



PM asks overseas Pakistanis to be wary of propaganda

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said overseas Pakistanis should be wary of malicious propaganda and the use of disinformation to tarnish the image of Pakistan and the state institutions. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter on Saturday, he said, "I was greatly pleased to meet and interact with the members of our expatriate community in France. (Report on Page 8)



Diplomacy & Journalism can bolster Pak-Uzbek bilateral ties, says envoy

The Managing Director of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Muhammad Asim Khichi said to enhance bilateral relations between both countries, the people-to-people exchanges were significant as it would connect the people and provide an opportunity to understand each others' culture. Moreover, journalists can play a vital role in highlighting the countries' bilateral relations and economic development. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Commissioning parade of cadets held at Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi



News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Commissioning parade of cadets of 119th Midshipmen and 27th Short Service Commission was held at Pakistan Naval Academy Karachi

Cadets from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia & Bahrain were also among the passed-out cadets. During the event the Sword of Honour was awarded to Midshipman Muhammad Mustafa, Quaid-i-Azam

Gold Medal was awarded to Lt Badar Ali, Officer Cadet Sanaullah Safer was awarded CJCSC Gold Medal. Officer Cadet Abdul Rahman Jaza S Alharthi from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was awarded Chief of Naval Staff Gold

Medal. CJCSC General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, was the chief guest on the occasion, who on arrival was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

PM resolves to complete IMF loan programme

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva in Paris on Friday and reiterated the resolve of Pakistan to complete the loan programme with the financial institution.

The PM met the IMF chief before leaving for London. It was his third meeting with the IMF chief, on the margins of the summit of world leaders on a new financing pact.

He appreciated the Managing Director IMF for taking into consideration the economic realities of Pakistan.

He said, "Pakistan is determined to fulfill all its commitments."

He said Pakistan valued the assistance of the world in coming out of its severe economic challenges.

The floods in Pakistan further increased the economic difficulties but despite that, the government gave relief to its people, he noted.

He said it was the right of the people of Pakistan to receive relief as economic challenges caused a lot of unbearable pain to people.



"We want a balance between relief to the people and economic reality," he said adding bringing the economy back on the path of growth was imperative for meeting the targets set by the IMF.

The PM said important measures needed to be taken for restoring the economy that had been battered in the four years of the previous government, adding revival of the economy would help in better achievement of targets of the IMF.

He said as always Pakistan would fulfill its commitments and pledges made to the international community.

The Managing Director IMF appreciated the resolve of the Prime Minister.

Pakistan agrees on Rs 215 b taxes to complete IMF's 9th pending review: Dar

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar expressed gratitude to members of the National Assembly, coalition partners, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly leader Raja Riaz Ahmed for giving valuable suggestions to improve the federal budget.

He also acknowledged the role of the NA and Senate Standing Committee for Finance and Revenue, and the Senate for giving input to finalize the budget and subsequently strengthening the national economy.

Highlighting the prevailing economic conditions, he explained that in December last the import restrictions were imposed to ensure timely external payments and address the country's debt situation.

However, now considering the impact on traders, businesspersons, and industries, the government had decided to lift all import restrictions following a circular issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), adding the decision was aimed at redressing the issues faced by traders and business communities, contributing to the foreign exchange reserves.



"Yesterday evening, the SBP issued a circular to lift all restrictions on import, which has now come into effect. This decision will resolve the issues faced by traders, businesspersons, and industries, and it will also contribute to an increase in foreign exchange reserves."

In a recent development, the minister said the government had incorporated changes to the super tax system, increasing the slabs and introducing new tax rates based on recommendations.

Introduced last year, Ishaq Dar said the super tax structure had

been made more progressive and for effective enforcement of the 10 per cent tax, the income tax slab had been increased from Rs 300 million to Rs 500 million.

Similarly, he said the tax ratio had been made progressive, like 1-4% and 6, 8 and 10%, which was earlier straight 10%, using the 'progressive canon of taxation.'

The purpose of the super tax is to target individuals with higher incomes and ensure a fair contribution to the country's economy. Furthermore, in an effort to document the economy, non-filers will be subjected to a 0.6% withholding tax on cash withdrawals from banks.

"It is an important step towards documentation of the national economy and bringing the maximum number of taxpayers on the net," he said.

Addressing concerns raised by the lawmakers, the finance minister acknowledged opposition to the tax on bonus shares.

Historically, companies have rewarded their shareholders through cash dividends and bonus shares, while cash dividends were subject to a 15% tax, and there was no tax on bonus shares. However, as part of the federal budget for the new fiscal year, the government has proposed a 10% tax on bonus shares and 15% on cash dividends.

"The tax on bonus shares will not be paid by the companies but the shareholders," he added.

"These measures aim to promote equity and ensure that individuals and companies contribute their fair share to national development."

In an effort to address excessive electricity consumption and promote energy conservation, the government imposed an additional duty on fans that consumed excessive electricity.

On recommendations of the stakeholders, he said the government has revised the timeline for tax implementation and provided a relaxation period of six months, allowing manufacturers sufficient time to comply with it. The proposed tax on fans would now be implemented from January 1, 2024, instead of the previously scheduled date of July 1, 2023.

In an effort to resolve tax-related disputes, the finance minister expressed regret over the existence of tax-related cases worth Rs 3.2 trillion at various levels. To tackle this issue, the government has decided to strengthen the Alternate Dispute Resolution Committees (ADRCs).

PPP always strives for ensuring political stability, democracy: Shazia Marri

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Saturday said that Pakistan people's Party had been always striving for ensuring political stability and democracy in the country.

Addressing a presser along with the Senator Rubina Khalid here, the federal minister said that all the political parties were sitting together, despite ideological differences, for the sake of the country's economic and political stability and strengthening democracy.

The coalition government came into power, after the removal of former Prime Minister through a constitutional way, to address the suffering of people amid inflation, unemployment and poverty due to the ineffective policies of the previous government, Shazia Marri said.

About the sufferings of those affected due to the floods last



year, Shazia Marri said that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto had effectively voiced the miseries of the 33 million people affected due to devastating floods at international forums. As a result of this, Pakistan received financial assistance of nine billion dollars for the flood affected people's rehabilitation, she told.

Referring to the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's recent speech in National Assembly, Shazia Marri dispelled the impression of any strife between Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party.

Law Minister for keeping national interests supreme over political affiliations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarrar has stressed upon overseas Pakistanis that national interests should be accorded priority over their political affiliations.

He said that the overseas Pakistanis were the precious asset of the country who had not only enhanced the country's prestige abroad but also always responded in difficult times.

The minister was talking to the Pakistani community members and other notables from different political parties at Pakistan Embassy in Washington DC. Pakistan Ambassador to the US Masood Khan and community leader Sajid Tarrar were also present on the occasion, said a press release issued on Saturday.

Tarrar said that unfortunately, certain elements with vested interests had launched a malignant propaganda abroad about Pakistan and the government to create fissures among the overseas Pakistanis community.

On one hand, he regretted that these elements were instigating the overseas Paki-



stanis to approach the foreign governments and legislators against their motherland while on the other, overseas Pakistanis were misguided about the missions and immigration process through self-conceived and false stories.

The law minister dispelled that the government of Pakistan had neither prepared any

list nor any step had been taken in this regard and urged the overseas diaspora to quash such propaganda by approaching their relevant embassies and the national institutions.

"The overseas Pakistanis have been our identity with whom we enjoy everlasting relations. They are the real identity of Pakistan. So it is our collective responsibility to keep country's esteem high," the press release in Urdu language quoted the minister as saying.

The minister for law further said that the prime minister and the members of his cabinet shared the common sentiments for the overseas Pakistanis and acknowledged their services.

About May 9 vandalism, the minister said that the country's history was replete with the democratic struggle of two political parties but they always differentiated between the political striving and mischief making.

He maintained that no civilized society in the world could tolerate attacks on their martyrs and the national institutions, adding that the law would take its course so that such like incidents should not resurface in future.

Indian Army martyred two Kashmiris in Sattwal sector

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Indian Army, in a display of its usual inhumane approach towards innocent Kashmiris, opened indiscriminate fire onto a group of shepherds in Sattwal Sector. Resultantly, one civilian has embraced shahadat while two have been critically injured.

Shaheeds include Obaid Qayyum S/o Muhammad Qayyum (Age 22 years) and Muhammad Qasim S/o Muhammad Din (Age 55 years). Both Shaheeds are resident of Village Bara Dari Tetrinote, Tehsil Hajira District Poonch.

PML-N not interested in delaying elections: Javed Latif



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif Saturday said that his party was not interested in delaying elections after the completion of the constitutional period.

Talking to a private news

channel, he said elections would be conducted on time and date.

"In the upcoming budget, the government will allocate funds for elections, security arrangements for polling stations and ensure the availability of equipment for obtaining transparent results," he added.

Commenting on support from coalition partners in the general elections of 2023, he said that the seat adjustment formula would be applied to winning the next elections.

He claimed that PML-N had good working relationships with coalition partners including Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Addressed

WASHINGTON: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar talking to the Pakistani community members and other notables from different political parties at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington DC.



Photo: Online

PM asks overseas Pakistanis to be wary of propaganda

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said overseas Pakistanis should be wary of malicious propaganda and the use of disinformation to tarnish the image of Pakistan and the state institutions.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter on Saturday, he said, "I was greatly pleased to meet and interact with the members of our expatriate community in France. Overseas Pakistanis are making vital contributions



to their adopted countries all over the world. We, in Pakistan, celebrate and are proud of their achievements as proud sons & daughters of the soil. They feel passionately for their motherland."

"I explained to them the circumstances in which the coalition government assumed office as well as the mammoth economic, diplomatic and political challenges that the government had to deal with over the last one year," he added.

"In my talk, I also focused on the

grave implications of the tragic incidents of May 9 including the careful & methodical build-up to the Black Day. I appealed to them to be wary of malicious propaganda & the use of disinformation to tarnish the image of Pakistan & the state institutions."

"I also outlined the broad contours of the Economic Revival Plan to put the economy back on track through long-term policies. Achieving economic self-reliance remains the overriding goal for the government," he added.

Shaza accuses PTI leadership of promoting hate politics, misinformation campaign



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership for promoting a politics of hate and confrontation.

Speaking in National Assembly, she accused them of launching a fake media campaign against their opponents.

She highlighted the alleged victimization tactics employed by the PTI and their dissemination of disinformation against political rivals.

She compared the previous government under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, noting the absence of power outages and a significant expansion of the road and motorway network

during his tenure.

In contrast, she claimed that corruption had increased under the PTI government.

Recognizing the potential of the country's youth, she emphasized that approximately 68 percent of Pakistan's population consists of individuals under the age of 30.

She underscored the government's commitment to addressing the issues faced by young people and expressed their dedication to leading the youth towards significant improvements through various initiatives.

She elaborated on the Prime Minister's Youth Program, which aimed to empower the youth through multiple initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, the laptop scheme, skills and qualifications development, sports-focused engagement programs through the Higher Education Commission, and climate change initiatives.

She highlighted that these initiatives are funded through the Public Sector Development Fund and aligned with youth development goals.

PTI President Pervaiz Elahi gets bail in money laundering case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Special Court Central Saturday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in money laundering case.

The development came after Special Court Central's Judge announced a verdict on Pervaiz Elahi plea seeking bail in money laundering case.

On June 21, Elahi was taken into custody from the district jail in the said case. The FIA had requested physical custody, but a district court denied it and he was sent to jail on judicial remand.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) anti-money laundering circle booked Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi over money laundering charges minutes after his bail was accepted by the

anti-corruption court.

Read more: NAB 'launches' probe against Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi

According to sources familiar with the matter, Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi are accused of concealing vast sums of money in five Panamanian



companies.

Earlier, Pervaiz Elahi was granted bail by an anti-corruption court in Lahore in a case pertaining to illegal recruitment in the Punjab Assembly.

He was accused of making 12 illegal recruitments in Punjab Assembly on grade 17 positions.

MOFA condoles demise of Romanian ambassador



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saturday here condoled the passing away of Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan Niculaie Goia.

In a message, the spokesperson said, "It is announced with profound sorrow that Romanian Ambassador

to Pakistan H. E. Niculaie Goia has passed away.

A seasoned professional, Ambassador Goia shall be remembered for his contribution towards strengthening Pakistan-Romania relations. Our thoughts are with the family of Ambassador Goia in this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

Pakistan lodges protest over killing of civilians by India

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saturday here to register Pakistan's strong protest over the ceasefire violation committed by the Indian forces in Satwal Sector of the Line of Control (LoC). The incident, which took place on 24 June 2023, resulted in killing of two civilians and injury to another one.

Condemning the deplorable

targeting of innocent civilians by the Indian forces, it was underscored that such senseless acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, reaffirmed in February 2021. It was further underscored that targeting of civilians is contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The Indian side was urged to respect the Ceasefire Understanding, investigate the incident, and maintain peace along the Line of Control.

NCA £190m scandal: PTI leaders excuse from appearing before NAB

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Zulfi Bukhari and Shahzad Akbar have excused themselves from appearing before National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the National Crime Agency (NCA) £190m scandal.

According to details, the former premier's aide on Overseas Pakistanis submitted a reply to accountability watchdog, excusing himself from appearing in the case.

In the written reply, Zulfi Bukhari noted that he had received the summon notice today and cannot appear before the bureau as he was abroad.

Meanwhile, Shahzad Akbar also submitted a written reply to NAB and excused from appearing in 'personal capacity'.

In his reply, Akbar noted that he had offered to record statement via video link and also expressed his

consent to record the statement in the Pakistani embassy.

He further said he has now 'permanently shifted' to UK and he cannot share his address due to 'death threats'.

NCA £190m scandal

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had launched an investigation against PTI chief, Bushra Bibi and others for the alleged gain of hundreds of canals of land in the name of Al Qadir University Trust, which reportedly caused a loss of 190 million pounds to the national exchequer.

As per the charges, the former prime minister and others accused allegedly adjusted Rs50 billion — 190 million pounds at the time — sent by Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) to the government.

The PTI chief registered Trust for Al-Qadir University Project on Dec 26, 2019.

Wagner mutiny has no impact on situation in Zaporozhye area—Russian unit commander

TASS

MOSCOW: The Wagner private military company's mutiny has had no impact on the military situation in the Zaporozhye area, commander of Russia's StormZ unit with the call sign Ali told TASS on Saturday.

"What the leadership of the Wagner PMC did has had no impact on the situation along the line of contact in the Zaporozhye area where we are active, and I am sure that it will not have any impact in the future. We will continue to beat the enemy in the same way. As commander of the StormZ unit, which brings

Kundi seeks joint role of judiciary, Parliament for restoration of public confidence

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday said the swift and transparent justice system leads a country towards progress and development.

He stated this while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the High Court Bar Association, Dera held here in a private marriage hall wherein he also administered the oath of the newly elected cabinet of the association including its President Malik HidayatUllahMalana and General Secretary WaqarAlam.

The state minister said, "A transparent judicial system leads the nations towards development."

He said the Judiciary and the Parliament had to play a joint role in the resto-



ration of public confidence in the judicial system.

Faisal Kundi, who is also Central Information Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said that his party always remained a supporter of a strong and stable judicial system having public confidence in it.

He was of the view that today the coun-

try needs a swift and transparent justice system, adding, the judiciary in the world was rapidly moving forward with the help of innovation and technology and the same pattern should be followed in Pakistan.

He said the role and unity of the judiciary and the Parliament was important, adding, the PPP has always strengthened the bar and the bench as it was a must for the country's development.

Kundisaid "The lawyers and judges of our soil played an important role in the country's history and we should be proud of them." He expressed the hope that the new lawyers would also follow their footprints.

He said the lawyers and the politicians would have to play a joint role in the restoration of public confidence in the judicial system.

Gilani expressed great sorrow and regret over the deaths in the Boat incident in Greece

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousif Raza Gilani expressed great sorrow and regret over the martyrdom of Pakistanis and people from other Muslim countries who died in the Boat incident in Greece.

He has said that if the coast guards of Greece and their government had taken timely action, the lives of 750 people could have been saved. Every religion first orders to save humanity and human life.

The Coast Guards of Greece had learned in time that people from Pakistani and other countries including more than a 300 hundred Pakistan-



is were trying to go to Italy, but their government did not take timely measures. This incident is a great tragedy of this century.

He has demanded that the United Nations and the International Red Cross should investigate the death of more than 700 people in the sinking boat in Greece and charge for the incompetence of the Greek government and its coast guards.

He has demanded the Pakistani Government to arrest the groups and gangs involved in human trafficking and give them the most severe punishment so that the smugglers who make Youngsters dream of going to Europe can be brought to a tragic end. And parents children, Sisters' brothers and

husbands of wives should not be separated.

He has demanded the government of Greece for the death of Pakistanis who drowned and he has also appealed to the parents to let their children start business in Pakistan instead of giving 34 lakhs to these smugglers.

Former Pakistani Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousif Raza Gilani Said that the Federal Government Should make Arrangements to immediately Send the DNA Samples Of the Family Members Of the People who died in the Boat incident in Greece. Also Demand to Make Arrangements to Officially Bring the Dead Body's Back to Pakistan

CTD Punjab arrests 9 alleged terrorists of banned outfits

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested 9 alleged terrorists of banned outfits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 33 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 35 suspected persons were interrogated and 9 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

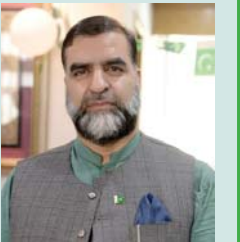
The arrested terrorists include 5 members of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan including Naveed Khan, Ghulam Hussain, Ghulam Abbas, Owais Ahmed and Akhwanzada, 3 members of ISIS including Muhammad Saif Afridi, Muhammad Hussain Masdani and Umar Ismail and one member of Al-Qaeda Khurram Shahzad included, he said and added that 2970 grams of explosives, 2 detonators, 15 feet of protective fuse wire, 97 pamphlets of banned organization, 45 stickers, 40 flags, 18 receipt boxes and 152800 rupees in cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations and other religious places. The police have registered 7 cases against the arrested alleged terrorists in Gujranwala, Faisalabad, DG Khan, Multan and Bahawalpur and shifted them to an unknown location, he added. He said that 153 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 7751 persons were checked, 8 suspects were arrested, 9 FIRs were registered and 7 recoveries were made.

Altaf Bhat strongly criticizes the visit of the Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, to IIOJK

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement, Altaf Ahmed Bhat, strongly criticizes the visit of the Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, to the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), labeling it as a cruel joke with the struggling Kashmiri people.



In a press statement released today, Chairman Altaf Ahmed Bhat highlights that the visit is nothing but an attempt to further the anti-Kashmir agenda of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in IIOJK.

The Chairman emphasizes that the visits of brutal and oppressive Indian rulers to IIOJK hold no meaning for the oppressed and subjugated Kashmiris. To them, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah is seen as nothing more than a criminal who oversees the brutal operations carried out by Indian troops on a daily basis in IIOJK.

Chairman JKSM further added that, Amit Shah's visit is aimed at misleading the world about the real situation in IIOJK. He describes it as a smokescreen intended to divert international attention from India's grave human rights violations in the region. The objective of Amit Shah's visit, as stated by the Chairman, is to spread mere propaganda and create an illusion of normalcy in IIOJK.

Nationwide protest of Pakistan Railway Premium Union

Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: Pakistan Railways PREM Union's nationwide protest has emerged immediately a hope in which the problem of railway employees has been solved. With the personal interest and timely action of the Federal Minister for Railways Saad Rafiq, the government immediately transferred three billion in the account of the railways to pay the salaries of the employees for the month of June and the Railways transferred the salary in the accounts of the employees.

PREM Union's Chairman Ziauddin Ansari, President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, General Secretary Khair Muhammad Tunio, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Divisional Presidents Raja Abdul Manaf, Muhammad Arshad Yousufzai, Muhammad Zahid, Rana Muhammad Sharif, Ikram Yousuf, Nasar Khan, Muhammad Fayyaz Shahzad, Dr. Rafiq's timely action out of personal interest play an active role, while thanking Omid Zahir for taking the same action, Khawaja Saad Rafiq will pay the dues of the retired Railway employees for more than two years and considering the financial difficulties of the Railways, the government will immediately give 25 billion for the Railways. For getting bailout package and Railway TLA will also play his role to make the employees permanent. It is expected that he will continue to solve all the problems of the Railway employees with personal interest while giving evidence of labor friendliness. Continuing the mission undertaken for welfare will keep continuity.

District administration sealed 60 brick plants: Umar Jahangir

Quratul Ain

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has ordered a crackdown against polluting factories, while the Environment Department has also been given the task of checking chimneys, boilers and air pollution systems. Heavy fines will be imposed against the burning kilns, he expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the District Environmental Committee at Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir's headquarters. A detailed briefing was given on Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the district administration has sealed 60 kilns and imposed a fine of 13 lakhs while action will be taken against units, hospitals and kilns that spread environmental pollution.

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: A Group Photo on the occasion of 1st Pakistan Tourist Conference Organized by Explore Overseas Club, Syed Sadat Hussain Shah with Regional Director TDCP Punjab Zahid Ashraf, Assistant Director TDCP Naveed Anjum and Others



BPPRA & GPP launched the diploma program

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Quetta; BPPRA & GPP with mutual collaboration launched the diploma program in procurement and supply chain management.

This Collaboration would surely empower the largest Province Balochistan through this diploma program regarding the procurement and supply chain management.

According to the details, the Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) and the Governance and Policy Project (GPP) with joined forces have introduced a 3-week diploma program in Procurement and Supply Chain Management. The initiative, conducted in partnership with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) in Peshawar, aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals involved in public procurement management across various departments in the province.

The diploma program, initiated at BPPRA's capacity-building section with the assistance of GPP Balochistan, brought together resource persons



from both BPPRA and IMS Peshawar. Faculty members from universities including Lorai, Turbat, Gwadar, UOB, SBK, BUTEMS, Lasbela, and government officials from various procurement departments actively participated in this training. The comprehensive program covered topics such as Supply Chain Management, Warehousing, Logistics, Bidding, Tender-

ing, and the BPPRA Rule 2014.

Distinguished guests including Rashid Razaq Baloch, Coordinator of the Governance Policy Project, Abid Qureshi, Managing Director of BPPRA, Noor ul Haq Baloch, Chairman of Balochistan Regulatory Authority, Mujeeb ur Rehman, Secretary of Food, Farooq Marri, Secretary, and the Vice-Chancellor of Turbat

University graced the occasion. They shared their thoughts and insights on the significance of such training courses in shaping the future of Balochistan. Abid Saleem Qureshi, MD of BPPRA, expressed his gratitude to Rashid Razaq Baloch, the GPP coordinator, for his unwavering support in implementing the Training of Trainers (T-o-T) program.

Wana swallowed 7 out of 10 children of the same family with hemophilia

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: There is such a family settlement in the Azam Warsak area of birmal Tehsil of District Lower South Waziristan.

Ten (10) of whose children have been suffering from hemophilia for a long time. In which 7 children were swallowed by this disease.

While 3 more children are also victims of this deadly disease, and are dying day and night in the struggle of life and death.

The parents of the children have been engaged in this for the last 26 years to save their families and children.

In this regard, Abdul Muhammad Wazir, the father of the children, has spent his savings on the treatment of his children, so that their lives can be

saved and now they have mortgaged all their property and their residential house by taking loans to save the lives of the children and support them.

The children's parents say that they now fear that at any moment the creditors may evict them from their property and home.

Abdul Muhammad married his aunt's daughter Feroza Bibi in 1978. They had a prosperous family.

Abdul Muhammad earned money from abroad by working hard in his youth and spend a few months at home to shape your future, while the remaining time is spent in the United Arab Emirates.

Abdul Muhammad says that Allah first showed him mercy by blessing him from among his children and his eldest daughter Roshana Bibi succumbed to hemophilia, followed

by Satrajana, Gul Rubana, Sheikh Salama, Rumana, Najibullah, Khairullah, Zainullah, and Ismatullah and Nasreen Bibi respectively, have been seven (7) of these children have been swallowed by this deadly disease, while Asmat Ullah, Hazrat Ullah and Nasreen Bibi are still alive, but these three are also surrounded by this disease, so their ages are Ismatullah 35 years, Hazratullah 30 years and Nasreen Bi Bi 18 years respectively.

Asmat Ullah and Hazrat Ullah both brothers are married, both brothers have been married for 12/13 years, but still both brothers are bereft of children, due to which I am worried.

Abdul Muhammad says that he cannot marry my 18-year-old daughter Nasreen Bibi because she is suffering from this disease, and she is not ready for marriage.



Abdul Muhammad says that my two sons and one daughter who are alive cannot do any work, because they are always afraid that they will not be exempted, Because if any of the three get a slight slip, their bleed-

ing doesn't stop, and they have to be taken straight to Islamabad, where they have arrangements to stop their bleeding.

Abdul Muhammad appealed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Army Chief Asim Munir and other top civil and military officials and said, that I am a responsible citizen of the country, I have spent my savings, property, family on the treatment and support of my children, I should be financially supported to keep my children alive, and I should not be deprived of my roof.

Feroza Bibi, the mother of children suffering from hemophilia, always has tears in her eyes and Feroza Bibi says, that I have seen the last breaths of 7 of my 10 sons and daughters breaking in my lap.

She is saying that my husband has seen the funeral of his 7 children on his shoulders, Feroza Bibi appealed to MNA Ali Chief Minister civil and military officials for financial assistance.



Islamabad
25° - 40° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:14 am
Zohr 12:10 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:22 pm
Isha 9:06 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Inspire Pakistan celebrates World Refugee Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A World Refugee Day celebration took place at the Inspire Pakistan Urban Cohesion Hub at Rawalpindi to highlight the resilience of refugees and to praise the generosity of host communities in Pakistan.

With the participation of the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the United States, Afghan refugees and members of the host communities showed an example of social cohesion through cultural songs and traditional dances of children and youth.

In welcoming remarks, Co-founder and CEO Inspire Pakistan, Mr. Qaiser M. Siddiqui, welcomed the guests and honored refugees and asylum-seekers around the world and particularly in Pakistan. During the speech, Mr. Siddiqui also recognized the efforts made by authorities and partners in support of refugees and asylum-seekers, and vulnerable migrants living in Pakistan. "World Refugee Day is a time to recognize the generosity of host countries who have kept their borders and hearts open to people in need of protection", said Mr Siddiqui. He further added that this year's global theme, Hope away from Home, reflectson the inclusion of refugees in the communities and countries in which they have found safety, courage, and persistence, as the most effective way to support them. At the end of his speech, he thanked the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR for the collective commitment to finding humane global solutions



to address this crisis.

The guest of honor, UNHCR Assistant Representative, Ms. Leyla Nugmanova, highlighted the committed participation in World Refugee Day events across Pakistan of Government of Pakistan, international community, partners and media, while emphasizing the importance of this day to show solidarity with refugees and the millions of people around the world who have fled due to war, violence, or persecution. Ms. Nugmanova also added that we can also support more our neighbors and hosting communities across Pakistan and expressed her sincere appreciation to partners, including Inspire Pakistan, who work together to deliver protection and assistance.

Inspire Pakistan, with the support of

UNHCR, manages the Urban Cohesion HUB Afghan refugees and host communities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad benefit from integrated services in health, education, vocational skills, legal support, protection and recreational activities for peaceful co-existence and social cohesion. Celebrations such as the World Refugee Day are organized with the support refugees and host communities to show social cohesion.

World Refugee Day is an annual commemoration celebrated on 20th June each year, established by the United Nations to recognize and to ensure that the world stands with Refugees. This year's theme "Hope away from home", raise awareness of the plight of displaced people as well as to honor their resilience.

Indus Hospital & Health Network Celebrates iHope's 22nd Batch of Volunteers



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) celebrated iHope Volunteer Program's 22nd batch of volunteers on June 23, 2023. Participants included around 80 students from various prestigious schools in Karachi, including Dawood Public School, The City School, Reflection School, Foundation Public School, DHA College and School System, Haque Academy, Indus Academy, Cedar College & School, Bay View High School, Generations, Aga Khan Secondary School, World Academy, and Beacon House.

During the program, the students were divided into four groups - Rescuers, Healers, Protectors, and Helpers - and took part in various activities, including ward visits, Art Therapy, Voices Against Tobacco (VAT), CPR & first aid training, and Fire-fighting training. Apart from this, the students also attended several informative talks on art, empathy, career growth, social media, and the climate. The respected speakers included Shireen Mithani, Maida Yasmeen, Ahmed Shabbar, Mr. Yousuf, and Dr. Bilal Hassan.

On the last day of the volunteer program, a closing ceremony was conducted to honor the students for their community service and to encourage them to stay life-long supporters of IHHN's Indus Yaqeen program. Each group gave a presentation showcasing their experience interacting with IHHN's patients and the activities they engaged in.

The volunteers also gave short speeches on how the experience opened their eyes to the harsh living realities in Pakistan. Their interactions with patients and subsequent work taught them that despite their age, they can make a difference for the better in someone else's life. At the end of the ceremony, the students were presented with certificates of participation.

The closing ceremony was chief guests Dr. Farah Bari, Deputy General Manager and Head, Sheikh Saeed Medical Campus; Dr. Muhammad Amin Chinoy, Executive Director, Physical Rehabilitation Directorate, IHHN; and Ruby Salman, Head Coordinator, iHope Volunteer Program.

Rotary Club praises Radio Pakistan for its variety of programs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Radio Pakistan has been greatly contributing to national service by disseminating credible information and projecting the state narrative through conventional as well as advance broadcasting.

This was stated by Rotary Club International Islamabad Chapter Governor Adnan Rohaila while recording his impressions after visiting the newly upgraded studios and facilities for specialized broadcasting at Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Islamabad.

He was leading a delegation of the Club's young members, who too were greatly inspired by the services being provided by the national broadcaster.

Adnan Rohaila said the recent initiatives of launching Radio Pakistan Podcast, Radio Reels, TikTok, the specialized Technology, Environment and ChalteChalte channels would go a long way in not only entertaining but also educating the youth. He was of the view that the idea of launching IP TV by Radio Pakistan would provide people the facility to watch a serious and meaningful content that is rarely visible in the contemporary media industry.

Rotary Club Islamabad District Assistant Governor Imran Ghaznavi, in his views, appreciated the diversified content being broadcast by Radio Pakistan for meeting the varied public demand. Mr. Ghazanvi said he is always overwhelmed by the Radio Pakistan programs as he has been listening to the state broadcaster since childhood.

The young members of the delegation, who took a round of the broadcasting facilities at the National Broadcasting House, showed keen interest in the studios built for music, drama, technology and sports. While expressing their views, they said they love Radio Pakistan.

On conclusion of the visit, certificates were distributed among young members of the club.

Man gets life imprisonment in child rape case

News Desk

SAHIWAL: In a landmark judgment, the Additional Session court in Sahiwal has sentenced Muhammad Bota to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of kidnapping and brutally sexually assaulting an eight-year-old Christian girl.

The September 2nd, 2021, incident happened, and the first information report under Section 376 was registered against Muhammad Bota. The incident shocked the community and raised concerns about child safety and protection in Pakistan.

The victim, Liza, was subjected to a horrifying ordeal when she was viciously raped and brutally beaten by Muhammad Bota, a Muslim man living in her neighborhood. She was immediately rushed to DHQ Hospital in Sahiwal, where she received intensive medical care for the traumatic injuries inflicted upon her by the perpetrator. Medical reports confirmed the heinous nature of the assault, leaving no doubt about the guilt of Muhammad Bota.

Following the incident, a case was registered against Muhammad Bota under Section 376 (punishment for rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code. Law enforcement authorities launched a search operation and apprehended the fugitive in another city. The diligent efforts of the police and legal representatives paved the way for justice to be served.

The court proceedings included compelling arguments from Liza's lawyer, Oscar Parkash, who presented the medical report as crucial evidence of the brutal rape. The irrefutable evidence led to the conviction of Muhammad Bota, who was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment.

Joseph Jansen, a human rights activist, who has been advocating for Liza's case for the past three years, commended the court's decision. He emphasized the significance of such verdicts in deterring child abuse and setting a precedent for justice in Pakistan.

"Sexually based crimes are considered especially heinous, and when committed against a child, they demand full legal remedies to protect the vulnerable. This decision sends a strong message against child abuse," stated Joseph Jansen.

Ashiknaz Khokhar, representative of Voice for Justice, expressed deep concern for Liza's wellbeing. The young child has been traumatized by the incident and is currently under the care of psychologists and medical professionals to aid in her healing process. It is expected that recovery will be a lengthy journey, leaving both physical and emotional scars on this innocent child.

Nadia Stephen, a women's rights activist, highlighted the pressing need to address human rights violations in Pakistan, particularly cases involving rape of minors, forced religious conversions, and blasphemy. Stephen urged activists to unite their voices in raising awareness and condemning such acts to foster a healthy society and promote human rights in Pakistan.

Slaughter Knife

RAWALPINDI: A vendor sharpens the slaughter knife of butchers at his shop in Raja Bazaar ahead of Eid-ul-Adha in city.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Lecture titled 'Sufism and its need in contemporary times' held at PAC

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A special lecture was organized in the Punjab Arts Council with the title "Sufism and its need in modern times". Chairman Khabib Foundation Nadeem Ahmed Khan gave a special lecture on Sufism. Naheed Manzoor and Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed attended as special guests. Nadeem Ahmad Khan said that Sufism is the interpreter of the aesthetic aspect of Islam and through it sometimes the splendor of Islam has been fully revealed. Its radiant and bright part



is that which is derived or compatible with the Qur'an and Sunnah. Sufism is actually the name of purity of morals, inner cleanliness, concern for the hereafter, purity of heart and detachment from the world. While Sufism creates

in the heart of a person the love of Allah Almighty and the passion of obeying the Messenger of Allah, it also attracts a person towards patience, tolerance, good manners, tolerance and service to mankind, he added. Naheed Manzoor said that Sufism is related to circumstances and not something that can be described by language. This is because what is interpreted and presented as Sufism today is not even distantly related to Islamic Sufism. Therefore, it is important to enlighten the common Muslims about correct Islamic Sufism. Arts Council Direc-

tor Waqar Ahmad says that over the centuries, Sufi sages Rumi, Omar Khayyam and Ghazali have contributed a lot to Islamic literature. The influence of these Sufi sages is not only on the Muslim world, but also on Western philosophers and writers.

Punjab is fort of flowers, fragrances, literature, culture, song, music, poetry, festivals, films, theaters, colors and attractions; On the other hand, it is also the cradle of the loving message of the Sufis. The lecture was attended by a large number of people from the cities.

Integration of Business Registrations among PRA & SECP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On 23rd June 2023, an MOU signing ceremony was held at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. The event was organized by Board of Investment and attended by the senior management of Provincial Revenue Authorities and Investment Boards of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federal Board of Revenue, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board, and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. All of these stakeholders signed MOUs for the Integration of Business Registrations with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) thereby facilitating the business registration at one window service i.e., SECP's e-services portal.

The event was chaired by Additional Secretary, Board of Investment,



Ms. Ambreen Iftikhar. Speaking at the event she applauded the efforts by SECP, the provincial revenue authorities,

KP Board of Investment and Trade and KP IT Board. She pointed out that the direction set by the teams will speak

volumes of success and digitization of economy.

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, Director General PRMI apprised the attendees of the efficacy of business registration integration and highlighted the key features of the Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative (PRMI) under which the business environment reforms are happening nationwide. He also introduced the attendees with the World Banks Business-Ready (B-Ready) project and its linkage with digitalization. Mr. Zulfiqar stressed the need of synergizing the efforts to modernize the regulatory regime and informed the audience that this integration has enabled curtailing processing time, ensuring information integrity, eliminating redundant processes, and promoting sharing of information between Government departments

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Modi's occupational policy failing in IIOJK badly: experts

Spokesman Report

Experts believe that Narendra Modi fascist regime's suppressing and occupational policy was failing badly in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

They urged the international community to help implement the UNSC resolutions in IIOJK, by holding a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations to let Kashmiris decide their own future.

Cruelty knows no bounds, and after the men were gunned down, their bodies were not returned to their families, they condemned.

Violating all fundamental rights, India had imposed a military siege on some 10 million Kashmiris in the IIOJK, by converting the territory into the biggest jail on earth, where over one million Indian forces had been deployed with no regard for human rights, they lamented.

Since 1947, Article 370 had given Jammu and Kashmir a semi-autonomous constitutional status. But the Modi-led regime abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on August 5, 2019 by repealing articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution.

Former senator from Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sehar Kamran (TI), told APP that the latest controversy had been reported by the international media that extrajudicial killings of a number of innocent Kashmiris had become a routine in Kulgam area of the occupied territory.

The Indian occupational forces' state terrorism, war crimes, and human rights violations had made life a nightmare for over one million oppressed Kashmiris, especially women, senior citizens, and children in IIOJK, she regretted.

Moreover, the Indian forces were using molestation, rape and sexual violence against women and children as a weapon of war, besides giving collective punishment, in a bid to suppress the legitimate freedom movement in the occupied valley," she informed.

Kashmiris have been telling the world for decades that India intended to settle paramilitary families in the held Kashmir and establish military settlements there. Narendra Modi government was all out to set up semi-military permanent colonies in help Kashmir, Ms. Kamran said while replying to a query.

Instead of implementing the UNSC resolutions, India was trying to muzzle the voice of Kashmiri people through the use of force and by perpetuating an illegal occupation, which had increased brutality and oppression after August 5, 2019, she added. Kashmir has been a burning issue since the Partition of the Indian Subcontinent in 1947.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars over Kashmir in 1948, 1965, and 1999, but have been unable to settle the dispute, she recalled.

Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Mushaal Hussein Mullick told APP that the RSS-inspired Hindutva ideology was being pursued by the BJP-led Modi government, which was a major threat to 'foreign investment' in India.

Amid the Indian government's move to seek a death sentence for incarcerated Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, Mushaal Mullick said that the entire world would react if any harm came to her husband.

She said the Indian government was trying to commit a 'judicial murder' of her husband and warned that such a move will trigger a reaction from across the world.

Mushaal Mullick said that fascist Modi and the Indian Army were turning Kashmiris into a minority in the valley by issuing domiciles to Indian citizens. In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, over 100,000 Kashmiris had been killed by Indian forces since 1989, while more than 7,200 people were murdered in custodial torture by the Indian army.

Replying to a query, she criticised India's imperialistic and fascist approach to suppress every genuine and legitimate demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Modi-led BJP government had imposed a lockdown in occupied Kashmir, allowing Indian forces to perpetrate unspeakable crimes against the masses, with complete impunity.

Vice Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar said that Narendra Modi-led Indian government had turned illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir into a gigantic prison ahead of the Hindu pilgrimage Amarnath Yatra in the name of security for the yateers, Kashmir Media Service in its report on Saturday said.

According to the KMS report, Gulzar said that the deployment of an addition-

al 60,000 troops would further increase the miseries of the oppressed Kashmiris, who were under constant siege, since 5 August 2019. He said the Kashmiris were not against the Yatra, but deployment of more and more forces' and extension in the duration of the pilgrimage was disastrous for the already fragile environment of IIOJK.

"In addition to that, the large inflow of people would also result in environmental pollution and melting of glaciers, which might result in scarcity of water resources and drought," he added.

A prominent Kashmiri advocacy group has announced that Kashmiris and their supporters would stage a protest rally near the White House on June 22 when the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will arrive there for a meeting with the US President, Joe Biden, in Washington, amid India's escalating atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary-General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF) Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, in his recent statement, said he was getting immense response from the community members as well as expressions of support from several other organisations in the effort to highlight India's brutal atrocities and suppression of the oppressed Kashmiri people.

On the other hand, the US human rights groups have announced holding similar protests against Modi's US visit over the deteriorating and worst human rights situation in IIOJK, various media reports revealed.

Kashmir issue solution to lasting peace in region

President Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD) Dr. Sardar Muhammad Tahir Tabassum and has stressed upon a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue which was essential for peace in the Asian region and in the entire world.

He also called upon the international community and the UK to pressurize India for the release of peace maker Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik.

He was addressing a peace and harmony conference organized by Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD), an international welfare and social organization for peace harmony dialogue and education, held at the British Parliament House of Commons London, a press release on Saturday said.

The purpose of this important international conference is to further highlight the UK's role in Pak-UK relations and the issue of Kashmir, as well as the effective voice of Pakistan and Kashmir in the British Parliament, members of the House of Lords, members of the British Parliament and acknowledging the distinguished services of Kashmiri and Pakistani leaders.

Dr. Tabassum further lauded Pakistani and Kashmiri immigrants who were the real ambassadors of their country, adding that they could present a positive face by dispelling the propaganda against their country and nation.

He stressed that they have to play an active role at the collective and individual levels to achieve political, economic and mutual benefits.

On this occasion, Lord Qurban Hussain, Chairman Labour Friends of Kashmir MP Andrew Gwynne, Members of British Parliament Paul Bristow, Sam Tarry, Khalid Mahmood, Tahir Ali, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese, Dr. Khurshid Ahmed CBE Chairman Board of Governors Inspad, Liaqat Ali MBE, Sheraz Khan, David Abrahams, Rehana Ali and others highlighted the Pak-UK relations and Kashmir issue.

Lord Qurban Hussain, MP Afzal Khan, MP Debbie Abrahams, MP Andrew Gwynne, MP Paul Bristow, Dr Khurshid Ahmed CBE, Sardar Joga Singh, Raja Fahim Kayani, Councillor Yasmine Dar, Ravi Singh, Shaista Safi, Bakhtawar Mir, Adam Abu Ayman and S M Irfan Tahir were awarded the Community Service for Pak UK relations and longstanding service to the Kashmir Issue.

While Members of British Parliament Muhammad Yaseen, Khalid Mehmood, David Abrahams, Imam Ahmed Al Nafais, Rafiq Sehgal, Manpreet Singh, Asia Hussain, Sheraz Khan President PPC UK, Manzar Qureshi and Rehana Ali were also awarded with Ambassador of Peace Certificate.

At the end of the conference, renowned religious scholar Shaykh Paul Salahuddin Armstrong also offered a special prayer for the freedom of Kashmir and Palestine, the stability of Pakistan and the establishment of world peace.

Syed Hussain Shaheed Sarwar, Chaudhry Jahangir Pothi Justice of Peace, Neelum, Owais Rajput, Naila Azmat, Rana Shama Nazir, Nadia Jaffery, Hassan Afzal Rana, Rashid Yaqoob, Safiya Mohammed, Naina Khan, Fiaz Naser, Rana Muhammad Iyas Khan, Shujat Ali Khan, David Abrahams, Creagh Warren, Muhammad Sharif Khan, Muhammad Abbasi, Syed Rashed Bokhari, Cameron Iqbal, Suzannah Pasty Baron, Aleisha Alexandra Baron, Mohabat Ali, Jeswinder Singh, Syed Azfar Zahid, Adeel Arshad and others attended the event.



Pakistan-Russia Oil Deal

Pakistan recently received its first oil shipment from Russia, marking a significant turning point in the growth of trade ties between the two countries. This event has both positive and potentially negative repercussions. Positively, adding Russia as a significant supplier to Pakistan's oil supply can increase the country's energy security and reduce its reliance on a single source. It also strengthens diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Russia and opens up new opportunities for economic cooperation. If Russian oil becomes available, consumers and the economy as a whole stand to benefit from more competitive pricing on the Pakistani market.

However, there are a few issues with this development that call for careful consideration. First, it is necessary to evaluate this trade partnership's long-term viability and sustainability. Russia's reliability as a supplier may be in question given its own shifting priorities in the global energy market and its history of geopolitical complexity. Pakistan is in a vulnerable position because political tensions or shifts in international relations could disrupt the steady flow of oil.

In addition, the inherent dependence on petroleum products raises concerns regarding the long-term wisdom of investing in oil trade, particularly in light of environmental issues and the global shift toward cleaner energy sources. Pakistan should prioritize the development of renewable energy

simultaneously to ensure a more resilient and sustainable energy sector in the future.

The arrival of Russian crude oil offers hope for Pakistan's economic recovery and energy security despite the potential obstacles. This deal provides Pakistan with an opportunity to address some of the most pressing issues in its economic situation. Pakistan must, however, exercise caution when navigating this partnership.

The potential impact on Pakistan's relationship with the United States is one major obstacle. Pakistan must not jeopardize its ties with the United States, especially in light of the country's financial predicament and the IMF's refusal to provide bailout funds, given the history of hostilities between the United States and Russia. Pakistan's overall diplomatic strategy will require balancing the interests of both countries.

The nature of the deal itself presents yet another obstacle. Russia, in contrast to Saudi Arabia, will only supply Pakistan with crude oil, which poses challenges for Pakistan's refineries. Additional barrels of crude oil need to be refined for about \$4, and Pakistan's refineries are not used to processing the hard Russian oil. This could have an effect on the agreement's overall economics and undermine the anticipated cost savings.

Additionally, shipping costs associated with importing Russian oil are higher than those associated with Gulf oil. The significant transportation costs brought on by being close to the Russian seaport may offset the anticipated savings from oil imports per barrel. The deal is made even more difficult by Pakistan's economic situation, which makes it necessary for Pakistan to carefully assess the economic viability of importing oil from Russia. Pakistan has trouble paying for the Russian oil because it doesn't have a lot of foreign currency and can't get financing from other countries. Pakistan's reserves are insufficient, and Russia requires payment in US dollars. The oil appears to be available only on credit, with repayment anticipated soon after. However, Pakistan's current debt burden remains a pressing issue, and this is not a long-term solution.

The import of Russian crude oil holds promise for Pakistan in spite of these obstacles. Russian crude oil has a different composition than Arabian crude, with a higher proportion of furnace oil and diesel. This organization lines up with Pakistan's oil utilization pattern, where diesel represents a critical piece of all out utilization. However, Pakistan's power plants have switched to LNG fuel, making it difficult for them to consume

furnace oil, which could result in excesses and the production of excess furnace oil from Russian crude. Pakistan cannot isolate itself from world politics solely to appease the United States in terms of geopolitical dynamics. Pakistan has been bolstering its ties with China and Russia, despite the possibility that Western powers favor Indian hegemony. The Russian crude oil deal bolsters the cooperation between the two nations, which has indicated an interest in investing in Pakistan. A changing dynamic in the region is evident by the convergence of their interests in South Asia and their impartial stance on bilateral disputes.

Pakistan's receipt of discounted Russian crude oil is a significant step toward economic recovery and energy security. This trade partnership provides Pakistan with new opportunities, despite the difficulties and risks it entails. Pakistan will need to carefully assess the deal's long-term viability, economic viability, and diplomatic implications in order to get the most out of it. In addition, Pakistan should continue to investigate options for renewable energy in order to guarantee a future energy sector that is more resilient and sustainable. Pakistan has a chance to improve its economy and reduce its reliance on a single oil source if it successfully overcomes these obstacles.

Writer is Student in school of Politics and International relations at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad



Analysis
Muhammad Haroon

Pakistan gears up to improve cotton production after low yield last year - I

Iftikhar Ahmad

Being the fifth largest cotton producer after India, China, United States and Brazil, Pakistan heavily rely on its cotton industry through which it earns a handsome bounty.

However, after witnessing shockingly low production last year, the cotton stakeholders are now striving to regain the lost ground with the hope that the vast countryside fields would soon be seen wearing white fluffy flowers in abundance.

Last year, floods in KP, South Punjab and Sindh wiped away hundreds of acres of crop inflicting huge losses to the farmers in general and the national exchequer in particular affecting cotton crops to a great extent.

Though Pakistan has never touched its dream of 20 million bales of cotton production, it did cross 14 million bales in 2004-05 and remained just below this mark (13.96 million bales) in 2014-15 during the government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), according to statistics from the ministry of finance.

The country's average annual cotton production remained between 10-12 million bales but it had never touched the bottom the way it did in 2022 mainly due to floods which washed away crops besides inundating rural and urban settlements, said Vice President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NMCCI) Asim Saeed Sheikh.

Serious efforts were needed to increase cotton yield, said South Punjab Secretary Agriculture Saqib Ali Ateel, adding 98 per cent of the 5 million acre sowing target had been achieved in Punjab.

He attributed the development to the announcement of Rs 8500 per Maund cotton support price by the federal government.

He said additional chief secretary south Punjab Captain (Retired) Saqib Zafar made it clear and issued orders that agriculture advisory staff would not be assigned any task other than cotton.

The crop production was so low last year that it compelled industrialists from textile sector to import sizable quantities of lint to meet their production cycles, said former president of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Khawaja Muhammad Usman.

The overall national cotton production target has been set by the federal government at 12.77 million bales from 6.834 million acres in Pakistan including 4.986 million acres in Punjab, 1.659 million acres Sindh, 5000 acres KPK, and 181,000 acres in Balochistan, said Sajid Mahmood, Technology Transfer head for Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan.

The province-wise production target set for cotton season 2023 included 8.336 million bales for Punjab, 4 million bales Sindh, 430,000 bales Balochistan, and 4000 bales for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Sensing the seriousness of the matter, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, during a recent visit to Multan put all the functionaries on their toes assigning them task of expanding cotton area.

Officials at divisional and district level were on their toes and their hard work bore fruit after they brought 4.8 million acre area under cotton in 2023, surpassing previous figures.

To be continued

International Day of Journalism

Diplomacy & Journalism can bolster Pak-Uzbek bilateral ties, says envoy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Managing Director of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Muhammad Asim Khichi said to enhance bilateral relations between both countries, the people-to-people exchanges were significant as it would connect the people and provide an opportunity to understand each others' culture. Moreover, journalists can play a vital role in highlighting the countries' bilateral relations and economic development. He expressed these views as a Chief Guest while speaking to media persons on the occasion of the International Day of Journalism Organized by the Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad. A large number of senior journalists from print and electronic media were present. On this occasion, Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan senior analyst shared a details presentation about the recently organized Presidential Referendum and the coming Presidential Election.

Asim Khichi said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan enjoyed cordial and brotherly relations based on common faith, shared history, and deep-rooted historical and cultural linkages. Talking about the role of journalism in Pakistani society, he said that media was considered the fourth pillar of the state. In Pakistan, the media is vibrant and plays its role in educating the people by highlighting the public perceptions about governance and issues before the rulers, he expressed.

The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, H. E. Oybek Arif Usmanov said on the occasion that Journalism was an important pillar of democracy as it provided a platform for citizens to share their views, uncover the truth and hold the powerful accountable. Journal-



ists play a vital role in society as a source of news and information. He added that journalists educate people about the world and help people to understand their place in society and ongoing events. He said that on June 27, 1906, in Tashkent, the first ever Central Asia Uzbek newspaper was published under the title "TARAQQI."

The Ambassador expressed these

views while addressing a ceremony to celebrate the Day of Journalism in Uzbekistan held at the Uzbekistan Embassy here on Saturday. Explaining the bilateral relations, the Ambassador said that the Pak-Uzbekistan friendship had reached new heights. It is high time for diplomats and journalists to further cement brotherly relations and establish re-connectivity between Pakistan and



Uzbekistan. Highlighting the economic cooperation, the Ambassador said that bilateral trade volume between the two countries had reached over \$250 million by the end of 2022 and both sides focused on exploring more avenues of trade and investments in different sectors. He said that the Uzbekistan-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation (IGC) was held on February 24 this year in Tashkent. He further informed that the Road Map agreement to increase bilateral trade up to \$1 billion was signed during the IGC meeting, and the next step would be the signing of the Road

Map on Industrial cooperation.

He added that the Transit Trade and Preferential Trade Agreements, effective in March of this year, allowed a higher bilateral trade than the previous year. Talking about the constitution of Uzbekistan, the envoy said that the renewed constitution of Uzbekistan's people opened new horizons for bilateral and multilateral interaction. He said that the renewed basic law united the society around the idea of building a new Uzbekistan. Explaining the foreign policy of Uzbekistan, he said that his country pursued a peaceful foreign policy aimed at developing bilateral and multilateral relations with states and international

organizations. "Global and regional cooperation processes have reached a new level. He said, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's international initiatives have received broad support from the international community. The foreign policy of the New Uzbekistan has led to fundamental changes in the political atmosphere in Central Asia and to the recognition of close inter-connectivity with South Asia and interdependence at the sub-regional and global levels". He informed that Presidential elections in Uzbekistan would be held on July 9 this year.

Photos by Raja Farid

Applications for the British Council IELTS Prize 2023 in Pakistan are now open

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The annual competition supports IELTS test-takers with up to £5,000 towards university tuition fees in English-speaking universities.

This year, the IELTS Prize is open to test takers living in Pakistan, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

It will be open to students who have applied for undergraduate or post-graduate studies locally or overseas through IELTS and will start their course between January 2023 and March 2024.

The deadline for submitting completed applications is September 15, 2023.

A total of three winners will be selected through a competitive application process in each country to receive the

cash prize to support their studies. Country Director British Council Pakistan, Amir Ramzan said: "Our IELTS Prize winners have taken what they have learnt from their studies abroad and applied it to the benefit of their communities. With over 15,000 IELTS tests delivered in the past year, we have directly benefited these candidates who in turn have benefitted tens of thousands more."

"We truly believe international

study and collaboration is key to building a more peaceful and prosperous world for everyone, and we take pride in assisting these ambitious and intelligent individuals achieve their goals."

Applicants who wish to find out more information about the prize, the application process, and review frequently asked questions should visit <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/study-work-abroad/ielts-prize>

Mushaal condemns martyrdom of civilians by Indian forces on LOC

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader, Muhammad Yasin Malik has strongly condemned the killing of two Kashmiri civilians due to unprovoked Indian Army firing on Tatrnotre sector along Line of Control.

The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation in a statement on Saturday said that martyrdom of civilians along LOC is the worst example of human rights violations by Indian armed forces.

The Indian soldiers targeted cattle herders in the fields in which two citi-



zens Muhammad Qasim and Ubaid were martyred while another citizen

Muhammad Hafeez was injured. She said that State-wide resistance against India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir has become inevitable.

"The unprovoked firing of Indian soldiers on the civilian population is the latest act in the unstoppable chain of brutalities being committed by the Indian soldiers", she added.

She said that Facist Modi Regime is involved in genocide of Muslims in disputed territory".

Hundreds of civilian have been martyred by Indian armed forces which not only violate human rights but also usurp their other rights in addition of confiscation of their personal properties.

Foreign Ministry: Israeli cabinet minister advocating killing thousands of Palestinians is abhorrent and genocidal

News Desk

RAMALLAH: The statements made by Israel's Minister of so-called National Security this Friday advocating for the killing of "not one or two, but dozens and hundreds and if need be, thousands" of Palestinians are abhorrent, genocidal, demonstrating clear criminal and murderous intent;

These criminal pronouncements were made in the context of providing support and encouragement to Israeli settlers to commit yet more war crimes by overtaking yet more Palestinian land and creating more settlements;

Such odious comments reflect Israel's abject disregard to Palestinian lives and the pervasive culture of impunity in Israel with regard to Palestinian lives and rights;

This impunity and criminal tendency are encouraged and bolstered by the failure of the international community to hold Israel accountable for its systematic and widespread egregious violations of international law and Palestinian rights;

Senior Israeli officials have repeatedly and shamelessly advocated for "concluding the Nakba" decisively and finally. The Israeli government is adopting policies and measures that serve this announced goal;

The Israeli government is committing all these crimes while enjoying cover, protection, and even pandering by key international players that amount to outright complicity. This irredeemably grave trend must be stopped;

States must confront the fact of their role in the perpetuation of the situation of criminality, impunity, and continuous injustice that Israel has entrenched for decades;

The ICC prosecutor must understand that Israel reads his continued silence, procrastination, and diminishing of the investigation into the situation in Palestine as a lack of interest. It is time to confront this bitter truth. Israeli exceptionalism costs Palestinian lives.

Pakistan has a long and enduring relationship with Qatar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Grand Mufti of Islamabad, Dr. Mufti Akeel-ur-Rehman Pirzada, Chairman, Ulama Aman (Peace) Committee Pakistan, while expressing his views, said that Qatar has continued its fraternal cooperation in all the difficult times of Pakistan and has invested in various projects across Pakistan to improve the economic conditions of Pakistan



It has played an important role along with the establishment of charitable institutions for the welfare of the people of Pakistan, through which the availability of clean water for the people of Pakistan and the construction of educational centers and mosques along with providing employment opportunities to the deserving people, which the people of Pakistan appreciated. Look carefully.

On this occasion, we are grateful for the exemplary cooperation of the H. H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Ameer of the State of Qatar, who, while continuing all possible cooperation with Pakistan, has provided exemplary cooperation in the recent LNG gas crisis in Pakistan, the first shipment of which has reached Karachi port from Qatar on Thursday. The recent LNG crisis will prove useful in ending it.

In this regard, H. E. Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is tirelessly trying to strengthen the relations between Pakistan and Qatar, which is highly appreciated by the people of Pakistan.

Yemen's Social Development Fund delegation visits Pakistan to study the BISP

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Social Welfare Fund (SDF) of Yemen is on five-day visit to Pakistan to study the Social Protection Model of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) which is serving the most challenged and marginalized segments to the society particularly the women.

On the conclusion of the visit, the Secretary Benazir Income Support programme Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed held a wrap-up session with the visiting delegation. The Ambassador of Yemen H. E. Mr. Mohammad Motahar Alashbi also accompanied the delegation during wrap-up meeting.

Secretary BISP while addressing the delegation, said that such study visits help both sides to share experiences and ideas and learn from each other. He informed the visiting delegates that the day they arrived in Pakistan, disbursement of Benazir Kafaa-lat tranche was also stated by Benazir Income Support Programme. The Secretary informed the delegation that



Rs. 81 billion are being disbursed to 9 million deserving families in a quar-

terly tranche which is in itself a daunting task. The Secretary BISP further said that Pakistan and Yemen are two brotherly countries and enjoy close cordial relationship. He also welcomed any proposal and suggestion from the Yemeni delegation, for improving the services rendered to the deserving women by the BISP.

Yemeni delegation expressed gratitude to Secretary BISP and his team for hospitality and the opportunity to study such a vast and comprehensive programme of social protection and women empowerment.

H. E. Mr. Mohammad Matarah Alashbil, the Ambassador of Yemen in Pakistan said that exchange study visits and sharing of information and experiences is always fruitful. He said that BISP is a fantastic model of social safety cover for marginalized and vulnerable segments. He hoped to continue exchange of such visits. This study visit was organized with the Cooperation of World Bank.

SECP's Symposium on Corporate Supervision concludes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr Umar Ata Bandial said that the law should support and encourage private businesses that will automatically translate into economic growth. Justice Bandial was delivering his keynote address at the SECP's Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions - Challenges and Reforms.

The second day of the Symposium was dedicated to stakeholder consultation to suggest way forward with respect to issues relating to company court rules, mergers, liquidations, RegTech, Suptech, Digitisation, and the adoption of ADR.

Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr Umar Ata Bandial said "We need to provide certainty, fair taxation, & transparent regulation for business growth". Justice Bandial noted that SECP's primary responsibility is to protect minority shareholders & small investors. Good business requires transparent regulation and timely and fair disclosure of information. Justice Bandial extended support for any statutory amendments in this regard.

The Chief Justice said that the court



system is overworked. The regulators can help reduce the burden on courts by playing their due role in settling corporate disputes via ADR. He concurred with the proposed amendment to the SECP Act for constituting Corporate tribunals.

The symposium resumed with a round of discussions on "Application of the Companies (Court) Rules 1997 - Issues, Challenges and Reforms with Especial Reference to Insolvency and Liquidation.

The formal discussion kicked off with Hon'ble Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani posing queries in front of the panellists and Hon'ble Justices Junaid Ghaffar, Abdullah Baloch, Jawad Hassan, Syed Muhammad Attique Shah, and Rozi Khan Berrech as chairs.

In the first session, Advocate Khozem Haidermota made a presentation on RegTech (Regulatory Technology) and its subsidiary SupTech (Supervision Technology). He explained to the

audiences that this is a process which ensures zero human interference and runs AI (Artificial Intelligence). He pointed out examples from all over the world where this mode of operation is either fully operational or in-progress. In Pakistan's case, he highlighted lack of cloud space to run such a system. He also highlighted bottlenecks in the overall process of technical adaptability, including the absence of a liability law for AI.

He also highlighted data protection bill that lacks in certain areas, including storage of data, cross-border transfer of critical data, and the requirement of keeping certain data components within Pakistan.

Saima Kamila, Chief Legal Officer Jazz proposed a light touch regulatory approach to accelerate tech ecosystem in Pakistan. Ms. Saima Kamil from Jazz shared her ideas on the topic and said that while the issue of unavailability of cloud space is significant, we also need to seriously consider data sovereignty.

Advocate Mubariz Siddiqui suggested leveraging legal design in addition to technology, and an empathetic approach to procedure and policy design.

The second round of discussions sprang from the first round, and revolved around "Managing Mergers and Amalgamations". The floor was opened for the panellists, where Advocate Qamar Afzal pointed out that Pakistan still does not have a bankruptcy law, which in itself is a huge deterrent to mergers and amalgamations. He gave the example of a case in this category that began in 1984 and finally got resolved in 2023. Another speaker said that we do indeed have a bankruptcy law but it is so old that everyone has forgotten about it.

From the academia, Ms. Mehreen Nazir spoke and said that a specialized tribunal can help in resolving most of the cases being deliberated in the discussion. She said that both the SECP and the judiciary need to appoint officials who deal with the specialization of the corporate law and the related issues.

The final round of discussion was on "Role of ADR in resolving Corporate Disputes", under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial. During deliberations, honourable Justice Yousaf Ali Sayeed said that the countries where mediation has become popular and shown results, also saw

statutory restrictions to send the disputes to mediators before litigation.

Justice Mian Gul Aurangzeb said that Islamabad has the requisite foundation for mediation. "Young barristers and lawyers, well-versed in mediation are waiting for cases to be referred to them", he said adding that we in the court system should promote that.

Sidney Custodio Pereira, SECP Registrar, made a presentation shedding light on significant amendments to the Companies Act, 2017. Among the notable suggestions were the removal of the requirement of an AGM before issuing financial statements, the omission of the statutory meeting requirement, verification of company addresses, new provisions for Easy Exit, and startups being allowed to file summary statements.

In the end, Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani gave a concluding statement. "We have had a very useful two-day symposium where several issues pertaining to corporate was discussed and candid comments were made by the lawyers and other participants", he said. He also thanked SECP for organizing the symposium and thanked the attendees for taking time out to participate.

Construction amnesty is need of the hour: Bhatti

Asad Hashmi

ISLAMABAD: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that the Construction amnesty is need of the hour. The announced package for Overseas Pakistanis is incomplete. In order to attract overseas Pakistanis to invest in the country, they should be allowed to withdraw part of their foreign currency whenever and wherever they want. Talking to the media, Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that The limit of 100,000 dollars per year should also be significantly increased. It is necessary to reduce the interest rate for the promotion of business activities. With the current interest rates, it is impossible to get the country out of economic crisis. A sudden increase in DC value of property and FBR rates will have a negative impact on the real estate and construction sector. Adil Bhatti said that It will take time to fix the 75-year-old system. A gradual annual increase in DC and FBR rates will sustain the growth of the sector and continue to increase revenue. The withholding tax will also have to be reduced in proportion to the increase in the valuation table. Give incentives to filers to achieve government revenue targets. 0.6% tax on cash withdrawals from banks is tantamount to cruelty to the poor man.

Gold price in Pakistan continues downward slide

Gold price in Pakistan continued its downward slide on Saturday as per tola price plunged by Rs2,500 despite a nominal increase in the international rates.

According to the data released by All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of gold (24 carats) decreased by Rs2,500 per tola and Rs2,143 per 10 grams to settle at Rs214,500 and Rs183,900, respectively.

Meanwhile, the price of the yellow metal also increased by \$1 and settled at \$1,920 per ounce in the international market today.

The gold rate has been volatile in Pakistan recently amid continued political and economic uncertainty, and high inflation. People prefer to buy this precious commodity in such times as a safe investment and a hedge.

Data shared by the association showed the price of silver dropped by Rs50 to settle at Rs2,500 per tola and Rs2,143.34 per 10 grams.

Mashood Khan calls for urgent action to help revive Pakistan's auto industry

News Desk

KARACHI: According to auto expert Mashood Ali Khan, the automotive sector is losing focus on its objectives due to the closure of manufacturing plants by major auto original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Atlas Honda, Pak Suzuki, and Indus Motors. These plant closures are a result of the shortage of spare parts caused by import restrictions. Khan emphasised the urgent need to address the country's economic challenges and political unrest to improve foreign exchange reserves and facilitate the recovery of the



automotive industry.

Currently, two important aspects come to mind in this regard: political stability and building trust between the business community and the government, he said.

For political stability, it is crucial for all stakeholders to come together and prioritise policies that benefit Pakistan as a whole, rather than engaging in personal conflicts or vendettas, said Khan. Over the past two years, the trade deficit has reached unprecedented levels. Therefore, it is essential to foster a sense of trust and cooperation between the business sector and the government to address and rectify this situation.

Encroachment

FAISALABAD: A view of the traffic jam at Gool Machli Market due to the encroachments by shopkeepers, which needs the strict action of concerned authorities.



Photo: Online

Japan to issue new banknotes in July 2024, marking first renewal in 20 years

Hinza Asif

Japan will issue new banknotes as early as July next year in their first renewal since 2004, a source familiar with the matter said Saturday, putting the face of Eiichi Shibusawa, known as "the father of Japanese capitalism," on the new ¥10,000 bill.

The new ¥5,000 note will feature Umeko Tsuda, an educator who pioneered women's higher education, while the new ¥1,000 note will feature microbiologist Shibusaburo Kitasato, who developed a serum therapy for tetanus.

The backs of the three banknotes will feature images of the Tokyo Station build-

ing, wisteria and a work of Mount Fuji by ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai, respectively. They will include holograms to prevent forgery.

The notes, to be issued by the Bank of Japan, are currently being printed by the National Printing Bureau, the source said.

Charter of Economy is indispensable for solving economic problems: Ahsan Bakhtawari

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that former president and co-chairman People's Party Asif Ali Zardari's statement regarding the Charter of Economy among all political parties is very welcoming initiative. For the past one year, as the president of Islamabad Chamber, I have put this demand on every forum. The business community of the federal capital strongly supports this proposal. The former president's address to the business community in Lahore is a reflection of the true understanding of the country's economic problems. The former president's proposal to give the most important ministries related to the economy to people associated with the business community is also a step towards solving economic problems. The proposal of cotton cultivation in Jhal Magsi area of Balochistan can be a milestone for achieving quality production as well as restoring peace and order in the province.

On Saturday, in his reaction to former President Asif Ali Zardari's address to the business community in Lahore, he said that the lack of long-term planning and lack of continuity of policies is the main reason for the economic problems that Pakistan is facing today. The former president offered the business community that he is ready to strike a deal with all political parties on the issue of economy, which is very welcome.

Islamabad Chamber being the representative chamber of the federal capital and the country is ready to play its full role including hosting. He said that the former president suggested that the ministries related to the economy, including the Ministry of Finance, Textiles, Commerce and others, should be given to businessperson. In fact, this proposal is a viable step towards solving economic problems.

He said that Balochistan has been suffering from unrest for a long time. In his address, the former president suggested cotton cultivation in Jhal Magsi.



With the implementation of this proposal, while on the one hand Pakistan will be able to get quality production of cotton, it will also provide a strong foundation for preventing terrorism and insurgency in Balochistan.

When young people find positive activities, they will stay away from other negative activities. He said that the former president's vision regarding regional connectivity is commendable. Pak-Iran gas pipeline can be the best alternative to solve energy problems. The government should take steps for the immediate completion of this project.

Ishaq Dar ready to accommodate FPCCI's recommendations

News desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Mr. Ishaq Dar, federal minister for finance & revenue, has assured the apex body of his support vis-à-vis anomalies in the finance bill - and, discussed some of the most important customs anomalies with FPCCI delegation in presence of Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM Finance; Mr. Ashfaq Tola, Chairman of the Reforms & Resource Mobilization Commission and top leadership of FBR.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh highlighted the irrational rate of customs duty on non-woven fabric (finished product) as compared to its raw

material; such as, Polypropylene in primary form and Polyester Staple Fiber. We requested to restore the earlier tariff in the first schedule of the customs act at the rate of 11 percent for the import of non-woven material.

FPCCI Chief highlighted paper & paper board HS Code 4802 & 4810 anomaly in the finance bill 2023-24; and, stressed that RD & Anti-Dumping Duty 10 percent Regulatory Duty (RD) on uncoated wood free paper (HS Code 4802) despite the fact that 11 percent to 39 percent Anti-dumping Duty already exists in said item. This is double jeopardy tax.

In the presence of Anti-Dump-

ing Duty, the Regulatory Duty (RD) may not be imposed.

On pharmaceuticals, Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that the custom duty on HS. CODE 2933.4990 pertaining to pharmaceutical raw material has increased from 3 percent to 20 percent. Such increase will create the shortage of medicines and drugs in the market.

Mr. Sheikh pointed out that Sec 14-A of Custom Act 1969 says that if any agency or person including port authorities managing or owning a customs port, customs airport or a land customs station or a container freight station, fails to entertain a delay and detention certificate issued by the officer of customs.



Islamabad: Mohammad Ahmed President, Atif Ikram Sheikh, former Vice President FPCCI & Convener FBR Committee, and Malik Sohail Hussain Chief Coordinator Islamabad Industrial Association IIA called on Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Federal Minister for Industries & Production.

Sikandar Raza masterclass aids Zimbabwe to thrash West Indies in CWC Qualifier

A Sports

HARARE: Sikandar Raza put on a brilliant all-round show and propelled Zimbabwe to a stunning 35-run victory over West Indies in the 13th match of the Cricket World Cup (CWC) Qualifier on Saturday.

In a hill-hill Group A clash, hosts Zimbabwe handed a 35-run thrashing to former champions West Indies and solidify their grasp on the top spot in the standings.

Dynamic all-rounder Sikandar Raza was the star of the show as he backed his sensational 68-run knock with two wickets and earned the Player of the Match award for his brilliance.

Put into bat first, Zimbabwe accumulated a par 268-run total before bundling out in the final over.

The home side had a promising start to their innings as openers Joylord Gumbie and Craig Ervine raised 63 runs for the first wicket until the former perished in the 16th over.

Gumbie could score 26 off 50 deliveries with the help of two boundaries and a six.

His dismissal triggered a brief collapse and the hosts, consequently, slipped to 112/4 in the 25th over with Ervine and Sean Williams also

walking back.

Ervine remained the notable run-getter for Zimbabwe with a 58-ball 47 which featured seven boundaries while Williams could score 23 off 26.

Following the slump, Sikandar Raza once again stood up for his team in CWC Qualifier and stitched a crucial 87-run partnership with Ryan Burl and both scored half-centuries.

The duo counter-attacked the West Indian bowlers and scored at a rapid pace until Akeal Hosein trapped Burl in his legs soon after the latter raised his bat for a well-crafted half-century.

Ryan Burl scored 50 off 57 deliveries, laced with five boundaries and a six.

Sikandar Raza then put on a brief partnership with Clive Madane (5) before finally perishing in the 46th over and Zimbabwe, as a result, had their batting tail exposed.

Raza top-scored for Zimbabwe with a brisk 58-ball 68 which included six boundaries and two sixes.

The West Indian bowlers then soon wrapped up Zimbabwe's innings by bundling them out on the penultimate delivery of the innings with 268 runs on the scoreboard.

Keemo Paul led the bowling charge for West Indies with three wickets but

was expensive, followed by Alzarri Joseph and Akeal Hosein who took two each.

Set to chase 269, West Indies could only raise 233 before being bowled in the 45th over despite Kyle Mayers's half-century.

West Indies too, had a decent start to their innings as their openers raised a quick 43-run opening partnership which lasted with Brandon King's (20 off 12) departure in the seventh over.

Following his dismissal, the Caribbean side dealt with another blow as Johnson Charles fell three overs later, scoring one off five.

With their side two down for 46 in the 10th over, Kyle Mayers received was joined by skipper Shai Hope at the crease.

The pair briefly stopped the flow of wickets and took West Indies past the 100-run mark but Wellington Masakadza drew a massive breakthrough in the 21st over as he got rid of Mayers.

Mayers remained the top-scorer for West Indies in the run chase with 56 from 72 balls with the help of eight boundaries and a six.

West Indies then began to lose wickets at regular intervals and despite some notable contributions in the



middle by skipper Shai Hope (34) and Nicholas Pooran (30), they slipped to 180/6 in the 33rd over.

Roston Chase, the only batter who hung in there for the West Indies,

fell in the 43rd over after a gutsy 44-run knock and Zimbabwe moved just one wicket away from claiming a morale-boosting victory over the West Indies.

Tendai Chatara soon picked up the last wicket in his next over by dismissing Alzarri Joseph and drove Zimbabwe to their third consecutive victory in the CWC Qualifier.

Pakistan has won 9 gold medals so far in Berlin

Sports Desk

BERLIN (GERMANY): Muhammad Luqman of Pakistan won the gold medal in the 100m race of the Special World Games Athletics. Muhammad Luqman completed the distance of 100m race in 15.21 seconds. Muhammad Luqman also won the silver medal by taking the second position in the long jump.

While Pakistan's Mirwaiz won the silver medal in the 3000m race. He completed this distance in 10 minutes and 11 seconds. So far, Pakistan has won a total of 9 gold medals in the Special Olympics World Games here.

In powerlifting, Pakistan's



Habibullah won gold medal in deadlift in 83kg weight category. Besides, Habibul-

lah won silver medals in squat, bench press and combined weight.

In the match played for the third place in the mixed field hockey event, Pakistan won the bronze medal by defeating Paraguay by 3-2 goals.

It should be noted that Pakistan has participated in the hockey event of the World Games for the first time.

In swimming 50m freestyle, Hasan Patel of Pakistan won the bronze medal by completing the distance in 1 minute and 03.93 seconds.

Pakistan's Sadia Junaid won the silver medal in the women's singles event of the tennis event

In the basketball event, Pakistan Unified Men won the bronze medal by defeating Pakistan Unified Mix.

Shadab Khan 87* lifts Sussex to edge Glamorgan in T20 Blast

A Sports

CARDIFF: Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan played a match-winning 87-run knock in Sussex's 20-run victory over Glamorgan in the ongoing T20 Blast on Friday.

Coming out to bat at number six when Sussex were four down for just 44 runs inside the batting powerplay, Shadab Khan scripted an astounding recovery for his side with a sensational half-century.

The all-rounder stopped the flow of wickets first with an anchoring 58-run partnership with wicketkeeper batter Michael Burgess, who perished in the 14th over after scoring 29 off 22 deliveries.

Shadab Khan stood his ground firm and stitched another vital partnership for Sussex as he put on a brilliant 78-run partnership with James Coles, who fell on the penultimate delivery of the final over, scoring 20 off 15.

Meanwhile, Shadab Khan carried his bat all the way through and remained unbeaten on 87 from 53 deliveries and bolstered Sussex to pile up 182/6 in their quota of 20 overs.

His magnificent knock featured five boundaries and five sixes.

Set to chase 183, Glamorgan could only accumulate 162/8 in 20 overs and thus, fell for a 20-run defeat against Sussex.

Shadab Khan also played a pivotal role in defending the total for his side by picking up a wicket in his four overs and leaking just 26 runs.

He was also involved in Glamorgan wicketkeeper batter Chris Cooke's run out.

Following his match-winning performance, Shadab Khan took to Twitter and expressed satisfaction with winning the match for his team from a tough situation and shared that he was working hard to improve in every department.

"Nothing feels better than winning a game for your team from a tough position. Working hard every day to improve all aspects of my game," wrote Shadab.

It is worth mentioning here that it was Shadab Khan's second half-century for Sussex in the ongoing T20 Blast.

His unbeaten 87 against Glamorgan was also his second-highest score in T20 cricket.

Netherlands storm into CWC Qualifier Super Sixes as Nepal crash out



A Sports

HARARE: Logan van Beek's career-best bowling figures of 4-24 followed by a sensational 90-run knock by Max O'Dowd powered Netherlands into the Cricket World Cup (CWC) Qualifier Super Sixes.

After sending Nepal to bat first, the Dutch bowlers trounced on their batting lineup and booked them for a skimpy 167 as van Beek led the attack with a four-for.

The Asian side, after getting off to a poor start, lost wickets at regular intervals and were eventually bundled out for 167 in the 45th over.

Skipper Rohit Paudel offered brief retaliation with a cautious 33 off 55 deliveries but could not manage to get the behold of his side's struggling batting.

Opening batter Kushal Bhurtel and lower-order batter Sandeep Lamichhane were the other notable run-getters for the side as they scored 27 each.

The rest of the Nepal batters made insignificant contributions with the bat as they seemed clueless against a disciplined Dutch bowling attack.

Logan van Beek led the ruthless bowling charge of the Netherlands with four wickets, followed by two each by Bas de Leede and Vikramjit Singh.

Set to chase 167, the Netherlands comfortably completed the pursuit for the loss of just three wickets and 137 balls to spare.

Opening batter Max O'Dowd spearheaded Netherlands' run chase with a brisk 90-run knock and top-scored before perishing on the first delivery of the 27th over when his side needed just 10 more runs.

He faced 75 deliveries and smashed eight boundaries and four sixes during his brilliant knock.

His opening partner Vikramjit Singh (30) and Bas de Leede (41*) also made significant contributions and paved the way for a comfortable victory for the Netherlands.

The seven-wicket victory over Nepal powered the Netherlands to storm into the Super Sixes stage of the CWC Qualifier while their opponents ran out of contention.

Sergio Busquets joining Lionel Messi at Inter Miami

Sports Desk

Inter Miami announced on Friday they are signing former Spain and Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets to team up with Lionel Messi at the Major League Soccer club.

Lionel Messi said earlier this month he was moving to Miami and he will now be reunited with his former Barca team-mate Sergio Busquets.

Inter Miami posted a tweet heralding the arrival of the player.

"Si, Busi" read the Twitter post, referring to Sergio Busquets' nickname. The tweet included quotes praising Busquets from several people in the game including former Spain coach Vicente del Bosque.



Sergio Busquets said in May that he would leave Barcelona in the summer at the end of his contract.

The 34-year-old made 143 appearances for Spain before announcing his retirement from the team in December.

Busquets has been a central part of Barcelona's successes in the past 15 years, including nine

Spanish league titles and three Champions League triumphs.

Sergio Busquets played as pivot behind Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez in an iconic midfield trio, and the three of them also won the World Cup with Spain in 2010.

Inter Miami owner Jorge Mas said this week that

the club expected to make between three to five new signings to join Lionel Messi.

"We've been preparing our roster for Messi's arrival in '23, so we left an enormous amount of flexibility," Mas told the Herald.

"We will be making additional signings during the summer window, more than what people anticipate... I can say we will potentially be making between three and five signings."

Sergio Busquets is likely to occupy one of the three 'Designated Player' spots, an MLS designation for high-earning players, whose wages do not count against the salary cap.

Inter Miami have also been linked with another Spain and Barcelona favourite, left-back Jordi Alba.

Kuwait humble Pakistan in SAFF Championship

A Sports

BENGALURU: Mubarak Al Faneni scored twice and powered Kuwait to a dominant 4-0 victory over Pakistan in the ongoing South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship on Saturday.

Kuwait started their second fixture of the SAFF Championship campaign on a high as the side took an early lead just 10 minutes into the game as Hasan Al Enezi fired the opener after a patient build-up from the right flank.

Al Enezi received a fine cross on the far post and made a gentle touch before burying the ball into the net.

Mubarak Al Faneni then doubled Kuwait's lead in the 17th minute by tapping the ball in after Alrashidi had plenty of room to run into on the break before aiding the goalscorer as Pakistan's defence was exposed.

The green shirts then made desperate efforts to push their way back into the game after being put under immense pressure but failed to breach Kuwait's defence.

Kuwait then put on a cagey show as the contest moved closer to the break and held possession without making any further attempts.

As the game further advanced, Kuwait finally dropped their plan of playing defensively and made a move towards Pakistan's post after a swift build-up from the midfield.

Mubarak Al Faneni was once again there for Kuwait and he dodged the charging Pakistan goalkeeper by chipping the ball over his head and into the net in the dying minutes of the first half.

Kuwait went into the break with a convincing 3-0 lead over Pakistan, who were in dire need to produce a contrasting outcome in the second half.

However, the second half also followed the same pattern as Kuwait once again looked more threatening with their possession and attempts.

Kuwait soon converted their dominance into the fourth goal after Eid Khaled Al Rashedi made no mistake in guiding the ball into the net in the 69th minute.

This was Pakistan's straight second defeat in the ongoing SAFF Championship and came two days after they suffered a 0-4 loss at the hands of India.

On the contrary, Kuwait registered their second consecutive win in the tournament and firm their hold on top of Group A standings.

In today's second fixture, hosts India will lock horns with Nepal. A victory for India would propel them and invite Kuwait into the semi-finals of the event while Nepal and Pakistan would crash out.

