Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who was also elected as the PML-N President unopposed.

Mariyam Nawaz was elected as Chief Organizer of the party, while Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal as General Secretary.

Addressing the meeting, Mariyum Aurangzeb, who

is also Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, expressed gratitude to the party leaders and workers for reposing confidence in her.

"It is a matter of pride for me to be elected as Secretary Information of the PML-N," the minister said, reiterating the party's resolve for steering the country out of crises.

The PML-N was committed to chart the country on path of progress and development under the leadership of its Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, she added.

The newly-elected Information Secretary also presented multiple resolutions in the General Council meeting which reposed complete confidence in the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, paid tribute to the services rendered by PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif for the country and condemned the May 9 incidents of attacking, vandalizing and burning sensitive installations and martyrs' memorials by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ins

PTI chief's vote bank declined in Pakistan after May 9 mayhem: Rana

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Friday said that the vote bank of Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief has declined in the country after the 9th May incident.

PTI chief's party was found involved in attacking national institutions on May 9, he said while talking to a private television channel.

The PTI leaders promoted the culture of uncivilized language among the youth, he said. The minister said held the PTI chief responsible for polluting politics of Pakistan.

In reply to a question about the performance of PTI, he said it had damaged the economy and other sectors during the period of four years. Nobody will cast his vote in favor of it due to attacks on security institutions, he said.

No one can dare to cast ill eyes on Pakistan: Azam Nazeer

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday informed the Senate that Pakistan is a responsible state and no one can dare to cast ill eyes on atomic and other assets of the country.

Speaking in the Senate in response to points raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, the minister said that no member of the federal cabinet was taking salaries and very minimum perks were being given to them. Only 1800 CC car and petrol at par with federal secretary was being given to them.

Earlier resuming debate on the budget, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed said that International Monetary Fund (IMF) wanted to default Pakistan and creating hurdles in disbursement of \$ 1 billion tranche. Such tactics were being adopted to snatch atomic bomb facility of Pakistan, he added.

He suggested that clim-



ination of elite and protocol culture besides curbing various 'mafias' were mandatory to address the key challenges to the national economy.

He criticized the government for not giving any concrete plan for debt retiring, controlling inflation, civil and police reforms.

He said that the national debt has surged to record Rs 60,000 billion and the budget lacked any concrete plan to address this grave issue. He demanded that a commission should be formed to investigate who had borrowed these hefty loans and where it had been spent.

Pakistan fulfills all requirements of IMF, wishes to continue program: Asif

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said that Pakistan has fulfilled all requirements of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF), and desires to continue the program.

"We will never surrender before IMF for tough conditions," he said while talking to a private television channel.

The tough agreements could create difficulties for poor masses, he opined. The government is well aware of the problems of the masses, he said adding that we are trying to provide maximum relief to the common man.

Commenting on Miftah Ismail and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, he said, both the PML-N, leaders had been working well for the party's interest.

He said Miftah Ismail had served as the finance minister of Pakistan. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, he said was a high-caliber personality and supported the main leadership of our party.

To a question, the minister said that any leader of PML-N can submit suggestions to the party head. He said it depends on the party head to consider the proposal or reject it.

Bilawal, UK foreign secy discuss bilateral ties, climate finance

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, James Cleverly telephoned Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and discussed issues of mutual interest.

FM Bilawal in a tweet said he was pleased to receive the phone call from his British counterpart, with whom he discussed bilateral ties.

He mentioned that the conversation focused on the urgent need for mitigation measures to combat climate change and natural disasters.

The critical role of international financial institutions in climate financing and reconstruction in disaster-hit areas also came under discussion.

Moonis' wife gets interim bail in money laundering case

TLTP

LAHORE: A banking court in Lahore on Friday granted interim bail to four accused including Moonis Elahi's wife Tahreem Elahi in a money laundering case.

All the accused persons appeared before the banking court Judge Muhammad Aslam Gondal and requested for bail in the matter alleging they are facing criminal cases on political basis.

After brief hearing of the matter, the court extended interim bail of the accused till June 21. Court granted interim bail to Tahreem Elahi, Zara Elahi and two other accused in the case. TLTP

Arrest warrants of Haider Gilani, others issued in Senate poll rigging case

TLTP

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad District and Sessions Court on Friday heard the case and deferred the indictment proceedings in the alleged Senate election rigging case once again, however, the sessions judge issued non-bailable arrest warrants for PPP leader Ali Haider Gilani and other co-accused including Faheem Khan and Captain (retired) Jameel.

Additional District and Sessions Court Judge Umeed Ali Baloch was hearing the matter. Earlier the court has decided to indict three accused persons as it has summoned them for Friday.

Hunger strike

QUETTA: A view of the hunger strike camp of Government Teachers Association outside Baluchistan Assembly in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Federal govt to give professional training, laptops to Balochistan's youth: PM

PM, PPP leaders discuss prevailing political situation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday termed talented youth a "real asset" to Balochistan said the federal government would work on strengthening their professional capacity.

He said the youth in Balochistan would be given professional training in diverse areas and laptops would be distributed among them.

He was talking to an eight-member delegation of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) from Balochistan led by Jafar Khan Mandokhel. The other delegates included Jamal Shah Kakar, Sardar Yaqoob Nasir, Agha Shah Zeb Durrani, Amir Afzal Mandokhel, Chaudhry Naem, Naseer Achakzai, and Zaheer Khan.

PM Sharif said the progress of Pakistan was linked with the development of Balochistan.



The government, he said, was working on priority over the development projects in Balochistan under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The meeting discussed the current

political situation in the country.

The delegation thanked the prime minister for allocating special funds for development projects in the budgetary proposals of fiscal year 2023-24

Meanwhile: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday here held a meeting with a high-level delegation of the Pakistan Peoples Party and had a detailed discussion on the current political situation in the country.

Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman, Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Shah, Advisor to the PM on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar uz Zaman Kaira, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Senator Nisar Khuro were part of the PPP delegation.

Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar and Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the PPP leadership appreciated the prime minister for announcing measures for public welfare in the budget despite difficult economic conditions.

Pakistan gets \$1bn loan from China: SBP

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a major boost to foreign exchange reserves, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday said it has received \$1 billion from China.

"This is to inform you that \$1 billion has been received from China," said the central bank in a brief message to journalists on Friday night.

The refinancing came hours after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar informed the National Assembly's (NA) Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue that China would be refinancing the \$1 billion loan it had given to Pakistan earlier.

Commenting on the diminishing foreign reserves of the country, Dar said \$1.30 billion recently paid to settle

a Chinese loan will be refinanced by China today or Monday.

"SBP will receive \$1.30 billion from China today or Monday," Ishaq Dar said and added that talks for a \$2 billion dollar swap were also underway with Beijing.

Pakistan's economy is in turmoil amid financial woes and the delay in an agreement with the International Mon-

etary Fund (IMF) that would release much-needed funding crucial to avoid the risk of default.

Pakistan is seeing no signs of securing external financing any time soon amid political instability.

The government has been in talks with the international lender since end-January to resume the \$1.1 billion loan tranche that has been on hold

since November, part of a \$6.5 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreed upon in 2019.

Meanwhile, an analyst of Moody's Investor Service in an interview with Bloomberg said Pakistan is heading towards 'default' and added Pakistan cannot complete the current IMF loan program until June 30.

Pakistan-IMF talks neither failed nor concluded'

Free eye camp set up by Pak-Afghan forum performs 253 surgeries at Kabul hospital



News Desk

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN: A free eye camp set up by Pak Afghan Cooperation Forum (PACF) in collaboration with Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan has performed surgeries on 253 Afghan nationals in the capital Kabul.

The surgeries have been conducted during June 7-14 at the Noor Eye Hospital.

Free eye camp set up by Pak-Afghan forum performs 253 surgeries at Kabul hospital

The surgeries include 12 cornea transplants, one tectonic graft surgery, 44 ophthalmic surgeries, 26 vitreoretinal and 170 cataract surgeries.

A total of 4,500 Afghans have been treated at the outpatient department of the hospital.

Free eye camp set up by Pak-Afghan forum performs 253 surgeries at Kabul hospital

The Afghan government and people have greatly appreciated the PACF and ALKHIDMAT Foundation Pakistan for their work at the eye hospital.

Dr Yasmin Rashid's bail plea rejected in arson case



Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore has rejected the bail petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Yasmin Rashid in the case related burning of Shadman police station.

A single-member bench of ATC - chaired by Judge Ejaz Ahmed - heard a post-arrest bail plea of the 34 accused nominally led by the PTI leader in the burning of Shadman police station.

During the hearing, the court rejected the bail plea of 12 accused including Yasmin Rashid. However, 22 other co-accused were granted bail, most of them were minors.

Sikh community seeks probe as Khalistan leader mysteriously dies in UK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sikh community in the UK has called for a "full investigation" into the death of Avtar Singh Khanda, a Khalistan Movement leader who mysteriously died in Birmingham.

Avtar Singh Khanda had led the protests at the Indian High Commission in London earlier this year when the Indian flag was pulled down at the Indian High Commission by the Khalistan activists.

Cellphone videos posted on social media showed protesters climbing the building and taking down the Indian flag. Avtar Singh Khanda was seen leading the protest in the videos.

India had registered strong protest over the incident, saying "the UK government's 'indifference' to Indi-



an diplomats and personnel was "unacceptable".

According to the media reports, Avtar Singh Khanda was admitted to a Birmingham hospital after he complained of uneasiness on Monday. The exact cause of his death is not clear yet, however the Sikh community cast doubts over the death and sought a probe into it.

In a letter to the UK Police, CEO Khalsa Aid International Ravinder Singh requested a "full investigation and a full coroner's report" into the death of Avtar Singh Khanda which caused concern amongst the community across the UK and globally.

CEO Nestle Pakistan calls on Ishaq Dar



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Nestle Pakistan Jason Avancena called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday.

The SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mahmood Pasha and senior officers from Finance Division and Nestle team were present in the meeting.

Jason Avancena expressed gratitude to the finance minister on supporting the Dairy & Milk industry and shared their business profile and contribution to the economic development of Pakistan.

He also briefed the minister about the company's footprints in providing quality food items, especially for children.

He also apprised the chair of some

issues the company was facing and sought support from the government.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomed the delegation of Nestle Pakistan and highlighted the economic situation.

He stressed that despite challenging economic conditions, the government was committed to providing a conducive environment to the business community for ease of doing business and facilitation to foreign investors.

The finance minister appreciated Nestle Pakistan for providing essential quality food to the population and stressed increasing exports of its products. He further extended support and facilitation to resolve their issues.

Jason Avancena thanked Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar for extending cooperation and support.

NDMA announces first-ever Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Friday inaugurated the launching of the first-ever Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR-23) to be held from July 12-14.

The event was attended by government officials, representatives from international partners, humanitarian organizations, academia, media and members of private sector, a news

release said.

The PEDRR-23 is part of NDMA's efforts to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction and to build resilience to disasters in Pakistan. It will showcase the latest technologies and innovations in disaster risk reduction and will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to network and share best practices.

The expo would constitute academic conferences, seminars, exhibitions and various youth competitions to ensure maximum participation of the public, youth and institutions.

China takes next step in currency globalization

Reuters

HONG KONG: China's gradual internationalization of its currency will shift to its next leg on Monday when about two dozen Chinese companies start trading in Yuan in Hong Kong's stock market.

Hong Kong stocks such as Alibaba and Tencent are among the 24 stocks which will be priced and traded in both yuan and the Hong Kong dollar under the Dual Counter Model on the Hong Kong stock exchange (HKEX) from Monday.

The scheme is targeting overseas investors with yuan holdings initially, but will later include mainland investors via the Hong Kong-China Stock Connect link-up later. Offshore yuan deposits in Hong Kong alone are estimated at some 833 billion yuan (\$117 billion).

Fund managers say the step reflects Beijing's desire to expand the use of yuan outside China and provide another avenue for yuan-denominated investment, thus reducing the risk of capital outflows chasing higher yielding currencies such as the U.S. dollar.

"China is pushing yuan internationalisation to avert geopolitical risks and reduce reliance on the dollar, and for that purpose, you need wider use of the Chinese currency," said Ding Wenjie, strategist of Global Capital Investment at China Asset Management Co (ChinaAMC). Ding said the scheme is a major milestone and expects the model to be expanded in future, beyond stocks to bonds and even alternative assets, boosting overseas asset pools denominated in yuan.

The initiative comes amid a steady stream of bilateral yuan-denominated deals China has struck with trading partners, from Chinese oil purchases in the Middle East, to commodities trade with partners from Brazil to Russia.

Case lodged against gun attack on Latif Khosa's house

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore police on Friday lodged a case against unidentified persons after a gun attack on senior law and former Punjab governor Latif Khosa's house.

The case was registered at the Defence A police station over the complaint of ASI Niaz Ahmed. The First Information Report (FIR) stated that four fires were resorted to at Khosa's house and police also recovered six bullet shells from the scene.

In the firing incident, the main door of the house and a vehicle were damaged. It also stated that the police asked Khosa to register a case but he excused himself to personally lodge it due to his busy schedule.

Unidentified armed men opened fire at former governor Punjab and senior lawyer Latif Khosa's house in the Defence area of Lahore late Thursday night.

Detailing the firing incident, the senior lawyer said he remained safe in the attack while his driver sustained bullet wounds.

Latif Khosa said some unidentified persons opened fire at his residence which was so intense that bullets penetrated the main gate and hit the cars parked inside the house due to which his driver got injured.

Following the attack, Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan reached Khosa's house to express solidarity with him. Ahsan demanded the immediate arrest of the attackers.

Barrister Sultan and Chaudhry Shujaat discuss Kashmir, seek international role

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry met with President of Pakistan Muslim League Q and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in Islamabad. Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain was also present in the meeting. In this meeting, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Pakistan Muslim League President and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain discussed the latest situation in Occupied Kashmir and ongoing Kashmir Freedom Movement in occupied Kashmir, both discussed



the political situation of Azad Kashmir. President of Pakistan Muslim

League Q, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said that strong steps have to be taken to highlight the Kashmir issue at the

international level, the Kashmir issue should be resolved according to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The international community should take notice of the Indian government's atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, he said.

President of Pakistan Muslim League Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said that President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has made Azad Kashmir a base camp of freedom in a true sense.

He said we should play our full role to stop the ongoing Indian atrocities in Kashmir. On this occasion, the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry prayed for his health recovery.

Dinner Reception in Honour of Media Fraternity held

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) hosted a dinner reception in honour of media fraternity here at Faisal Masjid campus.

The attendees included anchor persons, Editors, article writers and veteran media persons.

The meet up participants agreed that youth is the real power to bring positive change in the society and educational institutions must focus on producing skilled graduates. The dinner reception participants opined that Pakistani youth, if provided best guidance and education, has potential to change the fate of nation.

Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President IIUI said on the occasion that education must be the top priority. He said that prime focus of Muslim world must be to produce skilled youth equipped with knowledge of modern market trends. "If a nation has a well-educated & nurtured youth, nothing can bar it to achieve the destination of prosperity and success" said



H. E. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi. The IIUI President called for the meaningful role of educational institutions urging those to be relevant to the needs of society.

Talking about the university, its new approach and initiatives, H. E. Dr. Hathal said he was proud to serve this university that has a unique distinction across the Muslim world. He apprised of the varsity's new strategic plan, recent reforms and its academic and infrastructural achievements. He said at the varsity leadership has

achieved the millstones of digitization and initiatives for the online and open distance learning have been launched. He said the university has completed a comprehensive project of Campus Management System as well as in the academic excellence, IIUI has been put on the right track as it is shining in all the leading ranking across the globe. Talking about the infrastructural development he briefed that university has just inaugurated two academic blocks while construction work is in process on the library building and medical block.

Senior journalists hailed services of Dr. Hathal, his vision and IIUI's role in the society and thanked Excellency Dr. Hathal for the reception and briefing on IIUI's achievements and goals. The journalists lauded the role of Saudi Arabia in promotion of education. They specially mentioned the vision of Excellency crown prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman. They said his vision for the growth and stability is paying results to the region and this approach should be followed by rest of the Muslim countries.

Mushaal urges US President, Congressmen to press Modi to release Yasin

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick expressed serious concerns over senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's fast deteriorating health condition and urged US President Joe Biden and Congressmen to press Indian premier Narendra Modi to release Yasin during his forthcoming visit to the US.

Mushaal, a wife of incarcerated Yasin Malik, said on Friday that notorious Modi, who was known as butcher, unleashed a reign of terror in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to muzzle the dissenting voices.

The chairperson stated that the US administration should take Modi to task for his inhuman policies and rising tide of human rights violations during his fascist regime, making life a hell for the minority communities in India and Kashmiri muslims.

"U coward Modi, your regime is the biggest sinner of humanity," she added. However, Mushaal made it clear that the notorious regime could cross all limits of barbarity and state terrorism



but the brave Kashmiri people would not ever bow down to them.

The hurriyat leader went on to say that people of the Kashmir would fight for the birth right to right to self-determination until turned the dream into a reality.

She said that speaking truth bluntly was the only crime of Yasin Malik due to which the Indian authorities were hell-bent to silence him by implicating him in false, fabricated and politically-motivated cases.

The Chairperson urged that Kashmiris, Pakistanis and human rights organizations to hold protest demonstrations to highlight the ongoing war crimes in IIOJK and the plight of innocent Kashmiri detainees during Modi's visit to US to expose his real and dirty face before the world.

Mushaal demanded the urgent intervention by the world leaders and UN bodies to secure release of Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri detainees from unlawful Indian imprisonment.

Asad Rehman Gilani assumes additional charge as Nadra chief

ISLAMABAD:

Asad Rehman Gilani on Friday formally assumed the charge as the new chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra).

He assumed the office of Nadra head days after his predecessor Tariq Maillk stepped down from his post over a "charged political environment". Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif accepted the resignation of Malik and appreciated his contributions to the country.

Gilani is a grade 22 officer of the Pakistan Civil Service and also the secretary of the Board of Investment. He assumed additional charge as the new chairman Nadra today.

On his first day at work, the newly-appointed Nadra chairman directed all the employees to perform their duties efficiently and ensure uninterrupted services to the people.



ADC inaugurated separate ECG rooms for male & Female at DHQ Hospital

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The Administration of District Headquarter Hospital Wana inaugurated separate ECG rooms for Male and female for the convenience of the public by Additional Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower (F&P) Kashmir Khan.

On this occasion, while giving a briefing to the ADC South Waziristan Lower, the hospital management, Health Manager/MS District Headquarters Hospital Wana, Dr. Hammad Mehmood said that now we have constructed separate ECG rooms for male and female in the radiology department for the convenience of OPD patients in the morning while the ECG will be in the emergency ward in the evening night, However, female staff has also been appointed for per mile ECG.

Dr. Hidayatullah Additional DHO Dr. Hidayat Ullah along with senior doctors and paramedical staff were also present on the occasion of inauguration.

On the other hand, the tribal elders appreciated the initiative of the hospital administration and the district administration, and said that there has been a lot of improvement in DHQ Hospital Wana and all kinds of facilities are available to the patients.

The tribal elders thanked the district administration and DHQ Hospital Wana administration and paid tribute to their performance.



Sports Play Vital Role For Healthy Mind Human Body: Dr Uzma Quraishi



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The closing and prize distribution ceremony of the two days Summer Sports Camps was held here at Katchery campus, the Women University Multan that was graced by the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi. The mega event was organized by the Directorate of Sports. These events of sports and co-curricular activities included marathon race badminton and table tennis. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi motivated the female students to remain active in the cu-curricular and extracurricular activities.

She said that sports galas are an omen of women empowerment and also a symbol of confidence. She said that the sports play vital role for healthy mind and body its important for every student to actively take part in sports activities who will participate in sports will be given additional marks which will be approved by the academic council. Director Sports Dr. Mamoona Khan said that during the two days training, attention was paid on the physical fitness and basic techniques of the players by qualified coaches, also besides it matches were also organized from which the players gain lot of knowledge and understanding to excel in their respective fields.

She said that Women University has the privilege to introduce female marathon race for the first time in this region. She said health of women is vital for the progress of society. After that, certificates were distributed among the players.

The ceremony was attended by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Kalsoom Paracha, Dr. Saadia Irshad, Dr. Sara Musaddiq Dr. Adeela Saeed and other faculty members was also present.

Free Medical Camp organized



ISLAMABAD: Divisional Director Social Welfare Punjab Rawalpindi Muhammad Shahid Rana has said that due to the lack of health awareness education in Pakistan, infectious diseases have paralyzed the deprived and backward classes. Like Corona, Polio, Dengue and Black Jaundice. Controlling diseases in an effective manner is very difficult and beyond the means. Without the involvement and participation of scholars, civil society, voluntary social organizations, the dream of global SDGs cannot be realized.

He spoke at the inauguration of Free Hepatitis Screening Medical Camp jointly organized by Islamabad Crescent Lions Club and Aga Khan University Hospital.

Shahid Rana said in the health sector, the entire nation must ensure its cooperation and commitment with equality. The government is facing billions of expenses annually due to lack of awareness and education.

Conducted two and three days training for health workers

Abdul Majeed Tahir

CHAKOTHI: Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Kashmir in collaboration with International Committee of the Red Cross and Health Department of Azad Kashmir conducted two and three days basic and advanced preliminary training for health workers and local people at Rural Health Center Chakothi, Khulana, Lipa and Banah Mola. Conducted medical aid workshops. In the training, more than 25 health workers, lady health visitors, lady health workers, paramedical staff, drivers and more than 130 local people participated in the workshops.

The aim of the training was to enhance the technical skills of public health workers and local people to help them deal with emergency situa-

tions and minimize the loss of precious human lives by providing timely medical aid to the injured in case of an accident.

Paramedical staff and health workers from various Union Councils of the Valley district were selected for the three-day advanced level medical assistance workshop which continued at the Rural Health Centre.

In the three-day long workshop, the participants were exposed to the basic principles of first aid, including fracture, burn, entrapment, and life-saving training such as CPR. Went and practical exercises were also demonstrated.

Health Coordinator of International Committee of the Red Cross Dr. Amjad, District Health Officer Jhelum Valley Dr. Tahir Rahim and Program Coordinator of Pakistan Red Crescent



Society Azad Kashmir Yasir Josh were also present in the first aid workshops.

Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society Ms. Gulzar Fatima attended the closing ceremony as the chief

guest. Addressing the event, Gulzar Fatima specially thanked the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Department of Health for their support in organizing the training. He

further said that such trainings are very important for people living on the Line of Control. He further said that Red Crescent Azad Kashmir from 2001 till date with the support of various donors throughout Azad Kashmir and especially Jhelum Valley district.

Talking about women, Gulzar Fatima said that I am happy that men as well as women are part of this workshop. Women's empowerment should be encouraged in every field so that they too can perform their services in the society as good heads.

Addressing the participants of the training, Secretary Gulzar Fatima further said that today you people have completed the training and I hope that you will not only provide first aid to the people at the local level but also do your best to save precious lives. Will

play a role. Health Coordinator Dr. Amjad congratulated the Public Health Department and the District Health Officer for the successful conduct of the workshops. And the participants appreciated the technical skills of the training and hoped that these people will perform their services better in the field.

District Health Officer Jhelum Valley Dr. Tahir Rahim specially thanked International Committee of the Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent Society for organizing workshops in Jhelum Valley.

At the end of the workshop, Secretary Gulzar Fatima, Dr. Amjad, and Dr. Tahir Rahim also distributed certificates and congratulated the participants.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:13 am
Zohr 12:08 pm
Asr 5:09 pm
Maghrib 7:20 pm
Isha 9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 92706044
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

Strict Monitoring Policy implemented for Transparency in Punjab Province: Bilal Afzal

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Caretaker Provincial Minister of Communications and Works and Excise and Narcotics Control Punjab Bilal Afzal has said that the Punjab government has not interrupted the journey of development to provide relief to the citizens. Strict monitoring policy has been implemented for good governance and transparency throughout the province. The provincial minister said that he has been given the task to complete all schemes of public interest till the closing of the budget this month. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to Multan. The caretaker provincial minister took a briefing on the performance of various departments and development projects at the commissioner's office. Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak gave a detailed briefing on development projects and reforms.

The provincial minister further said that the projects for the upgradation of central highways including Wahari Road will start soon. In the meeting, Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the targets of wheat purchase and flour distribution have been met in the division, while 9826 metric tons of wheat 24 cases have been recovered and registered. Engineer Aamir Khattak further said that a special task has been given for repairing the inactive water purification and the patchwork and repair projects will be completed before the budget closure.

BISP a Model of Social Protection for Developing World: Shazia Marri

Spokesman Report

BERLIN: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Ms. Shazia Marri has said that a cash assistance initiative of BISP provides financial assistance to 9 million women heads of households. In addition to Benazir Kafaalat, under Benazir Nashunama 710 thousand lactating mothers and their children under 2 year of age are being supplied with food supplements to overcoming malnutrition among them. Since its inception in 2008, the programme has greatly contributed towards uplifting of socio-economic conditions of the improvised and economically marginalized segments of the society, particularly the women. She, during panel discussion at the closing session of the "Global Forum on Adaptive Social Protection: Protecting lives and livelihoods in times of crisis" in Berlin, Germany, said that BISP is an ideal model of social protection that could be emulated in other part of the world as well, mainly in the developing nations.

Minister Marri expressed gratitude



H.E. Shazia Marri
Minister of Social Assistance and Social Safety

to the German Government, specifically Minister Schulz, and other partners, including the World Bank and German Development Partner GIZ, for hosting an event on such an important subject. She acknowledged Pakistan's vulnerability to climate hazards, citing the examples of last year's devastating floods and the ongoing threat of a cyclone BIPARJOY targeting Pakistan and neighboring India.

The closing session was moderated by Ms. Conny Czymoch, an Independent International Moderator and journalist. Other speakers, inter alia, included Ms. Svenja Schulze Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ; Ms. Esther Schüring,

Social Protection Advisor, GIZ; Mr. Colin Andrews, Program Manager, World Bank; Mr. El Hadji Ndiogou Diouf.

Highlighting the significance of coordination, Minister Shazia Marri emphasized that BISP is working closely with provincial setups on social safety initiatives to maximize the benefits extended to the marginalised and poorest segments of society. She expressed her government's willingness to share experiences with the representatives of the 58 countries present at the forum, showcasing the country's commitment to global collaboration for social protection.

Minister Marri concluded the discussion with a gesture of gratitude to the hosts for offering an opportunity to share Pakistan's experiences and achievements at the Global Forum. She reiterated Pakistan's commitment to addressing the climate crisis and advocated for international collaboration to protect vulnerable nations from potential damages of climate change. Secretary BISP Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad and DG Naveed Akbar also attended the conference on the invitation of German organization.

Folk Rang

ISLAMABAD: Artists from Cholistan are performing during 'Saqafati Mela' (Cultural Festival) at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Hayat wins Silver Medal at the Int'l Digital Health Awards 2023

News Desk

KARACHI: Aga Khan University's Hayat app has been awarded a prestigious silver medal at the international Digital Health Awards 2023. Hayat's innovative approach to improving access to healthcare provision using technology set it apart and made it a worthy award recipient under the Mobile Digital Health Resources category of the competition.

"Hayat has played an instrumental role in strengthening the public health system across Gilgit-Baltistan. By reducing the burden of paperwork and manual data entry, it has improved the capacity of health workers, thereby improving accountability,



monitoring and governance mechanisms," commented Mr. Sana Ullah, Secretary, Department of Health, Gilgit-Baltistan.

Programmes delivering Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) services at the primary care level operate in

silos in Pakistan, which makes it difficult to monitor progress of health indicators. Reliance on paper-based reporting due to the absence of a comprehensive, digital integrated system for health data results in a lack of interoperability, communication, coordination and integration of data between programmes.

"Hayat has been integral in bridging the gap between the Lady Health Worker (LHW) Programme and the Expanded Programme in Immunization (EPI), by enabling LHWs to instantaneously report child birth through Hayat, allowing vaccinators to receive real-time information and ensure timely vaccination," said Saleem Sayani, Project Lead, Aga Khan University.

Decided to join with colleagues in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Sultan Mehmood Malik

Quratul Ain Asim



MULTAN: All Pakistan Muslim League Central Additional Secretary and prominent business leader Sultan Mehmood Malik has decided to join his colleagues in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. He will soon meet Imran Khan and announce his formal joining. He was one of the closest associates of General Pervez Musharraf and was considered a dynamic leader of All Pakistan Muslim League till his life and he contested the National Assembly election twice on his ticket. Imran Khan's ability to carry forward the mission of General Pervez Musharraf was said to be better than these corrupt politicians.

He is not among those who cling to power and politics. Imran Khan is a symbol of unity and the army of Pakistan. The current ruler is united for his own interests but could not do anything for the country and the nation. He said that the Pakistan Army is the protector of the borders of our country and whenever any calamity befell the people of Pakistan, the army went ahead and played an important role in the service of the nation.

Thanks to the Raja Riaz for the increase in pension: Railways Pensioners Association

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Aurangzeb Tanoli, Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association said that all the officials and members of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association are extremely grateful to Raja Riaz Leader of the Opposition who has given the retired civil servants who were oppressed by inflation. Raised his voice in the National Assembly for increase in pension for employees.

In his statement issued after the organization's consultative meeting, Aurangzeb Tanoli, Secretary General of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association said that the retired government employees, who are oppressed by inflation, have to pay utility bills, children's school fees, kitchen expenses, to buy medicine to fight diseases, their Power has been lost. Raja Riaz, we retired pensioners from Railways fully expect from you, just as your voice echoed in the entire assembly for increasing our meager pension. We strongly hope that you will continue your struggle in the Assembly to increase the pension of retired old pensioners, mothers, sisters and orphan girls/children. And will not stop your efforts until our pensions are increased, now you are our last ray of hope. We will remember this effort of yours in golden letters as long as there is life, we will always pray for your success and long life.



Deputy Commissioner Dadu paid visit to under construction Kari Mori Bridge



Azad Baloch

DADU: Deputy Commissioner Dadu Syed Murtaza Ali Shah visited Kari Mori Bridge near Khairpur Nathan Shah for a detailed review of the work of the Kari Mori Bridge being constructed with the cooperation of World Bank. On this occasion, XEN Southern Dadu Division Balram gave a detailed briefing to Deputy Commissioner Dadu on the ongoing work.

Deputy Commissioner Dadu expressed his concerns on the slow pace of construction work of the bridge and gave strict instructions for speedy completion. He also said that the work of the bridge should be completed as soon as possible to ensure the supply of irrigation water to the settlers of Khairpur Nathan Shah and Johi.

Deputy Commissioner Dadu has also sent a letter to the Secretary Irrigation and Chief Engineer Irrigation to ensure the supply of agricultural water to the farmers of the areas related to Johi Barrage for crop cultivation, so that the farmers can cultivate within the time of forthcoming harvest season. During visit, Assistant Commissioner Khairpur Nathan Shah Imran ul haq, SDO Irrigation, consultant, contractor of World Bank and concerned officials of related departments were also present.

Tobacco Industry is misleading parliamentarians on Tobacco taxes

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tobacco Industry is leaving no stone unturned to undo the great work done by the government of Pakistan in current year to safeguard children and low income group from the harms of tobacco. These views were shared by health activists in a press release by Society for the Protection of the Rights (SPARC). According to the activists, Prime Minister of Pakistan M. Shahbaz Sharif's made a landmark decision to increase Federal Excise Duty on cigarettes in February 2023. However the tobacco industry is trying to destroy this good work by using fake statistics of illicit trade, and production in order to increase their profit at the expense of national exchequer.

Mr. Malik Imran, Country head of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) said that it is shocking that in a time period when taxes increased and production of the three major cigarette manufacturing companies declined, their turnover and gross profit still increased. This phenomenon is unheard of in today's business world. This reflects that the firms are using their declared production as a tactic to avoid taxes and influence tax policy. He mentioned that as far as the tax revenue is concerned, the total tax revenue paid by these companies (including FED and GST) has increased from PKR114.5 billion in July-21-March-22 to PKR127.5 billion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, representing a growth of 11.3 percent.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said that cigarette manufacturers have over-shifted the tax burden to consumers to increase their profitability. Tobacco Industry has used various tactics, such as front-loading and abrupt changes in production, to avoid tax hikes and influence tax policy.

Khalid Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC said that the tobacco industry practices underreporting where they hide their actual production figures to avoid taxes.

MCB Bank and Marham join hands to promote digital healthcare services

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: MCB Bank Limited, one of Pakistan's leading banks, has established a strategic alliance with Marham Medicare Pvt. Ltd, a leading healthcare service provider. This collaboration aims to empower MCB Bank's digital banking customers by offering them the convenience of finding, booking and consulting doctors digitally. Additionally, the partnership includes exclusive packages that incorporate home diagnostics and online medicine delivery services.

Through this collaboration, MCB Live users will have access to comprehensive healthcare services and various other services, all within the MCB Live app. With just a simple click, MCB Live users will be able to avail Marham's



specialized services, ensuring easy access to quality healthcare and convenience no matter where they are.

Speaking at the signing ceremony held at MCB House Lahore, Syed Jaffar Abbas Shirazi, Division Head Digital

Channels & Branchless Banking, MCB Bank said, "We remain committed to leveraging technology and partnerships to deliver innovative solutions to our customers. We believe that the well-being of our customers extends beyond financial matters, and this collaboration allows us to explore avenues to enhance our services and create a seamless digital ecosystem that integrates finance and healthcare."

"At Marham, we are super excited to do an innovative partnership with MCB Bank to make healthcare accessible and efficient for everyone in an affordable way. With the focus on giving a reliable service & patient-centric experience to MCB Live users, we look forward to building a long-term impact together," said Ms. Asma Salman Omer, Co-Founder and COO Marham.

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From Social Media to Vulgarity...-I

Farrukh Sultan

Our country is going through a very crucial time right now. Atheist and other specific groups having same ideology, have started a systematic conspiracy through social media to destroy the morals, character, beliefs of our young generation as well as peace and economy of beloved Country for the last twenty five years. No intelligent and sane person can deny the importance and necessity of technology in today's modern era. Social media is a part of our daily lives which is full of knowledge and wisdom. It is not only restricted in providing knowledge and wisdom whereas on the other hand it also gives access to the filth of immorality, indecency, pornography leading ultimately to blasphemy. Now it solely depends on the upbringing, training and thinking of the user, whether he tends to collect the knowledge and wisdom or the filth of misguidance and immorality. One right click on social media can put the youth and country on the path of success but one wrong click can be devastating for the young generation and our beloved country. It depends on the user whether social media can be a blessing on one hand and curse on the other. Our society is so mired in immorality that we are the top viewers of porn videos in the world. This is a matter of concern for the entire nation.

Even if it had been only indecency, it would not have been tolerable, but now it has gone beyond indecency to blasphemy. These groups have launched a conspiracy on social media in a very systematic

way followed by ill intent to insult or causes to insult the Holy name of Allah, the Holy Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) the Ahl al-Bayt, umhat ul momineen the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH), the Holy Quran and the national flag of Beloved Country Pakistan. This Blasphemy is so grave that a man of common prudent cannot even imagine it. The parts of the human body which are not considered to be spoken of even in loneliness, the names of above mentioned Holy Personalities are being written on such private parts by this group. Such sick minded people after writing these Holy names perform intercourse with each other and its videos are made, images are shared on specific apps and in certain specific groups. All of this is not taking place in Norway, Sweden, France and Holland, but in our beloved Pakistan which is fastly becoming victim to this conspiracy that tends to deteriorate our beloved country. No corner of the country is safe from this conspiracy whether it is Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Gilgit or anywhere in Pakistan. We got this homeland after our elders, mothers, sisters and daughters sacrificed their lives and was established on the basis of Islam. Considering that now the sanctity of Islam is being insulted in this country which ultimately is resulting in situation of law and order leading to economic crisis. The enemies behind this conspiracy are the same as were in 1947 at the time of creation of our beloved Pakistan. FIA

Cybercrime has so far arrested doctors, professors, engineers, chartered accountants, lawyers, religious scholars, Hafiz, Naat Khawan, Sajjada Nashin, government employees, private employees, rich,

poor belonging to every sect, religion and locality in Pakistan among the people who have been involved in blasphemy. Infact there are people from every class and creed involved in the blasphemous activities. Its gravity can be determined from the fact that, such Ahl al-Hadith were arrested who used to insult Allah, the Most High along with other pious, such Bareilvi were arrested who along with other persons used to insult the Prophet (peace be upon him) such Deobandi were arrested who insulted the umhat ul momineen and the Caliphs, such ehl tashii were arrested who insulted Makhdooma Kunin R. A, Such Hafiz were arrested who insulted the Holy Quran, such Christians were arrested who insulted the Bible and Such Hindus were arrested who were insulting the Hindu religious beliefs. Similarly, when the FIA cybercrime arrested a teacher of Hadith in a Madrasa, the blasphemy he committed to the Holy Qur'an Ahl al-Bayt Athar and Prophet PBUH cannot Even be imagined. According to the version of FIA Cybercrime in the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench and the research of the Legal Commission on blasphemy Pakistan (LCBP), more than four lakh unfortunate social media accounts from Pakistan are involved in such serious blasphemy on social media. Allama Muhammad Iqbal (may God bless him and grant him peace) said a century ago that the powers of polytheism want to weaken the relationship of Muslims and their love towards the Prophet PBUH.

وہ فاتح کش جو موت سے ڈرتا نہیں ذرا روح محمد ﷺ اس کے بدن سے نکال دو

مگر عرب کو دے کے فرنگی تختیاں اسلام کو حجاز و یمن سے نکال دو

What Allama said a hundred years ago is in front of us like an undeniable fact. In the name of innovation/modernism, the culture of immorality is being promoted and an attempt is being made to remove it from Hijaz and Yemen (Muslim world) by giving Arabs thoughts of foreign imaginations (vulgarity and indecency). Indecency is being promoted through social media and through this indecency the new generation is being pushed into the swamp of blasphemy.

More than 10 crore people are currently using social media in our beloved country. There is no effective social media monitoring system in the country, which has given free rein to the users of the media. You can gauge how fast this evil is spreading from the fact that four people together formed a blasphemy group in the mid of 2019, later in 2022 FIA Cybercrime arrested all four of them but when they were arrested the number of members of such group had increased to more than 32 thousand. Controlling this epidemic is not just a matter of a few people, for this the whole nation has to play a role, the government institutions have to fulfil their responsibilities and duties. The main objective of this organized conspiracy is to create chaos in Pakistan and destroy law and order in order to stop the development of the motherland by pushing it into civil war and to destroy it and to create hatred between the religions and the followers of the religion. So defusing the objective of this conspiracy is the prime responsibility of every patriotic citizen of Pakistan.

To be continued

18 mega uplift projects completed in Gwadar in record time

Following the consistent efforts of the federal government, fruition of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects can be seen as from 2022- till date around 637,124 metric ton of cargoes landed at the deep seaport of Gwadar which is manifold high compared to 166,207 metric tons arrived during 2018-2021.

This was disclosed by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday while chairing a meeting to review progress of projects in Gwadar, a news release said issued here on Wednesday.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the officials of the all relevant ministries, provincial representatives of Balochistan and Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA). Maritime Affairs Advisor (Planning Commission) Jawad Akhtar Khokhar gave a detailed presentation over the projects.

The meeting noted that since the incumbent government came into power in April 2022, the CEPC has been revived which remained neglected during the tenure of the previous government.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, Distribution of 2000 Boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connect Markran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

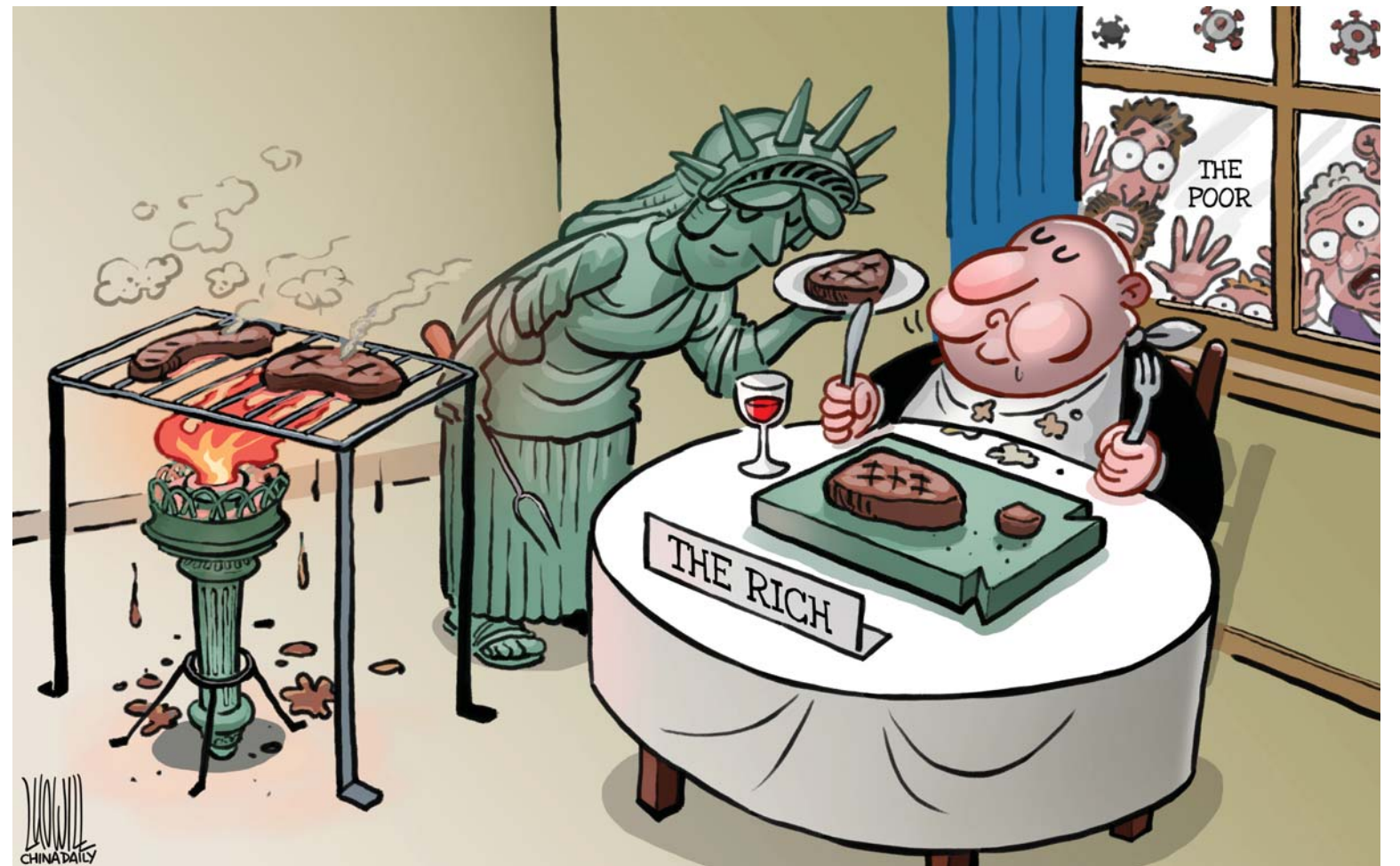
The minister said several projects had been completed by the incumbent government in Gwadar particularly related to water and electricity that were neglected by the previous government deliberately.

In the budget 2023-24, he said allocation of development funds for Balochistan had been doubled which indicated the federal government's commitment to uplift the province.

During the last three months, as many as 8 projects related to education, health, social sector to facilitate the people of Balochistan had been completed, the minister said while reiterating that the government would continue its efforts for uplift of the province to end its sense of deprivation.

He was of the view that supply of 100 megawatt electricity from Iran would help improve the lives and business of the people of Gwadar.

The minister also directed Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to focus on the recovery of bills and smooth supply of electricity to the people of Gwadar, besides creating awareness among the public about paying the utility bills.



Fight for a Cause: Uniting against cyberbullying for a safer digital world

Tayyaba Shoaib

The advent of technology and the internet has undoubtedly brought us closer together, revolutionising our lives and connecting us in ways previously unimaginable. Yet, with progress comes a dark side. Cyberbullying and online abuse are regrettable consequences of this interconnectedness, impacting individuals, particularly vulnerable groups like women and children. On this significant occasion of Stop Cyberbullying Day, it is imperative to raise awareness about the prevalence of cyberbullying, its consequences, and the urgent need for collective action.

Unlike traditional bullying, cyberbullying takes place in the virtual realm, allowing perpetrators to target victims relentlessly across physical boundaries and time. The anonymity, permanence of content and viral nature of social media amplifies frequency of attacks and the humiliation and trauma experienced by victims. Understanding the unique nature of cyberbullying is crucial in developing effective strategies to combat and prevent this increasingly harmful form of harassment.

Cyberbullying is a growing concern in Pakistan due to the rapid expansion of internet access and social media platforms. In 2019, Digital Rights Foundation's cyber harassment helpline received 2,023 monthly cases, accounting for 45% of complaints in the past three years, indicating a significant rise in cybercrime. The report high-

lights that 57% of complaints were from women, while 30% were from men. Additionally, 70% of respondents expressed fear of misuse of pictures, and 40% reported stalking and harassment on messaging apps. These statistics emphasise the need for urgent action and a safer digital environment for all.

To combat cyberbullying and ensure online safety, collaboration between public and private organisations is crucial. Internet providers, regulators, and educational institutions play vital roles via policy formation, legislation, and ensuring strict mechanisms for accountability. Private entities also need to contribute through prevention initiatives, technology investment, and promoting digital literacy among users.

Some ICT sectors organisations in Pakistan such as Telenor have started actively addressing the grave issue of cyberbullying. Its flagship initiative, 'SAFE Internet' program has imparted meaningful trainings to nearly a million girls and boys across the country, while its digital skills partnerships have reached over a million learners and teachers nationwide.

Additionally, its partnership with UNICEF aims to support the government by developing localised policies and regulatory frameworks on child safety online. In the next three years, it plans to train 750,000 children, caregivers, and educators through a hybrid training module. It also plans to engage with key stakeholders for creating a suitable legal and policy environment with an evidence-based, consultative, and coordinated approach towards

children and young people's protection in the digital world. Moreover, its partnership with Unicorn Black resulted in the production of a special Burka Avenger episode on cyberbullying, highlighting dangers for unsupervised internet users.

In recent years, there has been a surge in the formation of helplines and platforms like FIA cybercrime wing, DRF, and CPLC to enable reporting of harassment, cyberbullying, and abuse. While progress is evident, more action is needed to combat cyberbullying and its grave consequences for individuals and societies.

The impact of cyberbullying extends beyond the virtual realm, with far-reaching societal, social, and psychological impacts. Victims often experience a decline in mental health, including increased anxiety, depression, and even suicidal ideation. Moreover, cyberbullying adversely affects academic and professional performance, as victims may find it challenging to concentrate and excel in their studies and careers.

Stop Cyberbullying Day serves as a reminder that the fight against cyberbullying requires the collective efforts of multiple entities and stakeholders. Parents, educators, regulatory and public institutions must actively engage in discussions surrounding digital safety and responsible online behavior to ensure a safe digital space for every individual.

(Writer is an educationist and freelance writer)

China's technology transfer to revolutionize Pak agriculture

Misbah Saba Malik/ Xinhua

Hasan Raza, a farmer in Pakistan's eastern city of Multan, was in awe when he saw the demonstration of China-donated corn-cob picker in local fields by the staff of MNS-University of Agriculture.

"The best thing about the newly-introduced machine is that it will help Pakistan meet climate change challenge as it picks the whole cob rather than seeds, giving farmers the flexibility to harvest their crop earlier than the scheduled time," Raza told Xinhua.

He said crops face destruction as local machines in Pakistan selectively pick corn grains. Farmers have to wait until the grains are fully dried, which makes them vulnerable to the risk of crop loss caused by heat waves or excessive rains resulting from unpredictable weather patterns.

"With the new Chinese picker, the farmers can now pick the whole cob and dry it indoors before unfavorable weather conditions arise," he said, adding that it can both save the crop and facilitate their work.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, and expands to the fields of agriculture and livelihood in the new phase.

Echoing the CPEC's cooperation in agriculture, China's Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College signed an MoU with the MNS-University of Agriculture in Multan to transfer technology to the Pakistani agriculture, and skill locals to adopt modern farming techniques.

Under the MoU, the parts of the Chinese corn cob picker were transferred to Pakistan as donations, and the machine was assembled in Luban Workshop Multan, a joint project of Punjab Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority and Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College.

Sarfraz Hashim, an agriculture engineer and assistant professor at the MNS-University of Agriculture,

told Xinhua that the cost of the machine was 55,000 U.S. dollars, but the Chinese university provided it free of cost to Pakistan to modernize its agriculture.

"Our students and engineers received a two-week virtual training to operate and assemble the machine. Some students and engineers will visit China to know more about agriculture machines and farming techniques," he added.

After the demonstration of the picker, it will be lent to the farmers at low prices and they will use it to harvest the crop under the supervision of university's technicians, Hashim said.

"The response to the demonstration was very welcoming and the farmers were really impressed by the machine. People related to the agriculture business can also import it in the next phase and expand its use in other parts and the demand for the machine will sharply increase," he added.

The professor said the best thing about the machine is its efficiency as it can pick corn from one acre of land in an hour, the work which usually takes a laborer 12 hours to complete.

Talking about the impact of technology transfer by China on Pakistan's agriculture sector, Hashim said that in mechanization, China is on the dint of its advanced technology and has much higher yields than Pakistan.

"Under the CPEC agriculture cooperation, it is our basic need to introduce Chinese machines in Pakistan, which will help Pakistan cope with climate change and food security challenges," he added.

Sikandar Raza, a student of agriculture at the MNS-University of Agriculture, told Xinhua that he is excited to visit China to equip himself with modern techniques in agriculture. "I will apply them back home to transform the lives of local farmers and boost agricultural development in Pakistan."

"China, being a global leader in agricultural innovation, can provide the necessary support and knowledge transfer to help uplift Pakistan's agricultural sector," he added.

By embracing advanced farming practices such as precision agriculture, hydroponics and mechanization, Pakistani farmers can enhance productivity, reduce crop losses, and ultimately generate better profits, Raza said.

ISSI Celebrates 50th Foundation Day

Bilawal emphasises imaginative, multidimensional foreign policy for Pakistan



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) celebrated its 50th Foundation Day today. The event was attended by a large number of former diplomats, senior officials, members of the Islamabad-based Diplomatic Corps, academics, scholars and researchers, and representatives of civil society, think-tanks, and the media.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Delivering his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood dilated in detail on the Institute's rich history, proactive contributions, and impressive achievements over the past 50 years since its establishment in June 1973. The DG ISSI expressed deep gratitude to the previous Chairmen/Directors General and all scholars and researchers that have been part of the ISSI's 5-decades journey. Several of them were also attended the ceremony.

As for ISSI's future vision, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood outlined that it would focus its endeavours on strengthening its interface with all relevant national institutions; promoting interaction with the private sector, civil society and the youth as important stakeholders in the policy process; expanding beneficial collaboration with counter-part think-tanks in major parts of the world; increasing the spotlight on key regions including ASEAN, Central Asia and Africa; keeping focus on global issues such as climate change and arms control & disarmament; and accentuating the pivot to geo-economics as part of comprehensive national security.

In the realm of global situation, the DG ISSI said that the world is going through another defining moment in history, with great-power contestation being the most prominent feature and a spectre of bloc politics and as new cold war haunting the world. "Prudence demands that zero-sum perspectives are avoided, countries are spared the dilemma of making

painful choices, and the main protagonists are convinced of the benefits of economic inter-dependence as well as the virtues of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation," he said.

During his wide-ranging address, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari shared Pakistan's assessment of the obtaining global environment and gave his perspective on all major aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy. He said that the world today is beset by the inter-locking food, fuel and financial crises, while the existential threat of climate change looms large. At the same time, the most distinguishing feature of our times is the intensifying great-power contestation - which has in its wake the potential to divide the world, undermine the prospects of international collaboration to tackle global challenges, and even evoke major-power conflict.

The Foreign Minister added that the Foreign Policy of Pakistan must be imaginative, multi-dimensional, and flexible enough to adapt to the rapidly transforming geo-political



landscape across the globe. He underscored that Pakistan has clearly voiced its opposition to any bloc politics or relapse into another Cold War. Forging military alliances and assigning the role of 'net security provider' to some countries at the expense of others is fraught with grave consequences, he added. He underscored that the key driver of inter-state relations should be cooperation, not confrontation.

In the context of Russia-Ukraine Conflict, the Foreign Minister underlined the importance of adherence to the time-honoured principles of inter-state relations and UN Charter - including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also emphasized the importance of making a beginning towards addressing mutual concerns and resolving the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. This was vital

for re-establishing sustainable peace in Europe, the continent that had earlier forsaken war.

The Foreign Minister also covered Pakistan's relations with China, the U.S., Russia, Europe and the Muslim world.

Regarding relations with India, the Foreign Minister stressed that the prevalent mistrust is primarily due to the illegal and unilateral actions taken by India in IIOJK on 5 August 2019. He said Pakistan remains committed to a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. If this dispute is resolved in a just and fair manner, not only durable peace will be established in South Asia but also the peace dividends would contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the 1/5 of humanity residing in the region.

He added that his recent visit to India for the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Goa was reflective of Pakistan's commitment to the important multilateral platform of SCO.

On Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister stressed the importance for the world to pursue a pragmatic approach and continue constructive engagement. He also emphasized the need for the Interim Afghan authorities to be responsive to the international community's expectations regarding inclusivity, respect for human rights, and effective counter-terrorism action.

On the occasion, the ISSI's 5 Centres presented the Foreign Minister with their new Books/Special Reports, covering themes that are in tandem with the needs of Pakistan.

The CPSC presented its report 'Towards Connectivity and Engagement: Pathways of

Cooperation with Central Asia and Azerbaijan'; ACDC presented its book titled 'Emerging Threats and Shifting Doctrines: Challenges to Strategic Stability in South Asia'; ISC presented its book titled 'Fostering Peaceful Coexistence in South Asia through Economic Cooperation and Climate Diplomacy'; CAMEA presented its book titled 'Pakistan's Strategic Frontiers and CSP presented its reports on 'Human Security through Development: Pakistan's Narratives' and 'Regional Cooperation on Climate Change in South Asia'.

The Chairman and DG ISSI presented a Special shield to the Foreign Minister on the occasion.

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of a cake celebrating the Golden Jubilee and 50th Foundation Day of ISSI.

Photos by Raja Farid

The Canadian High Commission & Serena Hotels Screen 'Minahil'

'A story of inspiration, hope and believing in dreams'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels has been actively supporting women in sports by providing them with the Hotels platform via sponsorships by Serena. Notable mentions are acclaimed mountaineer Samina Baig whose first solo climb was in sponsorship of Serena Hotels talented footballer Karishma Ali to attend the Global Sports Week in Paris, France. Other sports & adventure initiatives include a partnership with different diplomatic missions, which entails Cricket for blind girls, where professional players train young girls & Serena hosts matches to hone their talent, providing them with skills to help them build their futures. Along with a mentorship programme

that the management launched with professional female golf players to encourage the participation of females in golf.

Serena Hotels is partnering with the High Commission of Canada, Pakistan, to uplift and empower rural communities in the Gilgit-Baltistan Region as part of the High Commission's signature sports diplomacy initiative. This effort by the High Commission and the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan aims to empower women and girls, drive socio-economic development at the community level, promote sustainable tourism, and raise awareness about climate change and environmental conservation. The fourth edition of this event saw the High Commission of Canada, Pakistan, and Sere-

na Hotels partnering to bring the stories of personal victories and achievements to the big screen. The docu-drama Minahil highlights the inspiring journey of the Booni Girls ice hockey team (Chitral), showcasing their determination and the transformative power of inclusion and gender equality, reminding all that human rights are universal, and that women's rights require attention, remarked Wajahat Malik, filmmaker of this docu-drama.

"Minahil" Premiered at Islamabad Serena Hotel, uniting supporters of gender equality, sports enthusiasts, and champions of women's empowerment. Through this collaboration, Serena Hotels & the High Commission of Canada aim to support the empowerment of rural commu-

nities and promote inclusivity and gender equality by inspiring positive change for environment conservation through such collaborations.

Amanda DeSadeleer, First Secretary for Political and Public Affairs at the High Commission of Canada, expressed her enthusiasm for the project stating, "The Booni story is a powerful one, specifically girls' ice hockey, which has been at the heart of their journey. With the hope to inspire the rest of the world as they watch these courageous girls become confident, successful young women both on and off the ice."

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, South and Central Asia, commented on the film's impact, stating that stories like this should



be showcased on a global platform, as it promotes and show-

cases the potential of the females of Pakistan positively and proactively,

especially in adventure sports. Photo by Raja Farid

Iran envoy congratulates Persian teacher on completing six years of teaching Masnavi-Khwani

Iranian cultural consulate celebrates 6th anniversary of Musanvi-Khwani

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: A prestigious event was organized on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of MusanviKhwani with the mutual cooperation of the Cultural Consulate Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad and the Association of Persian Language Graduates. Persian teachers, researchers, and students of Persian besides other cultural personalities of Pakistan presented articles on MusanviKhwani.

Mr. Ehsan Khazai, Cultural Consular, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Islamabad, delivered the welcome speech and thanked the audience for participation. Ambassador Designated of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H. E. Dr. Raza Amir Moghadam was the chief guest at the event. Prof. Dr. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri, President of Anjuman



Iftikhar and Dr. Rabia Kayani, Dr. Anbar Yasmin, President of the Department of Persian Namal University, and Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean Faculty of Humanities at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad were also present at the event and spoke on MusanviKhwani.

Historically, Maulana Rumi holds the same position as Allama Iqbal in Urdu poetry. Maulana Rumi's poems are full of spiritual themes. Under the

shadow of the Cultural Consulate Embassy of the Republic of Islamic Iran, Maulana Rumi's MasnaviManawi is taught in the form of a regular lesson. Maulana Rumi is considered to be an "ARIF" and one of the great Sufi poets of Persian.

This program will lead to the consolidation of cultural ties between the two countries and the strengthening and promotion of the Persian Language. In his address, the



ambassador of Iran said, "The efforts of the Cultural Consulate for the promotion of Masnavi-Khwani are commendable and I congratulate them on the completion of six years in this regard." Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly Islamic countries and they will try to strengthen the relations further as ambassadors. Because Maulana Rumi's poems are the source of Quranic verses and hadiths of the Prophet ﷺ, they have

the sweetness and pleasure of Maulana's thoughts and the Persian language.

The Iranian ambassador said that I am proud to have Iranian diplomatic responsibilities in Pakistan. He congratulated Persian teacher Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri on completing six years of teaching MasnaviManawi. Prof. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri in his address said that the meeting of MasnaviKhwani provides an opportunity that



the literary lovers of Pakistan can get more familiar with the thoughts and mystical ideas of Maulana Rumi. Ehsan Khazai Cultural Consular Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that Maulana Rumi's poems are interpretations of the Qur'an and the Iranian Cultural Consulate is working to promote other sciences and arts, including the spirituality and meaningful poetry of this famous Persian poet Maulana

Rumi in Pakistan. He said that today's event is the best result of these efforts for which Ustad Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri and his assistants deserve congratulations.

At the end of the event, Parag Hashmi presented Persian poems selected from Masnavi Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi in his unique style, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Photos by Raja Farid

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,301.29	41,369.16
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,612.67	41,280.16
Index Value	Change
2,809,512,966	-67.87
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	16 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,642.72	+14.46
Percentage	Time
+0.19%	16 Jun, 4:45 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
34,458.44	+50.38
Percentage	Time
+0.15%	16 Jun, 1:15 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
33,706.08	+220.59
Percentage	Time
+0.66%	16 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	763.18	771.81
Canadian Dollar	226	228
China Yuan	40.27	40.67
Danish Krone	42.13	42.53
Euro	316	319
Hong Kong Dollar	36.72	37.07
Kuwaiti Dinar	935.86	944.86
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	178.97	180.97
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	745.89	753.89
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	77.7	78.5
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	321.66	324.16
U.A.E Dirham	81.3	82
UK Pound Sterling	371	375
US Dollar	294	297

Instead of improving, relations with the IMF are deteriorating: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the IMF has expressed its concerns about the federal budget, which are contrary to the expectations of the Prime Minister.

Pakistan's relations with the international organisation are deteriorating instead of improving, which worries the business community and affects their confidence, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has so far controlled the current account deficit by restricting imports, which has saved Pakistan from default, but this year Pakistan has to repay or rollover \$20 billion in debt.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that repaying the



debt is impossible without the IMF, so this fact should be accepted; otherwise, the country will go bankrupt.

The business leader said that the current

budget is being considered by the IMF as a political budget, in which reforms in the energy sector have been ignored and steps have not been taken to widen the tax base.

The IMF considers that remittances of one hundred thousand dollars a year have been allowed, amounting to an amnesty scheme.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that many countries have seen worse conditions than Pakistan, but they came out of the crisis due to strict measures.

In 1991, neighbouring India was left with \$1.2 billion and was going bankrupt. The IMF and World Bank also turned away, but its political leadership accepted the challenge, and now that country has become a major economic power.

India has had many changes of government since 1991, but none have changed the economic policies that have made it the third-largest economic power.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that

currently, production, exports, remittances, and employment in the country are continuously decreasing while inflation and anxiety are increasing and serious economic and social problems are arising.

Achieving the revenue targets in the budget is impossible without increasing the tax base. Instead of reducing expenditure in the budget, it has been increased, leading to excessive borrowing from local banks, which has also fuelled inflation.

A realistic review of the current budget has become necessary to bridge the trust deficit between Pakistan and the IMF, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country can be saved by important decisions including privatisation, import substitution, energy reforms, and a reduction in business costs.

Otherwise, he said, the government coming after the current government will have to face more stringent conditions and the people will face more inflation.

Rebuilding Connections: Connecting people in crisis through free calling

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, the forefront pioneer in Pakistan's telecommunication industry, is reaching out with empathy and a strong sense of social responsibility to offer unwavering support to the Biparjoy-affected areas including Sirani, Sakro, Chuhar Jamali, and Jati so far. In a heartfelt effort to ease the burden of these challenging times, Zong 4G is providing 20 minutes of complimentary calling to individuals residing in these regions, ensuring that connectivity remains a lifeline and a source of solace amidst adversity.

The Biparjoy affected areas have

recently endured unimaginable hardships, disrupted lives and severely affected the daily lives of common citizens. The power of effective communication during times of crisis cannot be overstated, and Zong 4G understands the profound impact it can have on restoring hope and connecting people in need.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G shared his heartfelt thoughts on the initiative, saying, "Zong 4G stands shoulder to shoulder with the Biparjoy affectees, fully aware of the depth of their struggle. As responsible telecommunication providers, our moral obligation is to extend compassion and support to

communities in need. Through the provision of 20 minutes of free calling, we aim to not only facilitate seamless communication but also provide a lifeline of hope and connection to those who need it most."

To ensure accessibility for those affected, residents of the designated Biparjoy affected areas can simply dial *9090# to activate the offer through their Zong 4G mobile numbers. This initiative is for both prepaid and postpaid customers within the affected geographies, emphasizing Zong's commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that no one is left behind in their time of need.

Rice exports from Pakistan to Russia will escalate, another breakthrough

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the dynamic leadership of Federal Minister NFRS Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema and scholarly guidance of Mr. Zafar Hassan, Secretary MNFRS, DPP succeeded to get approved 15 more rice establishments for exporting rice to Russia.

Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of Russia confirms Department of Plant Protection (DPP) Ministry of National Food Security and Research Pakistan that 15 more rice mills which were recommended after technical audit by DPP, can now export rice to Russia. This marks a huge success towards boosting exports and overall economy of the state.

The focused courtesy of Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema, Minister of National food security and Research and scholarly guidance of Mr. Zafar Hassan, the Federal Secretary National Food Security and Research regarding rice exports and bringing exports quality to global standards were the prime factors behind this success. Their visionary leadership and determined efforts to widen the export base to Russia manifested in increasing rice export volume to Russia.

Russia had put a ban on rice exports few years back because of pest interception in rice. However it was lifted in 2021 and only 4 rice mills which complied their quality standards, were allowed to export rice from Pakistan to Russia.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira visiting a stall at Furniture Exhibition on Friday.



Photo: PID

NEPRA notifies reduced FCA for April 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: After due process, NEPRA issued its decision on K-Electric's petition for reduced Fuel Charge Adjustments (FCA) for the month of April 2023. The reduction is at a rate of PKR 0.0472 (05 Paisa) per unit and will reflect in customers' bills in the month of June 2023. FCAs are approved by the regulator, NEPRA, after review who also specifies the month during which the charge is applied.

FCA is passed on to customer bills under the prescribed rules and regulations of NEPRA and the Government of Pakistan.

Fuel Charge Adjustment (FCA) are incurred by utilities due to global variation in fuel prices used to generate electricity and change in the generation mix.

Real estate sector is the backbone of economy, Ahsan Bakhtawari

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the real estate sector is the backbone of the Pakistani economy, the last two decades the construction sector has contributed to economic recovery, employment and investment. Islamabad State Agents Association is one of the prominent organizations of the business community, IEAA and Islamabad Chamber have solved the problems through exemplary coordination. The current body of the Chamber is taking historic steps to serve the business community and address issues.

Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar ul Islam, President Islamabad State Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Former President FPCCI Zubair Malik, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahida rafeeq, Abid Khan, Ijaz Abbasi, Tahir Abbasi, Mian Maqbool and others attended the ceremony. Also addressed.

President Islamabad Chamber said that the current body of IEAA has done a great job in solving the problems in collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber. The unity of the present leadership and members is ideal, we need this unity to solve the problems, Islamabad Chamber has taken many historic steps in the last 8 months, including representation of the Chamber in CDA Board, construction of Expo Center, FM Radio, School, Hospital and Multipurpose Ground. We are trying to complete all these projects as soon as possible. The Expo Center is a long-standing project of the Islamabad Chamber. In a few days, an

agreement will be concluded with Gulberg Green. The role of the Islamabad State Agents Association will be very important for the construction of all these projects. IEAA is fully represented in the Executive Board of the Islamabad Chamber, I hope this series of cooperation will continue.

Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad State Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that I am thankful to President Islamabad Chamber and his entire team for the honour. Our organization is the second largest organization of the business community in the city after the Islamabad Chamber, but the importance of the Chamber cannot be denied in any way. Islamabad Chamber has always played the role of a big brother, all previous presidents including the current president have provided us with full guidance in every issue. He said that the facilities provided in the current budget regarding the real estate sector have been made possible by the joint efforts of the Chamber and their organization. Real estate is the most important sector of the economy providing more than 7% of total employment, more than 72 industries are connected with this sector. I especially thank the President Chamber for playing a role in expanding the package in the budget for the construction sector.

Speaking on the occasion, former President FPCCI Zubair Malik said that I am happy that there is exemplary cooperation between the present body and members of IEAA. Islamabad Chamber is the identity of all of us, this institution gave us all national and global recognition including me, we all need to promote positive



politics together. Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said that the current officials of the organization are trying to make the identity and image of the Islamabad Chamber ideal for the whole country. And for this, the unity of the entire business community of Islamabad is necessary. An honest businessman will be a role model only then the society will move in a positive direction.

Secretary IEAA Chaudhry Zahid Rafiq said that Islamabad Chamber has always patronized us, we have never been disappointed in whatever problem we brought here. Abid Khan said

that Islamabad Chamber is the home of every businessman of the city, everyone has always been respected here, politics has its place but we should work together to promote ethics and values. He said that the election is held once a year after which everyone should work together for the welfare of the chamber and their respective organizations. Tahir Abbasi said that the present body of IEAA has increased its respect on the basis of performance, that is why the trust of the members on the present president and the body is exemplary. Mian Maqbool said that the Islam-

abad Chamber of Commerce has shown excellent performance under the leadership of the current President Ahsan Bakhtawari. The young leadership of the chamber is very active and working day and night to solve the problems. On this occasion, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam thanked the President of Islamabad State Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood, General Secretary Chaudhry Zahid Rafiq for coming to the chamber, he said that this relationship of trust and cooperation between the two organizations. Will last forever.

Pakistan's presence in Special Olympics happy moment for the nation: Dr. Faisal

Arif Hafeez

KARACHI: Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Faisal hosted a welcome reception at the Pakistan House, Berlin, for the Pakistani squad of Special Olympics World Games 2023. The delegation, comprising 54 male and 33 female athletes, alongside their coaches and support officials, was given a heartwarming welcome by the officers and staff of the Embassy. Prominent members of the community were also invited to encourage the young privileged athletes aspiring to bag success in the event.

Pakistani differently abled athletes are participating in 11 different sports, including athletics, badminton, basketball, bocce, cycling, futsal, hockey, power lifting, swimming, tennis and table tennis.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador, Dr. Mohammad Faisal, noted that "I feel very proud to see you all with shining eyes, hopeful hearts and firm determination to represent Pakistan." He further added

that, "I would also want to congratulate the team management, Ms. Ronak Lakhani, Ms. Yasmin Hyder and all the coaches and affiliated personnel who enabled our privileged guests reach this point with adequate training and the aim to raise the flag high."

He said that this indeed was a very happy moment for the nation, to see its privileged children participate in an international event and reiterated that the Embassy would render every possible support to the Special Olympics Team during their stay in Berlin.

Ms. Ronak Lakhani, Chairperson Special Olympics Pakistan, who is leading the delegation, thanked the Ambassador and the Embassy for their utmost support and hoped that the team will perform well in the event, which is scheduled to officially kick off on 17th and continue till 25th of June, 2023.

The Embassy also arranged music performances, alongside refreshments, for the guests, which the participants fondly enjoyed.



PTCL Group opens new Futsal Arena to promote physical health & wellbeing of employees

UAE Ambassador, President & CEO, PTCL Group inaugurated the arena in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has opened up its brand-new Futsal Arena at PTCL Group Club in Islamabad for its employees. This facility will serve as a hub for promoting physical fitness and fostering a vibrant sporting culture within the organization.

The Futsal Arena was inaugurated by United Arab Emirates' Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency, Hamad Obaid Ibra-

him Salem Alzaabi, who was accompanied by the President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf, senior executives, PTCL Group team members and other honorable guests. Following the inauguration, a friendly yet thrilling Futsal match was played between UAE Embassy and PTCL Group teams.

The worthy Ambassador, H. E. Hamad Alzaabi commended PTCL Group for its unwavering dedication to the welfare of its employees, while President



and CEO, PTCL Group, Hatem Bamatraf emphasized the signif-

icance of investing in employee health and wellbeing. The initi-

ative aims to promote a healthy lifestyle, further motivating the workforce to accelerate progress on the company's long-term ambition of fostering sustainability.

Sharing his thoughts regarding the initiative, Group Chief People Officer (GCPO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, Shoaib Baig said, "PTCL Group values its employees' well-being above all. We prioritize their physical and mental health, encouraging team spirit and unity. The Futsal Arena is an extension

of PTCL Group's 'Vitality Express' program that focuses on strengthening employee engagement and well-being through sports and other physical activities. With our new Futsal Arena and ongoing efforts, we create an energized workforce dedicated to achieving organizational goals with focus and determination."

The UAE Ambassador, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, along with GCPO, PTCL & Ufone 4G awarded silver medals to the runner ups and gold

medals, along with trophy to the winning team.

Futsal is a fast-paced variant of football played on a smaller field with five players on each side. By engaging in this highly competitive game, the organization aims to promote teamwork, strategic thinking, and an active lifestyle among its workforce. It also aligns with the company's broader vision of strengthening its standing as the 'Employer of Choice' in Pakistan's telecommunication sector.

First-ever home series against South Africa to kick-start busy season for Pakistan Women Cricketers

Asim Tanveer

Three ICC Women's Championship and three T20is to be played at Karachi's National Bank Stadium from 1 to 14 September

Pakistan is also tour Bangladesh, New Zealand and England for the championship matches and T20Is besides hosting the West Indies in the 12-month period

The national side is also scheduled to participate in the Asian Games, while Pakistan U19 will tour Bangladesh and West Indies Emerging team will visit Pakistan

South Africa women's cricket team will undertake their first-ever tour to Pakistan in August/September that will kick-start a busy 2023-24 international cricket season for the Pakistan women's cricket team.

South Africa will play three T20Is and three ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 ODIs in Karachi from 1-14 September. Pakistan is presently sitting second on points table with five wins in nine ODIs (three series), while South Africa has played only one series of three ODIs and has six points.

In the inaugural ICC Women's Championship 2014-16, Pakistan had hosted South Africa in Sharjah with the African side winning the series 2-1. In the 2017-20 edition, Pakistan toured South Africa with the series ending in a 1-1 drawn after the third ODI in Benoni finished in a thrilling tie.

South Africa will be the fourth high-profile national women's side to tour Pakistan in recent times. In January 2019, West Indies women played three T20Is in Karachi, while in May and November 2022, Sri Lanka and Ireland played ODIs and T20Is in Karachi and Lahore, respectively. Separately, 11 cricketers from seven countries, including three captains, featured in the three Women's League Exhibition matches in Rawalpindi in March.

The home series against South Africa will be one of the five ICC Women's Championship series Pakistan will participate in during the 2023-24 season. In October, Pakistan will travel to Bangladesh, followed by tours to New Zealand in November and England in May 2024. Prior to their tour to England, Pakistan will host the West Indies in April 2024.

This means Pakistan's women cricketers will be involved in 15 ICC Women's Championship ODIs and 17 T20Is over the next 12 months. The tally of T20Is is likely to increase as the side is also expected to participate in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, in September. Pakistan women's side had clinched gold in Guangzhou (2010) and Incheon (2014) when women's cricket was included in the Asian Games.

With an aim to identify talent and invest in the future, the Pakistan Women's Wing has also scheduled two emerging series against the West Indies (in October) and Bang-

ladesh (January). Against the West Indies Emerging side, Pakistan will play three 50-over and three T20 matches, while on the tour to Bangladesh, the Pakistan U19 squad will play five T20 matches.

The forthcoming series against South Africa will be all-rounder Nida Dar's first series as captain. Nida is the one of most experienced players in the country with 99 ODIs and 130 T20Is.

Pakistan captain Nida Dar: "The next 12 months will be incredibly busy for the Pakistan women's cricket team and I look forward to the upcoming assignments with excitement and anticipation. These matches will contribute significantly in our endeavours to gain experience and exposure, and narrow gap with the front-runners.

The busy season will start with the home series against South Africa, which will also be my first series as captain. I am hoping to make it a memorable one for myself by not only completing a century of ODIs but also assisting the side to collect valuable ICC Women's Championship points so that we can finish in the upper half of the draw. However, to achieve this, we will have to play outstandingly well as South Africa is an experienced side that possesses a number of quality players."

Pakistan is always a very competitive and dangerous side at their own backyard, so I feel it's going to be a good series.

The ODIs being a part of ICC

Women's Championship is very important for women's cricket, and we all are looking forward to it.

Pakistan's schedule in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25: vs South Africa (all matches in Karachi)

27 Aug - South Africa team arrival
1 Sep - First T20I v South Africa
3 Sep - Second T20I v South Africa
5 Sep - Third T20I v South Africa
8 Sep - First ODI v South Africa
11 Sep - Second ODI v South Africa

14 Sep - Third ODI v South Africa
Oct/Nov 2023 - Pakistan tour to Bangladesh (three ODIs & three T20Is)

Nov/Dec 2023 - Pakistan tour to New Zealand (three ODIs & three T20Is)

Apr/May 2024 - West Indies tour to Pakistan (three ODIs & five T20Is)
May 2024 - Pakistan tour to England (three ODIs & three T20Is)

Pakistan's performance in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 to date:

vs Sri Lanka (won 2-1)
vs Ireland (won 3-0)
vs Australia (lost 3-0)

Additional series
Sep 2023 - 19th Asian Games, China

Oct/Nov 2023 - West Indies emerging team tour to Pakistan (three T20s and three one-days)

Jan 2024 - Pakistan U19 tour to Bangladesh (five T20s)

Sports Board Punjab Junior Tennis Championship 2023

Tahir Amin

LAHORE: The exciting quarterfinal matches were played on the 3rd day of Sports Board Punjab Junior Tennis Championship 2023 at State-of-the-Art SBP Tennis Academy at Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Friday.

Over 100 tennis players of U-8 to U-18 age groups are participating in Sports Board Punjab Junior Tennis Championship in which Rs 75,000 cash prize will be distributed among top performers of the event.

As per results, Asad Zaman, Yafat Nadeem, Ahmed Raza and Hassan Ali of Boys U-18 category exhibited wonderful games and

booked a place in semifinals after winning their respective quarterfinals comfortably.

Following are the results:

- Boys U-18 Quarterfinals:**
Asad Zaman beat Haider Nadeem 8-3
Yafat Nadeem beat Ahmad (Gym) 8-0
Ahmad Raza beat Abu Bakar Khalil 8-0
Hassan Ali beat Shaheer Khan 8-0
Boys U-16 Quarterfinals:
Shaheer Khan beat Aalay Hussain 8-5
Hanzla Anwar beat Hassan Alsm 8-3
Boys U-14 Quarterfinals:
Abdur Rehman beat Awais Zia 8-0
Ibrahim Sufi beat Romail Shahid 8-1
Aalay Hussain beat M Shahryar 8-3.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sajjad Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Taj citizen number 6110192672717 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Iqra Urooj (Daughter) 2. Shaheen Akhtar (Spouse) 3. Muhammad Waqar (Son) 4. Muhammad Ijaz (Son) 5. Sajjad Ali (Son) 6. Muhammad Ayaz (Son) 7. Arbaz Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ishfaq Ahmed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Allah Bakhsh citizen number 3740506524717 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Samina Naz (Daughter) 2. Nasira Sultana (Spouse) 3. Ishfaq Ahmed (Son) 4. Muhammad Yasir Aftab (Son) 5. Waqas Ahmed (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ali Saeed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Sajida Shaheen citizen number 3740550111390 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Hina Saeed (Daughter) 2. Ambreen Kashif (Daughter) 3. Rida Qasim (Daughter) 4. Saeed Ahmad (Spouse) 5. Ali Saeed (Son) 6. Omer Saeed (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU

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Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Shahida Kashif with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Faqir Hussain Gill citizen number 3120316882107 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Rubina Salman (Daughter) 2. Saima Gill (Daughter) 3. Shahida Kashif (Daughter) 4. Parveen Akhtar (Daughter) 5. Rubia Gill (Daughter) 6. Talib Hussain Gill (Son) 7. Javed Hussain Gill (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Adnan Zafar with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Malik Muhammad Zafar Ullah Zafar citizen number 3740505505287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Munawar Begum (Spouse) 2. Muhammad Farhan Zafar (Son) 3. Muhammad Adnan Zafar (Son) 4. Muhammad Arsalan Zafar (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hassan Bari with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Hafiz Abdul Bari citizen number 1330289188547 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Sajida Bari (Spouse) 2. Hassan Bari (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Badar Uz Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Gulraiz Badar citizen number 6110168123884 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Ayesha Badar (Daughter) 2. Rabia Adnan (Daughter) 3. Badar Uz Zaman (Spouse) 4. Muneeb Uz Zaman (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Shamsul Haque with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Shams citizen number 3740579050395 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Shazia Noreen (Mother) 2. Muhammad Shamsul Haque (Father) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shazaib with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Guftar Ahmed citizen number 6110154309903 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Anita Guftar (Daughter) 2. Naseem Akhtar (Spouse) 3. Shazaib (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Naeem with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nighat Naeem citizen number 6110112355708 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Noor Fatima (Daughter) 2. Muhammad Naeem (Spouse) 3. Muhammad Nauman (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Farhan Noor with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Malik Noor Muhammad Awan citizen number 3740502881821 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Najma Habib (Daughter) 2. Farhana Shakeel (Daughter) 3. Mahpara Atif (Daughter) 4. Shabana Khaliq (Daughter) 5. Shaheen Noor (Spouse) 6. Muhammad Farhan Noor (Son). On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU