



**Interim president signs bill limiting lawmakers' disqualification to 5 years**

Interim President Sadiq Sanjarani on Monday signed into law a bill seeking amendments to Section 232 (Qualifications and Disqualifications) of the Election Act, 2017. (Details on Page 8)



**Govt placed promotion of blue economy in its growth agenda: Ahsan Iqbal**

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday said that the blue economy possesses enormous potential for sustainable financial stability and development of Pakistan and the incumbent government has placed it in its futuristic agenda of national growth. The minister was talking to media persons during the visit of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA). (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Visit**

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Ahsan Iqbal in a group photo during his visit to Karachi Shipyard on Monday.



Photo: PID

**PM directs immediate rainwater draining measures**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the provincial and district authorities to immediately take rainwater drainage measures in Lahore.

Taking notice of the problems faced by the dwellers of Lahore, the prime minister also directed the relevant authorities to remain alert in the situation arising out of the current rainy spell, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

No leniency should be shown in addressing the public issues and grievances, it was further added.

The authorities were tasked to continuously monitor the



situation with prompt measures in place.

The prime minister further stressed that considering the situation, alternate routes should be timely identified for smooth vehicular traffic.

Similarly, in other parts of the country, the prime minister also directed for adoption of safety measures during the rainy spells and called upon the provincial and district administrations to save the people from any trouble with their joint collaboration.

**Title of 'CPEC Hero' for Ahsan Iqbal, a slap on face of malicious characters: Marriyum**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday felicitated Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal who was given a title of the Hero of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the Chinese government the other day.

The minister, in a tweet, said ironically, a person whose honesty, dedication, and hard work were acknowledged by a country as esteemed as China, was unjustly thrown into jail during the previous regime's campaign of political victimization.

She said the title of CPEC



hero for Ahsan Iqbal also reflected the effective foreign policy of Pakistan which faced isolation during the four years rule of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Marriyum said Pakistan's relations, dignity, and stature had been restored at the international stage during the one year of the incumbent government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

**Lt Gen among three sacked after May 9 riots: DG ISPR**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that three Pakistan Army officers including a lieutenant general (Lt Gen) have been sacked after May 9 riots.

DG ISPR Maj Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry held a press conference today to give a detailed briefing on the developments after the May 9 riots, trials of suspects in the military courts, disciplinary actions against the military officers and a case against the military trials of civilians being heard by the Supreme Court (SC).

He said that May 9 incident was sorrowful and condemnable as the facilitators of a small number of people spread chaos in the country which enemies of Pakistan failed to do in 75 years. The investigation proved that the planning of the May 9

riots continued for a few months and people were manipulated through negative narratives.

He said that Pakistan Army foiled the conspiracy by not giving an immediate response after the military installations came under attack.

The DG ISPR said that investigators found several pieces of evidence and are still receiving them. May 9 riots angered the families of the martyrs of the armed forces. He said that Pakistan Army is rendering sacrifices for the soil, on the other hand, propaganda was run against the armed forces for achieving ulterior motives.

"The families of the martyrs are questioning whether their beloved ones rendered sacrifices for this kind of treatment. The families are also questioning the army chief and the entire institution about action against the planners of the sorrowful incident."

The spokesperson of the mili-



tary's media wing said that a narrative based on lies and exaggeration was given to create a rift in the relationship between the nation, the government and the armed forces. The May 9 rioters failed to achieve their targets. The planners behind May 9 incident incited people to rebel by raising the fake slogan of revolution.

He said that the armed forces have rendered sacrifices for defending the soil and they will

**Decision-making**

Maj Gen Chaudhry said that there is complete coordination and clarity in Pakistan Army's decision-making. The military leadership is fully aware of elements involved in May 9 incidents which cannot be forgotten and forgiven.

"All facilitators and others involved in May 9 riots will be pronounced penalties in accordance with the Constitution and law, regardless of their association with any political party or institution."

**Internal accountability**

The DG ISPR revealed that three Pakistan Army officers including a lieutenant general (Lt Gen) were sacked and disciplinary actions were taken against 15 other officers including major general following an internal accountability process after May 9 riots.

"In Pakistan Army, the process of internal accountability is

conducted without any discrimination of any position or social status. The higher the position in the army, the greater the responsibility."

"A granddaughter of a four-star retired general and the son-in-law of a four-star retired general are going through the accountability process. Trials of 102 miscreants are being conducted and still continued.

"As per traditions, Pakistan Army completed its internal accountability process. A comprehensive institutional inquiry was conducted by major general-ranked officers in the garrison. The disciplinary actions were taken against the responsible ones for failing to protect the military installations and the sanctity of the Jinnah House."

He added that the decision was taken in light of the recommendation tabled by the court of inquiry.

Continued on page 8

**Court order Shahbaz Gill's arrest, directs NADRA to block CNIC**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A sessions court in Islamabad on Monday ordered the arrest of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader in a sedition case.

A case was registered against Gill at the Kohsar police station, Islamabad. He was accused of creating a divide in the state institution. Additional sessions judge Tahir Abbas Septra took up the case of sedition against Gill.

At the outset of the hearing, the judge said Gill is deliberately delaying the proceedings of the case.

Upon his continuous absence from the proceedings, the court ordered Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to arrest Shahbaz Gill and present him before the court if he appear at any airport in Pakistan.

The court also directed National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) chairman to block the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC).

The court also directed authorities concerned to fix notice of absconder at his Faisalabad residence. The details of properties under Gill's name in Faisalabad and Islamabad has also been sought by the court.

**Pakistan likely to sign staff-level agreement with IMF today**

**Commerce Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to sign the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today.

According to sources, Pakistan has met 90 percent conditions for the staff-level agreement with IMF.

Sources said that Pakistan has also abolished the scheme to bring \$0.1 million to the country annually and the interest rate has been increased by one percent. The basic interest rate has been hiked from 21 percent to 22 percent.

The memorandum of economic and financial policies which includes nine tables has been sent to IMF and the financial experts of the IMF will analyze the memorandum now, sources added.

Source further revealed that talks for the staff-level agreement will take place tonight and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will finalize the staff-level agreement with the IMF.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar said that Paki-

stan has fulfilled all necessary conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and "no hurdle is now left" in the signing of a staff-level agreement.

He noted that the government has introduced a number of changes to its fiscal 2024 budget in a last-ditch effort to clinch a stalled rescue package with the international lender.

For the fiscal year starting next month, the federal government will raise a further Rs215 billion in new tax and cut Rs85 billion in spending, as well as a number of other measures to shrink fiscal deficit, he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif met with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the Global Financing Summit in Paris.

During the meeting, the two exchanged views on the ongoing programs and cooperation between Pakistan and IMF. Recalling their recent telephone conversation on 27 May 2023, the premier apprised Ms. Georgieva of Pakistan's economic outlook.

**Pakistan conveys demarche to US envoy over Biden-Modi joint statement**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday summoned United States (US) Deputy Chief of Mission to Foreign Office (FO) and conveyed a demarche regarding the US-India Joint Statement issued after a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden.

"The US Deputy Chief of Mission was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) this evening and a demarche was made to him regarding the June 22 US-India Joint Statement," the foreign office spokesperson said in a statement.

The FO spokesperson noted that Pakistan's concerns and disappointment at the unwarranted, one-sided and misleading references to it in the Joint Statement were conveyed to the US side.

"It was stressed that the United States should refrain from issuing statements that may be construed as an encouragement of India's baseless and politically motivated narrative against Pakistan," it added.

The statement concluded by saying that it was also emphasised that counter-terrorism co-operation between Pakistan and US had been progressing well and that an enabling environment, centered around trust and understanding, was imperative to further solidifying Pakistan-US ties.

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in an 'emergency meeting', raised its key interest rate by 100 basis points (bps) to 22 percent, days after it announced to keep policy rate unchanged.

Taking to Twitter, the SBP's MPC explained that the potential upside risks to the inflation outlook had increased from its last meeting on June 12.

"MPC views that these risks are mainly coming from the implementation of new measures in the fiscal and external sectors, which are important in the context of completion of the ongoing IMF (International Monetary Fund) programme.

"MPC noted that today's action is necessary to keep the real interest rate firmly in positive territory on a forward-looking basis that would help in bringing down inflation towards the medium-term target of five to seven percent by the end of fiscal year 25," the central bank stated.

In a press release issued today, the central bank stated that "two important domestic developments" since its June



12 meeting had slightly deteriorated the inflation outlook and could potentially increase pressure on the already stressed external account.

"First, there are certain upward revisions in taxes, duties and petroleum development levy rate in FY24 budget as approved by the National Assembly on June 25. Second, the SBP, on June 23, withdrew its general guidance for commercial banks on prioritisation of imports," the press release reads.

It added that while the MPC viewed these measures as "necessary" in the context of the ongoing IMF programme's completion, they had nonetheless increased the upside risks to the inflation outlook.

The committee said it was of the view that additional tax measures are likely to contribute to inflation both directly and indirectly, while the relaxation in imports may exert pressures in the foreign exchange market.

## Launching ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressing the launching ceremony of Sarwa Islamic Savings Products by National Savings at Finance Division on Monday.



Photo: PID

# CDNS to launch four Shariah compliant products from July 1st

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated firm resolve of the government to implement Shariah Compliant financial system to promote and encourage interest-free Islamic banking and finance in the country.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the Shariah Compliant products by the Central Directorate of National Saving (CDNS), the minister said the directorate has designed and introduced Shariah-compliant investment and saving scheme which would be

formally launched by July 1, 2023.

In a first, the minister said the CDNS has launched four investment and saving products based on one-year, three-year and five-year terms, besides initiating saving account facility, adding that it is a flexible scheme with monthly profit and to withdraw principle amount that would encourage savings and ensure full returns.

Ishaq Dar informed that soon after assuming the charge as finance minister, he had directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to withdraw their petitions against the decision of the Federal Shariah Court in which the

Court had ordered to implement interest-free banking and financing system in the country.

Meanwhile, a high power steering committee headed by the Governor SBP was formed to find ways and means to promote Shariah-compliant financial system in the country. The committee was comprised of other prominent scholars and experts from the banking and finance sectors.

He said during the last tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government, a committee was also constituted, which had taken several steps and produced positive results as due to these efforts, the spread of

Islamic banking grew by 21 percent, adding that the balance sheets of banks with Shariah Compliant finance products witnessed a remarkable increase.

The minister said the government had recently promised to introduce Islamic finance products, adding in this regard all the concerned departments of the Ministry of Finance and other attached departments worked hard to materialize the commitment.

Besides, all the commitments made in the federal budget 2023-24 would be fulfilled one by one to achieve sustainable economic growth and social prosperity in the country, he added.

## Govt placed promotion of blue economy in its growth agenda: Ahsan Iqbal

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday said that the blue economy possesses enormous potential for sustainable financial stability and development of Pakistan and the incumbent government has placed it in its futuristic agenda of national growth.

The minister talking to media persons during the visit of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) here said that more than one thousand kilometres long coastal line and over 2 million kilometres of vast exclusive economic zone offer unfathomable opportunities to the country.

Pakistan being an agricultural country had relied on the green economy at the time while the volume of its blue economy was greater than the green one, he observed and noted that integration of both economies could boost the pace of the journey of development to a greater extent.

Ahsan Iqbal recalled that in 2014 operational capacity of PMSA was limited to a few old boats and it lacked an effective monitoring system. Then PML-N government vowed to modernise the agency and approved



projects for the induction of 6 modern ships and boats in PMSA which had significantly improved the operational capacities of the agency, the minister said.

He hoped that PMSA with its enhanced capacities would keep securing the maritime frontiers of the country and preventing the dumping of hazardous materials and elimination of illegal trade within their jurisdiction.

He further said that PMSS Kolachi was developed at the Karachi shipyard and inducted into a fleet of PMSA. The Karachi shipyard had the capability to manufacture even bigger ships that would not only further enhance the country's maritime forces but Pakistan could also earn precious foreign exchange.

## Pakistan participates in Algeria Economic Fair after 18 year

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: After a lapse of 18 years, Pakistan has participated in the 54th session of the Algeria International Economic Fair.

A total of 638 companies, including 165 companies from 30 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Arab region, and 473 Algerian - 157 public and 316 private institutions, took part in fair, said a news release issued by Algerian Embassy in Pakistan on Monday.

The Pakistani delegation comprising over 20 businessmen representing 11 companies working in textile, sportswear, pharmaceutical industry and food industry, under the supervision of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) represented the country.

"For the first time, the launch of a digital Algerian salon presents the five strategic sectors that Algeria relies on, to achieve an economic leap outside the hydrocarbon sector, which is represented in all kinds of industrial sectors, agriculture, renewable energies, media technologies, knowledge economy and the tourism sector," the news release said.



This salon was distinguished by the organization of the first economic forum which was held on "Investment in Algeria". It was supervised by the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion to identify promising investment opportunities and the advantages offered by the new investment law as well as the export opportunities within the framework of the region African Continental Free Trade.

The Pakistani participation was successful and fruitful, a positive opportunity to support the relations of exchange and economic and trade cooperation between the two countries in a distinct context of this year's celebration. 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two brotherly countries Algeria and Pakistan.

## Case against military courts

*Continued from Front page*

Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that a case is being heard by the Supreme Court (SC) regarding the military courts. He detailed that 17 standing courts are working across the country which were not established after May 9.

The DG ISPR said that the courts were already functioning under an act. The civil courts transferred the cases to the military courts in accordance with the evidence and the law.

"The accused are possessing legal rights and they have rights to appeal the verdicts in the Supreme Court (SC) and the high courts."

He added that Army Act is part of the Constitution of Pakistan and the law for many decades.

He said that punishment and reward are part of every society, religion and the constitution. The punishment should be given in accordance with the nature of crime. "The Constitution of Pakistan is most superior for us."

**'Riots were organised, planned'**

The DG ISPR said, "CCTV footage, audio recordings and pictures have proved that May 9 riots were planned and military installations were targeted."

"Immediately after the arrest, military installations in more than 200 localities were attacked. It was a shameful allegation against the Pakistan Army or an agency to carry out May 9 incident. Has Pakistan Army sent its agents to different places in Rawalpindi, Chakdara, Lahore, Mianwali, Faisalabad and others? Have Pakistan Army officials torched the Yadgar-e-Shuhada and vandalised them by their own hands?"

"Who was inciting people to increase arson in the country amid May 9 riots? A specific political group and its leadership had left no option other than spreading lies, discrimination and propaganda."

**Human rights violations**

DG ISPR rejected the reports of human rights violations in Pakistan.

He said that such narratives were mostly hatched in foreign countries.

"HR violations were aired in different ways like spreading old videos and photos on social media to defame Pakistan. Later, specific people, foreign agencies and NGOs were asked to give statements on the basis of hidden contacts or money."

"The government is fully aware and it briefed the foreign embassies and international media about the false propaganda of HR violations. The facilitators and planners of the May 9 riots cannot hide behind the propaganda of human rights violations. The time has arrived to eliminate the currency of lies."

"Social media propaganda is a serious issue and the government is working on it. The journalist community should also promote responsible journalism." He urged the authorities to devise mechanisms for ending impatience and turmoil in society.

**Consensus urged**

DG ISPR said that Pakistan Army

is also an institution of the government and it would play its role when the government is required its support. Pakistan Army played its role for polio eradication, Reko Diq, FATF and COVID-19 pandemic.

"An impression was given that Pakistan Army is not ready to give security for elections. We should know the fact that the election commission has the authority to decide the security requirements and the defence ministry gives its approval after reviewing the overall security situation."

He urged joint efforts to uproot the menace of terrorism. He added that the planners of the May 9 incidents should be exposed and brought to justice. The DG ISPR said that politicians, courts and others should jointly work for taking steps to avoid incidents like May 9 riots.

Maj Gen Chaudhry said that stakeholders should build consensus to strengthen democracy and stabilise the national economy. All political parties are respectable for us, he added.

## GB govt unveils over Rs116 bln budget for fiscal year 2023-24

**Bureau Report**

GILGIT: The Gilgit Baltistan government on Monday announced an Rs116 billion 15 crore budget for the next fiscal year 2023-24 in the Assembly held here on Monday.

Gilgit Baltistan Finance Minister Javed Ali Manwa presented the budget in the House.

In the budget of the new financial year, 74 billion rupees have been allocated for non-developmental expenditure, while 28 billion 45 crore rupees have been allocated for development expenditure. 13 billion 70 crore rupees have been proposed for subsidy on wheat.

The finance minister announced a 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees up to 16 and 30 per cent in the salaries of employees from grades 17 to 22.

He further said that more than one billion 37 crore rupees have been allocated for the improvement of the health sector.

Heer said that more than 1 billion 57 crore rupees have been allocated for education, 45 crore rupees for agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, and 4 billion 17 crore rupees have been proposed for the power sector.

More than 24 crore rupees have been allocated for the sector irrigation, 1 billion 33 crores for physical planning and housing, 3 billion 46 crores for the communication system and 28 crore 53 lakh have been proposed for IT.

Earlier, the Gilgit-Baltistan cabinet meeting was held in Gilgit, and Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid presided over the meeting. The budget proposals for the next fiscal year were approved in the meeting.

## Suspect who abandoned girl's body at Jinnah hospital arrested

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Main Suspect who abandoned the girl's body at Jinnah Hospital Karachi has been arrested.

As per details, DIG South Irfan Baloch said that suspect Jibran aka Jimmy and Sehrih abandoned the body of the Tiktok girl at Jinnah Hospital Karachi and fled from there.

He said that search operation for the woman suspect is underway and the arrested suspect Jimmy is being investigated.

Furthermore, the DIG South Irfan Baloch said that the FIR of the case will be registered on her father's complaint.

Earlier, the investigation officer revealed that the young girl was dropped - in the private gathering at the Bungalow located at DHA phase 1, Street 32, Saba Street - by a person named Nadeem along with four other girls last night. However, the 'owner' of the bungalow - Tariq - vacated the bungalow and fled after the incident.

SSP South expressed that the police department vowed to bring this case to a logical conclusion and hold all



responsible parties accountable.

As per hospital sources, the preliminary investigation revealed that the girl's condition deteriorated due to an overdose of drugs, but the post-mortem showed no evidence of drug overdose or violence.

It is worth mentioning here that some individuals left Ayesha - a TikToker girl's body - at Jinnah Hospital on Friday and fled in a white car. The suspects left the vehicle at the corner of Saba Street, a few yards away from the bungalow.

## Interim president signs bill limiting lawmakers' disqualification to 5 years

ISLAMABAD: Interim President Sadiq Sanjarani on Monday signed into law a bill seeking amendments to Section 232 (Qualifications and Disqualifications) of the Election Act, 2017.

Senate Chairman Sanjarani, who assumed the role of acting president a day earlier as President Arif Alvi left for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, signed the summary forwarded by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

A day earlier, the National Assembly passed the Election Act Law limiting the disqualification of a

parliamentarian to a maximum of five years, paving the way for those barred for life from running for a public office.

**Pakistan**

Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-

N) supreme

Nawaz Sharif

and Istikhkam-e-

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The Supreme Court

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Article 62(1)(f) of

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Senate - the upper

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"Notwithstanding

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or decree of any

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Majlis-e-Shoora

(Parliament) of 9

Majlis-e-Shoora

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Paragraph (1) of

clause (1) of Article

62 of the Constitu-

tion

shall be for a period not exceeding five years from the declaration by the court of law in that regard and such declaration shall be subject to the due process of law," the bill reads.

The house also approved another amendment to the law, allowing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the date for polls unilaterally, without the president's approval.

"...the Commission shall by notification in the official gazette announce the date or dates, as the case may be, of the general elections,"

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# UFL launching a major food ration donation program

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Unity Foods (UFL), a leading player in the food industry, is dedicated to addressing the pressing issue of food insecurity and malnutrition in Pakistan. To continue making a significant impact, UFL stands at the forefront with unwavering dedication. UFL has continued its commitment through Sunridge Taqatwar Pakistan program by launching a major food ration donation drive for 20,000 families in collaboration with Governor Sindh.

At the occasion, CEO of Unity Foods Limited, Farrukh Amin, acknowledges the urgency of the situation and stated, "We all are dreamers of the same dream: to see a Taqatwar Pakistan, where hunger is vanquished, and every child's future is filled with promise. At Unity Foods, we recognize that food



insecurity and malnutrition are not just statistics, but heart-wrenching human tragedies that demand our immediate attention. Our commitment to eradicating hunger fuels our mission to provide sustenance, hope, and a brighter future to underprivileged families

across Pakistan. With each ration pack we donate, we nurture not only bodies but also dreams and aspirations."

In the light of this campaign Governor Sindh said, "Unity Foods & Sunridge Taqatwar Pakistan Program, aims to alleviate the suffering of the

common man by providing essential commodities in the form of ration packs. Today we are distributing 20,000 ration packs of 27 kg that are sufficient to cater to a family of five for a month. Sunridge Taqatwar Pakistan program has also extended its support to 5000 cyclone-affected fisherman families by distributing cooked meals & ration packs to ensure sustenance and sustainable living while they are unable to go to sea. I am proud of the contribution of Unity Foods and its CEO Farrukh Ameen for Sunridge Taqatwar Pakistan Program. Farrukh Ameen's commitment to providing the first 100,000 ration packs for the masses has laid a solid foundation for this immensely important program. As the Taqatwar Pakistan brand ambassador, I am determined to do my utmost to make this program a huge success for the people of Pakistan."

## NIMIR Energy and Longi Sign MOU to Accelerate Solar Energy Development

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: NIMIR Energy, a leading renewable energy company, and LONGi, a global solar panel manufacturer, have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at fostering collaboration in the development and deployment of solar energy solutions. This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of sustainable and clean energy sources to meet Pakistan's growing energy demand.



Under the terms of the MOU, NIMIR Energy and LONGi will work together to explore opportunities and synergies in solar energy projects and capacity building initiatives. The collaboration will leverage NIMIR Energy's expertise in project development and LONGi's cutting-edge solar technology to drive the adoption of renewable energy pan-Pakistan, pushing the government's intent to promote solar.

NIMIR Energy is part of NIMIR Group, providing services in renewable energy with primary focus on solar EPC for industrial, commercial and residential users. NIMIR Group has been serving Pakistan and its business community since 1964 with a diversified range of products. With climate action in full swing, NIMIR would like to play its positive role in bringing in the right resources to ensure Pakistan's transition to clean and sustainable energy. The company's commitment to sustainable development aligns perfectly with LONGi's vision to enable the world to transition to a low-carbon future through its industry-leading solar products and solutions.

LONGi, renowned for its high-efficiency solar modules and advanced photovoltaic technology, has emerged as a global leader in the solar industry. By joining forces with NIMIR Energy, the company aims to expand its reach and accelerate the development of solar energy projects in key markets around the world.

## Daraz Pakistan donates 200 laptops to govt schools

Commerce Desk



LAHORE: Daraz Pakistan has announced the donation of 200 refurbished laptops to government schools in Okara, a testament to Daraz's dedication to supporting education and ensuring that students have access to essential technology resources.

The donation aims to provide students enrolled in 8 schools in Okara with refurbished laptops, enabling them to thrive in today's learning environments. Recognizing the importance of assisting the most vulnerable groups in society, this donation will be benefiting 3600 students. Zeeshan Khan, Regional Corporate IT Head, Daraz, expressed his enthusiasm about the donation, stating, "This contribution will assist many disadvantaged families in the country. Our aim is to offer children the necessary tools to access equal educational opportunities. With new avenues for participation in innovative online learning experiences, these laptops will uphold our commitment to removing barriers and providing equitable solutions."

Daraz's donation to government schools in Okara aligns with its company-wide commitment to bridge the digital divide and invest in connectivity, technology, digital literacy, and education solutions. The company recognizes that students require access to technology to realize their full potential and is proud to support competency-based and career exploration opportunities, thus contributing to the future development of Pakistan.

## NUIST University of China to offer scholarships for Pakistani students in climate change

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. Tong Jiang of Nanjing University of Information Sciences and Technology (NUIST) of China and Executive Director for the Research Institute of Climatic and Environmental Governance on Monday said that his department is offering fully funded scholarships in the field of Climate Change and Environmental Governance for Pakistani students for enhancing their research capacity to combat with climate crises.



In this regard, NUIST University of China is collaborating with NUST and an MoU has been signed to foster collaboration in scientific research and exchanges of students and faculty. The research cooperation is being also expanded with other prominent universities of Pakistan which include Quaid-e-Azam University, COMSATS University Islamabad, and the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Professor Jinag told media.

He said that young scientists from Pakistan's universities in the field of climate change and climate risk studies would be admitted to the university for research. Moreover, Environmental Change Postdoctoral positions would also be offered.

He said that our new project in Pakistan is focused on water shortage and tipping points about climate change. Pakistan suffered great losses due to heavy floods last year and now facing high temperatures and drought.

## Fallen Pillar

RAWALPINDI: A view of the fallen pillar of Sawan Bridge due to land sliding after heavy rain in City.



Photo: Online

## PARC and BoP collaborate to promote research-based agriculture

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and The Bank of Punjab (BoP) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of boosting agricultural productivity and sustainability in Pakistan. Under this agreement, BoP will provide financial support for research activities that are mutually agreed upon and driven by demand, with the goal of promoting the welfare of the farming community and ensuring sustainable food security. In an initial step, BoP will finance the specific needs of the potato-growing community, focusing on the production of disease-free seeds for potato growers in the Punjab region. This financial backing from BoP aligns with the broader objective of fostering growth and green sustainability throughout the country. Additionally, both PARC and BoP have expressed their commitment to engaging the youth in the agricultural sector through their participation in various agriculture trades training programs under the Prime Minister's



youth loan scheme.

During the event, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), highlighted the critical role of agricultural research in attaining economic stability and promoting rural development. Dr. Ali emphasized the paramount significance of allocating resources to expand agricultural research activities, as it drives product innovation,

strengthens food security, and creates opportunities for exports.

President of the Bank of Punjab (BoP) and other officials conveyed their gratitude for the endeavors undertaken by PARC in benefitting the farming community. BoP acknowledges the significance of agricultural development as a source of optimism and aims to offer financial assistance to further strengthen the sector.

## Rain likely at various parts of country: PMD

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rain-wind thunderstorm is expected in Punjab, Islamabad, Potohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northeast and east Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the next 24 hours.

Isolated heavy falls (with isolated hailstorms) are also expected in Kashmir, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and south Punjab.

According to the synoptic situation, a seasonal low was lying over north-east Balochistan. A westerly wave was also affecting the upper and western parts of the country.

During the last 24 hours, rain wind-thunderstorm occurred in Punjab, Islamabad, Potohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north/east Balochistan and Kashmir.

The rainfall recorded was in Punjab: Lahore (Airport 255mm, Lakshmi Chowk 241, Pani Wala Talab 236, Qurtaba Chowk 230, Gulshan-e-Ravi 213, Nister Town 202, Iqbal Town 178, City 172, Tajpura 165, Jail Road 163 and Johar Town 155.

# 'Silent Crisis: The soaring epidemic of children's mental health disorders'

Andleeb Khan

Behind the innocent smiles of our children lie unseen battles that often go unnoticed. The alarming surge in mental health disorders among our youth calls for immediate intervention. By acknowledging and addressing these hidden struggles, we can pave the way for a brighter future where our children's well-being takes center stage.

In recent years, the surge in children's mental health disorders has cast a spotlight on a pressing issue that often goes unnoticed. Despite the gravity of the situation, society has failed to provide adequate attention and support, leaving countless children struggling in silence.

Experts in the field emphasize the critical role parents play in supporting children's mental health.

Chief Executive Officer Mehfooz-Bachpan (Child Protection Campaign), Bushra Iqbal highlights, "Understand-

ing a child's personality physiologically, mentally, and physically by giving them a conducive approach provides a protective environment, making them more successful and feel like useful citizens of society."

Psychologist Sobia Iftikhar adds, "Family and couple therapy are very helpful in dealing with children's mental health issues, including psychotherapy, family training therapies, stress management, and behavioral management."

Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's mental well-being. By actively engaging with their children, observing their activities, and addressing their thoughts and concerns, parents can create a nurturing environment that fosters emotional resilience. Open and supportive conversations at home can help alleviate fears and anxieties that contribute to mental health disorders, she added.

Regular check-ins with children are essential in monitoring their emotion-

al well-being. Emotions and moods can fluctuate, and by actively communicating and offering support, parents can normalize any fears or anxieties stemming from their environment. Reinforcing positive aspects of their lives, such as engaging in activities, spending time with loved ones, and pursuing hobbies, can significantly contribute to a healthy mental state.

However, the responsibility to address children's mental health issues extends beyond the confines of the home. Government and community efforts are crucial in providing accessible mental health resources and interventions. Prioritizing children's mental health, alongside physical health, should be a cornerstone of public health policies.

In countries facing specific challenges, such as polio eradication, the cooperation of parents becomes paramount. It is essential for parents to understand the implications of neglecting vaccinations, as it not only poses physical health risks but also contributes to mental and



emotional distress in children. By prioritizing their children's health and actively participating in vaccination programs, parents can contribute to their overall well-being and protect them from potential mental health challenges.

Internal pressures, such as academic performance stress, excessive expectations, and constant comparisons, can significantly impact a child's mental

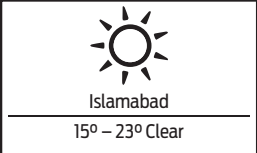
health. Creating a supportive environment that fosters individuality and encourages a balanced approach can help alleviate these pressures. Parents should promote a healthy perspective on achievements and ensure children have opportunities for relaxation and self-care.

Addressing name-calling, bullying, and fostering a culture of respect within

schools and communities is essential. By educating children on the importance of kindness and empathy, we can create inclusive environments where all children feel safe and valued.

"As a society, we must increase awareness and prioritize the mental health of our children. Parental education programs and counseling services within educational institutions, led by experts like Sobia Iftikhar, can equip parents with the knowledge and skills needed to identify and address potential mental health disorders. By taking a proactive approach, we can ensure that our children grow up in a supportive environment that nurtures their mental well-being."

In conclusion, the escalating crisis of children's mental health disorders demands urgent action and increased awareness. It is the collective responsibility of parents, communities, and policymakers to address this issue and prioritize the well-being of our children.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:15 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 Enquiry ..... 117  
Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank  
Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

# New policy parameters to boost music industry: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday announced finalization of the country's first-ever music policy draft, which would ultimately prove to be a big news for the industry.

The new policy incentives and initiatives would eventually boost the music industry since they would effectively redress piracy, copyrights and other pertinent issues, she said in a statement.

The minister said the music policy had been prepared in accordance with the international standards and also considering the relevant laws in vogue in the neighbouring countries.

She said the artists' public performance, production, distribution, adaptation, duration, and mechanical and



communication rights were also brought into legal framework through the policy.

Through such measures, the problem of users and licensees would also be solved, which would give a boost to the music industry, she added.

The minister said the end of monopoly, the basic legal rights of music industry workers would also be protected under the proposed policy.

All issues and demands of the

music stakeholders, including copyrights, would be resolved, she reiterated.

The policy, she said, would also protect the legal rights of music producers, singers, writers and lyricists, besides resolving the long-standing issues of the industry related to sales, copying and piracy.

The minister said the policy also included special measures to preserve classic music, and initiatives for local and folk

music to promote regional singers and artists.

She said under the policy, steps would be taken to not only preserve but also promote Pakistan's musical heritage, which was rich being a unique combination of Sufi poetry, with classic and modern music.

Marriyum said music could be termed "the soul and spirit" of the Pakistani society, rather it was a national and cultural identity, which was being brought forward from generation to generation.

Since the 1970s, she said, "no policy parameters, including legislative and administrative, for the music industry have been introduced. The new policy will fully protect the copyright, which help compose quality music for masses."

Both Pakistan and the music industry were suffering due to the theft of intellectual rights, she added.

## Islam is the Pioneer of Free and interest-free Economy

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Amere Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq has said that the control of institutions and families over political parties will end and democracy will be strengthened. Decisions of the country should be made in the country itself, not in the closed rooms of Washington, London or Dubai, the people should

be empowered.

The May 9 incident will have far-reaching consequences. The situation is the most difficult, yet it is not hopeless, to get rid of the status quo that has been going on for 75 years, the nation brought forward competent and honest people, after the failure of the ruling parties, now the only option is Jamaat-e-Islami. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations. The Amir Jamaat said that the continuation of the East India Company in the country was under the control of the overall system of imperialism. The West likes the same democracy and freedom of expression

The alternative to the imperialist system is the Islamic system, whose path is blocked by the US and Western powers. Compared to the Western economic system, Islam is the pioneer of free and interest-free economy, its so-called democratic system is the model of the state of Medina. Pakistan is dominated by loyalists of the West, oppressive feudal lords and corrupt capitalists who have been in power for generations are responsible for the destruction of the economy, education, health and judicial system.

Continuity has to be broken through constitutional, democratic struggle, only then the country can move forward. Sirajul Haq said that after the Karachi elections, the reputation and competence of the Election Commission has been badly affected and its ability to conduct national elections has been questioned. Together, devise such a system that no one can object to the results. A flawless system of justice and accountability is the need of the hour, it is not expected from the present rulers.

Now their performance has come out, all are badly exposed. Jamaat-e-Islami got opportunity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi, we set high examples of service. There is no stain of corruption on Jamaat-e-Islami, people should cooperate with us to make the country a clean, green, corruption-free Islamic welfare state in the true sense.

## PAC marked International Day against Drug Abuse



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A walk was organized in Punjab Arts Council regarding the World Anti-Drug Day. The young generation expressed their determination to make all efforts to rid the society of the scourge of drugs. On this occasion, AIIMS Foundation Zabir Sarhadhi and his team also participated. On this occasion, Waqar Ahmed, director of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi said that the scourge of drugs is licking our young generation like termites and it is necessary to eradicate it. Therefore, measures should be taken on an emergency basis so that future generations can be kept away from its harmful effects. He said that it is the responsibility of all parents to keep a close eye on the activities of their children so that they do not regret later. There will come a time when we will be able to rid our country of the scourge of drugs because staying away from drugs is the cornerstone of a healthy society.

## Experts call for mechanisms, legal frameworks for better employment prospects for migrant labor

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri on Monday urged the government to sign MoUs and agreements for safe and legal labour migration and prevention of exploitation.

He was speaking at a seminar on "International Labour Migration: Development Outlook and Policy Options for Pakistan" organized by SDPI.

He stressed devising mechanisms under SDG-8 to ensure legal, organized and safe immigration to avoid tragedies like the recent boat capsizing incident in Greece.

He added that strengthening legal frameworks for labour migration, proactive role of diplomatic missions in host countries and urged media to raise the plight of migrant workers to the attention of the world.

Dr Kailash Chandra Das, South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM) remarked that the lack of scientific and gender-disaggregated data on migration trends hinders effective policymaking.

He further highlighted that managing the cost of migration and protecting of labour rights are pertinent issues that require robust policy dialogues and attention from the government.

Reintegration of returned migrants is a crucial issue and consultation with them can improve the perspective on policies for imparting competitive skills to enable access to better economic opportunities, he added.

## Unveils Fellowship Program to Cultivate Entrepreneurship and Financial Independence for youth

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Youth International Conclave (YIC) has made waves in the youth empowerment sphere with the unveiling of its highly anticipated Fellowship Program. Designed to cultivate entrepreneurial skills and foster financial independence among young individuals, this groundbreaking initiative has garnered attention from aspiring entrepreneurs, educators, and industry leaders alike. With an impressive portfolio of 20 university partnerships already secured, YIC is poised to revolutionize the landscape of entrepreneurship education. Exciting collaborations with prominent chambers of commerce and industries are also on the horizon, further amplifying opportunities for program graduates.

Empowering the Next Generation:

In an era where entrepreneurship and financial independence have become increasingly coveted, YIC's Fellowship Program seeks to equip aspiring youth with the tools and knowledge needed to succeed. Through a carefully crafted curriculum, mentorship programs, and access to a global network of industry experts, YIC is nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit of participants, fostering their growth as future leaders. From honing business strategies to developing financial acumen, fellows will gain invaluable insights and skills necessary for launching successful ventures.

## View

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Margala Hills during pleasant weather after rain in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## KP registers 40 dengue cases in one week

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The provincial health department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday called for more pragmatic measures to control the spread of dengue fever in the province as at-least 40 cases were reported within a week from across the province.

A comparative report of dengue fever cases issued here by the department revealed that 13 cases were reported from Mardan, 11 Peshawar, five Bajaur, three Chitral, two each from DI Khan and Swabi and one each from Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Khyber and Kohat



districts.

It said that the health department in collaboration with the district administrations and

other line departments kept the dengue cases under control this year as compare to the last year, adding that last year no case of

dengue was reported during the first two months of 2022 and only three cases were registered in March while in 2023 eight cases were registered in January, two in February and three in March.

Similarly 14 cases were reported in April, 52 in May and 40 in June 2022 but during the corresponding period of 2023 four cases were registered in April 12 in May and 40 in June.

It advised all the district administrations and local communities to adopt preventive measures during rainy season to curb the spread of dengue.

## State Bank to remain closed on July 3

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will remain closed to the public on July 3 (Monday) as it will be observed as a bank holiday, a notification issued on Monday said.

"All banks/DFIs/MFBs shall, therefore, remain closed for public dealing on the aforementioned date. However, employees of the banks/DFIs/MFBs will attend the office as usual," it added.

The holiday is on account of the new fiscal year that is starting from July 1 (Saturday), however, Eid ul Adha's third day will be celebrated on that day.

The holiday has now been moved to July 3, however, this day the banks/DFIs/MFBs will remain closed to the public but not to their employees.

Earlier, the government announced a four-day holiday on account of Eid. The banks will remain closed from June 28-30.

As a result, all commercial banks across the country will also remain closed for five days — Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## 'Quality education should not be a privilege' TikTok, Edkasa,

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In order to spread awareness on how an innovative partnership between popular short-video platform TikTok, edtech startup Edkasa and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) benefitted millions in Pakistan, a panel discussion titled 'Quality Education Should Not Be a Privilege' was held at the university in Lahore on June 20th, 2023. The event showcased the #ExamReady campaign that set higher standards for learning outcomes in the country.

The panel saw participation from the #ExamReady team from Tik Tok, Edkasa and LUMS. A lively discussion ensued on how a unique partnership has paved the way for furthering the cause for quality education in Pakistan.

Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of LUMS, while talking about platform learning said: "The phenomenon of



platform learning was new to everyone. Our faculty and patterns; Tik Tok and Edkasa came in with the excitement to explore what can be done when it comes to online learning. We decided to take some bold steps to ensure the quality of education."

Topics such as how the partnership came into being were answered by Zara Basharat Higgs, Head of Public Policy Programs and Partnerships for South Asia at Tik Tok, who elaborated on the motivation behind the #ExamReady campaign.

Dr Faisal Bari, Dean of the LUMS School of Education, moderated the event and addressed queries on the university's role, and the value it brought to the partnership. Dr Faisal Bari added: "The School of Education was set up to embrace change and work towards reforming education in the local context, one of the ways we believe change can happen in Pakistan is through online learning platforms that can help us engage with students at scale."

Dr Yasira Waqar, Assistant Professor LUMS School of Education, elaborated on the strict process that was followed while developing the educational videos to ensure quality of education.

Annum Sadiq, Chief Education Officer and co-founder of Edkasa, conveyed how teaching while using short video format has increased engagement and learning with its benefits having reached millions in Pakistan.

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# Multan Control Price Magistrates are ineffective, reasons!

To ensure the delivery of daily commodities to the citizens at controlled rates, the government has entrusted the district administration with the responsibility. In this regard, to improve the price mechanism in the district, the responsibilities of controlling prices have been delegated to 40 gazetted officers who are Control Price Magistrates. The Deputy Commissioner has issued strict instructions to them to ensure the sale of goods at government rates, staying in the field on a daily basis and to take immediate action against hoarders and illegal profiteers by lodging FIRs and arresting them on the spot.

These days, newspapers are filled with news of expensive prices of daily uses items and mutton, beef, as well as chicken. The Control Price Magistrate is being held responsible for this inflation. Ground reality is that they are helpless in front of the shopkeepers. They have ceased to exist. I tried to find out the actual facts by contacting the ten Price Control Magistrates. It was revealed that the Control Price Magistrates are diligently performing their duties with dedication to implement the government's rate list. However, due to the lack of cooperation from the district administration and the police department, their efforts are not yielding results. One magistrate clearly stated that in the previous terms, I have received merit certificates and cash rewards from the DC, but due to the irresponsible policies and behavior of the current interim government, we are not working hard. The current Deputy Commissioner has not held a meeting with the Price Control Magistrates for the past two months. In contrast, during the

tenure of DC Tahir Wattoo, there used to be a meeting of Price Magistrates every Monday in a week, and the performance of each magistrate was evaluated. One magistrate stated that the attitude of the police department towards us is extremely discouraging. When we report a culprit, an FIR is not filed, but we are forced to withdraw our complaints from police stations and other departments and by the politicians.

The mafia involved in hoarding and selling expensive goods has so much influence that they call us from police special branches and courts readers. The Control Price Magistrate revealed that last year I lodged a complaint against the owner of Medina Hotel in Police Station Jaleelabad, but FIR has not been registered until today. I have requested to Thana Muharar several times through WhatsApp and phone calls to file the case, but the police station's irresponsible attitude is a major hurdle in our performance. As a result, shopkeepers are charging whatever rates they want, and on the other hand, the Thana Muharar and SHO become hostile towards us, and our complaints are not met with timely registration of FIRs. Magistrates have demanded from the CPO Multan to inquire from the Muharar Mr. Sohail of Police Station Cantt. why he is hesitant to register legal FIR. The control price Magistrate clarified that he has given this Istighasa on May 24 in the PS Cantt. after passing one month my legal FIR could not be filed. In this way our fear is ending from markets now shopkeepers taunt us

to do what we have to do.

Effective action against illegal profiteers and hoarders is only possible when the civil bureaucracy and the police department support the Control Price Magistrate. The Control Price Magistrate mentioned that the administration does not provide us with police personnel or civil defense employees. However, for effective action against illegal profiteers and hoarders, the police and the district administration need to be present behind the Control Price Magistrates. The district administration only provides police personnel to the magistrates of the revenue department these magistrates are only 6 or 7, while the remaining magistrates out of forty face the mafia in the field without any police or other force support, and the local police station also does not cooperate with them. How can we implement the government's rate control list they said?

In these days in Multan district, only 6 or 7 price control magistrates are working with broken hearts while in the past, we have seen magistrates riding motorcycles and rickshaws to reach markets and checking prices by posing as customers. Cases were filed against profiteers under proposed act. It seems that the current negligent government and weak implementation of the price control policy by the current Deputy Commissioner, is allowing hoarding and profiteering at their will. One complaint from consumers is that the bakery item "double roti" (Bread) which is an essen-

tial food item for patients and children, has been removed from the controlled rate list by the DO Industry upon the instructions of influential individuals. It should be included in the list, and similarly, substandard quality meat is being supplied from slaughterhouses and also being sold at higher prices. The animals are being slaughtered on the drainage lines in central of this city after many complaints there is no action by the Multan administration. Weak and emaciated animal's meat is being sold openly with self-made stamps images. The mafia can only be brought under legal jurisdiction if the police support price control magistrates.

Through our column, we request the Chief Minister, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Multan to address the concerns raised by the price control magistrate and provide essential items to the public, such as rice, lentils, meat, milk, yogurt, double roti (Bread), flour, sugar, ghee, and eggs at controlled and affordable prices. The CPO and DPOs should be directed to SHO immediately register FIRs based on the appeals of price control magistrates and send the culprits to jail. Only through such practical actions can hoarders and profiteers be brought under legal jurisdiction. In this way, price control magistrates can work with honesty, unity and confidence. The Deputy Commissioner should hold a meeting on a regular basis, once a week, to assess the performance and mechanism of the price control magistrate. Officers who show good performance should be appreciated and rewarded with certificates and incentives to motivate them to work better among their contemporaries.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abidin Abid

## Fulfillment of religious duty

Saudi Minister of Islamic Affairs Abdul Latif Al-Sheikh on Monday said the Pakistani community, known for its strong Islamic faith, fulfilled their religious duty by embarking on the sacred pilgrimage of Hajj.

He, in a message to Pakistani pilgrims on the eve of Arafah, said the devout Pakistani pilgrims expressed their pride in their religion and eagerly sought to please Allah Almighty through this momentous pillar of Islam.

Minister Al-Sheikh hoped that the Pakistani pilgrims would return home safely, forgiven and blessed. Their journey was filled with prayers, supplications, and acts of devotion, as they aimed to purify their souls and draw closer to Allah Almighty, he emphasized.

He, in the spirit of unity and peace, wished that the Pakistani pilgrims would be granted a smooth and trouble-free journey back to their homeland. "May they be blessed with abundant goodness and protection from any adversities that could potentially dampen their spiritual experience. It is essential for them to remain unaffected by any external influences that might hinder their sincere dedication and commitment to the worship of Allah Almighty, for a truly pure and unadulterated Hajj experience," he maintained.

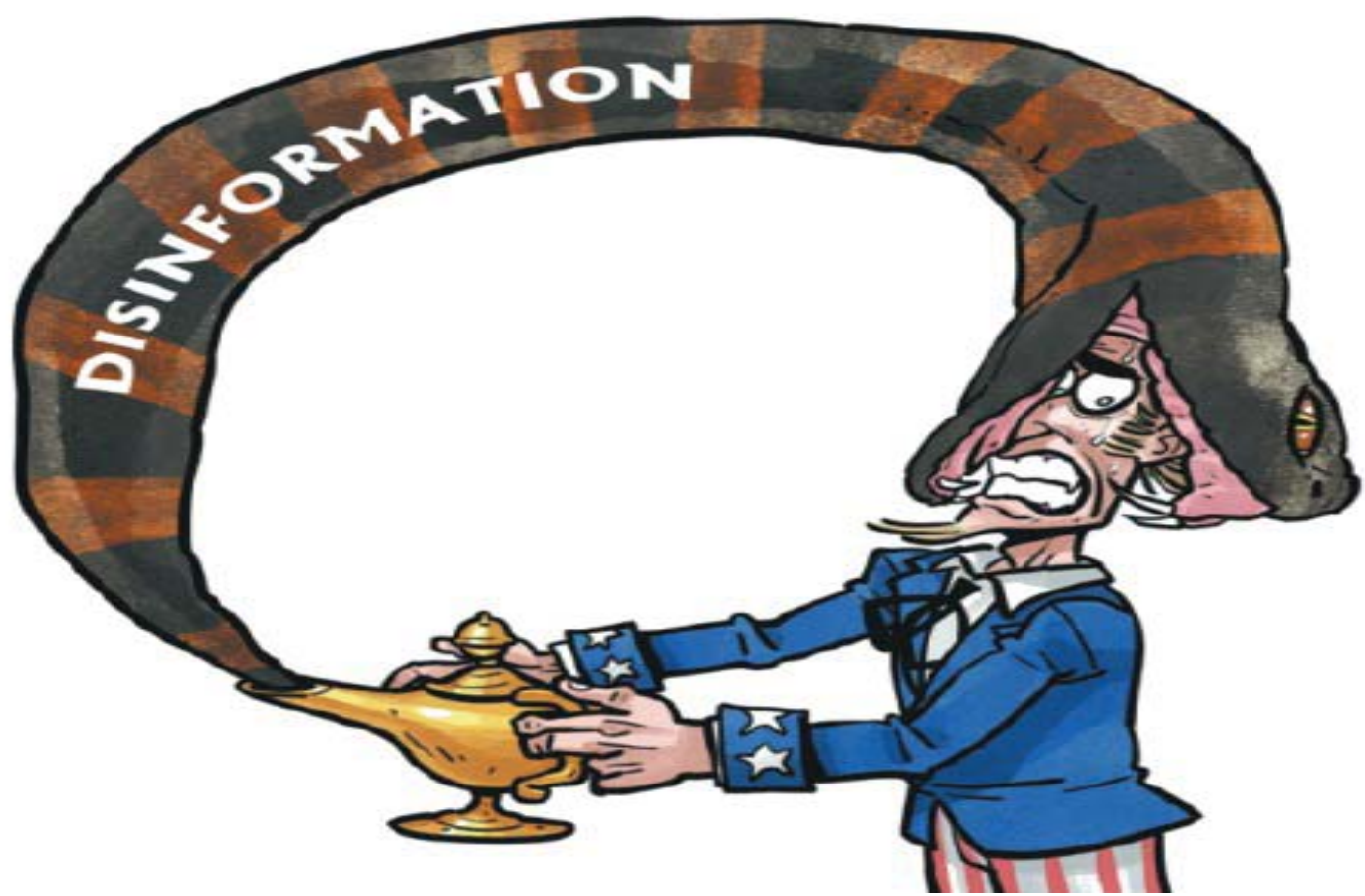
He said the pilgrimage, which is considered one of the five pillars of Islam, holds immense significance for Muslims worldwide because it serves as a reminder of the equality of all believers, regardless of their background or social status, as they gather in the holy city of Makkah to perform sacred rituals.

He admired that Pakistan, a nation known for its deep-rooted Islamic heritage, takes great pride in its citizens' participation in this revered journey adding that the entire nation join hands in praying for the safe return of the Pakistani Hajj pilgrims, hoping that their pilgrimage would be accepted by the Allah Almighty.

Minister Al-Sheikh said as the Pakistani pilgrims conclude their Hajj, their hearts are filled with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude as they have spent days and nights in worship, seeking forgiveness and spiritual elevation. The experiences gained during this holy voyage would undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their lives, fostering a stronger connection with their faith and a deeper understanding of their purpose, he added.

He said it is the fervent hope of all well-wishers that the Pakistani pilgrims return home with pure hearts, cleansed of all sins, and that their sincere efforts are accepted by Allah Almighty adding that may they serve as an inspiration for their fellow countrymen, encouraging them to embark on this sacred journey in the years to come," he maintained.

"Indeed, the Hajj pilgrimage is a momentous occasion for Muslims around the world, and the Pakistani community's participation exemplifies their unwavering devotion to Islam. With prayers for their safety and success, the nation eagerly awaits the return of their beloved pilgrims, who will undoubtedly share experience of their spiritual journey, spreading blessings and enlightenment among their fellow countrymen," he maintained.



## Pakistan is disintegrating due of polarized politics

Its economy is on a verge of break down, society is polarised by politics, millions are still recovering from last year's catastrophic floods, there are an increasing amount of terror incidents, and many people are struggling to feed themselves and their children as inflation goes ever higher. Politicians have become embroiled into a power war over who ought to lead Pakistan while the nation suffers. Pakistan appears to be no closer to providing an explanation to that problem than it did a year ago, despite the several hours of airtight, brutally delivered ultimatums, and street stand-offs.

The backdrop of prior significant crises is what makes the current scenario exceptional. Pakistan's economy has been experiencing a slump. One of the lowest levels in decades has been reached by its foreign reserves, which are used to pay for imports like fuel. A deal to release \$1.1 billion in necessary cash has not been reached despite earlier this year's meetings with the International Monetary Fund.

In the meantime, extremists continue to carry out attacks, frequently targeting security forces. The Pakistani military has reported that there had been 436 terror attacks this year. And militant groups frequently publish infographics detailing the number of people they claim to have killed or maimed, as well as the weapons they claim to have taken around the nation. There is no shortage of significant issues that politicians need to address. Take into account the rising food inflation, the fact that Pakistan is still recuperating from the harm caused by last year's floods, before this year's rains start.

Things are getting harder for the entire system as a result of political unrest. Imran Khan's removal as prime minister following a vote of no confidence in April 2022 served as the impetus for the current scenario. Khan declined to accept it. He retaliated by holding numerous demonstrations across the nation and leading a protracted march to Islamabad, the

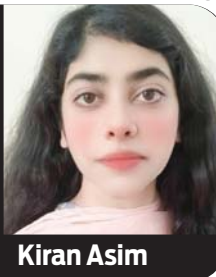
nation's capital. His Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party claims that there are over 140 court proceedings against him, with charges ranging from terrorism to corruption to contempt of court. However, the former prime minister has included this into his campaign, charging that the government follows the "law of the jungle."

In response, government ministers charged Mr. Khan with acting narcissistically and with acting out of ego. The government has also being sued by Mr. Khan. The judiciary has been divided by these ongoing legal disputes. A constitutional crisis has been feared as a result of the government's accusations that some judges are biased in Imran Khan's favour.

What Next? General elections are scheduled for this year, but there is concern that they may be postponed due to the same factors that caused the provincial assembly elections to be postponed: a lack of funding and the security environment. The harm from that would be severe. It would be highly regrettable and most likely cause irreparable harm to Pakistan's democratic process. Elections have never been postponed before. Election-related discussions between the government and Mr. Khan's PTI party have already taken place. The idea that the national and provincial elections should take place at the same time is widely accepted, but there is still no consensus on the precise date.

**Conclusion:** Even if elections are held right away, there would still be no resolution to the problem unless the political parties agreed on their respective "red lines." Both parties will contest the outcome and further polarize the nation. If neither party lays out exactly what they anticipate to make elections fair. Before the entire system collapses, it is imperative that we go forward and communicate with one another. In Pakistan, the system is crumbling. If that occurs, neither the political parties nor the Pakistani people will take profit from it.

Analysis



Kiran Asim

## 'Planning for sustainable economic stability'

Regarding the support of Pakistan's deteriorating and declining economy, the current government has claimed that it is preparing a plan which will help in solving the economic problems and the economy will be stable on a permanent basis. For the purpose of the current government has prepared a national plan for the economic recovery of Pakistan, a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been established to remove obstacles in the way of foreign investment. Pakistan's original potential in sectors such as stocks, minerals, mining, IT, energy and agricultural production will be utilized and through these sectors Pakistan's local productivity and investment from friendly countries will be increased, Chief of Army Staff assured that Pakistan Army fully supports the efforts of implementing the government's economic recovery plan and considers it as the basis for Pakistan's socio-economic prosperity and regaining its rightful place in the world, while Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said that there is still a lot to do. Big challenges are in front of us.

We can change the destiny of Pakistan and the people, but for that we have to work hard and continuously. No one can deny the fact that the economic problems that Pakistan is currently facing have never happened in the past. If these problems are examined, the main reason for this is that the state institutions have to step out of their circle, now the solution of these problems is also in the hands of the state institutions. This agreement was reached in the first regular meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The army chief, chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers, and senior government officials participated in the meeting.

Briefing on the obstacles in the way of development. After the meeting, a statement was issued in which it is stated that the government of Pakistan has prepared a comprehensive strategy for the economic revival of Pakistan, which is titled Economic Revival Plan, in a high-level meeting today. The purpose of this national strategy is to get rid of the current economic problems and crises faced by Pakistan and to pave the way for foreign investment. Under the project, Pakistan's real potential in sectors such as agriculture, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology, energy and agricultural production will be utilized.

Work will be extended. Under the plan, the concept of one government and collective government will be promoted to remove all obstacles to investment and business activities. To speed up the implementation of the plan, a Special Investment Facilitation Council has been created to facilitate investors and capital. It will act as a single window facility for ease of operation. Under the plan, cooperation between the federal and provincial governments will be created, bureaucratic procedures and regulations that cause long and cumbersome procedures will be reduced, cooperation and collaboration mechanisms will be adopted. Apart from this, timely decision-making regarding investments and projects will be ensured while the implementation of projects will be ensured with a clear time frame, coordination will be brought between the federation and the provinces so that dual efforts on the same issue will be ensured. End the trend. The high-level participation of the federation and the provinces is a clear expression of the national commitment to economic recovery despite all the difficulties.

The important thing about this meeting is that Army Chief General Asim Munir participated in it and said that the Pakistan Army fully supports the implementation of the government's economic recovery plan. It is social, economic, prosperity, and the basis of regaining its rightful place in the world. In this meeting, the Prime Minister said

that the government found the economy standing on the verge of destruction, by taking the economy out of the crisis with difficult, bold decisions, are bringing back, there are huge challenges in front of us now, for economic recovery, direct foreign investment that increases exports is of key importance. will be given, which will create new employment opportunities with the expected investment, youth and women will get employment. It should be done with economic development and happiness. It should be seen that the decisions taken in the meeting, if they are implemented, it will benefit the country. However, in this regard, the need is that the backward areas of the country should be taken into consideration first. Because until the entire country does not look the same, it is not possible to restore trust. The two faces of Pakistan are seen at this time. Among them, one is advanced while the other is a medieval model. Which is the main cause of mistrust. Therefore, to end this mistrust, planning should be done in consultation with the units of the federation.

Analysis



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

# Largest-ever Victoria-Pakistan Friendship Group set up at Australia's Parliament of Victoria

**Spokesman Report**

MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA): The largest-ever Victoria-Pakistan Friendship Group, set up at Australia's 60th Parliament of Victoria, will help strengthen cooperation between the two countries, Pakistan's High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said Monday.

Speaking to the members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group, the Pakistani diplomat said the participation of a large number of members of the Australian Parliament including Ministers and Shadow

Ministers in the Group was a testament to further strengthening of friendly relations between Pakistan and Australia. The High Commissioner underscored that the presence of over 25,000 strong Pakistani diaspora acted as a "strong bridge between Pakistan and the State of Victoria".

He lauded the efforts of Consul General Moazzam Ali Shah and Honorary Trade and Investment Counsellor Adam Sadiqzai for their efforts towards establishing the Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The cross-party Friendship

Group comprises 34 members from both Houses of Parliament: The Legislative Assembly and The Legislative Council.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group is co-convoked by Jordan Crugnale, MP from the Australian Labour Party and Sam Groth, MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sports and Events, and Shadow Minister for Youth from the Liberal Party of Australia.

The other Honourable members of the Group include Wendy Lovell, MP, Deputy President of the Legisla-

tive Council; Matt Fregon, MP, Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assembly; Anthony Carabine, MP, Minister for Police, Crime Prevention, Racing; Natalie Suleyman, MP, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Youth, Minister for Small Business; Mary Anne Thomas, MP, Minister for Health; Lily D' Ambrosio, MP, Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources; Colin Brooks, MP, Minister for Housing and Multicultural Affairs; and Stephen McGhie, MP, Cabinet Secretary.

The cooperation between Pakistan and the State of

Victoria continues to grow in multiple areas including trade, education, agriculture, and sports. Given the importance that Pakistan attaches to its relations with the State of Victoria, it has opened a Consulate General in Melbourne and appointed an Honorary Trade and Investment Counsellor for Victoria.

It may be recalled that last year largest ever Australia-Pakistan Friendship Group was established in the 47th Parliament of Australia after the General Elections held in May 2022.



## Never lose hope. Truth will prevail: Officer Sardar Zaheer Ahmed

**Spokesman Report**

WASHINGTON, D. C.: Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, Pakistani officer of Kashmiri origin was honored today at Kashmir House Washington, D. C. for getting the most prestigious Trafficking in Persons (TIP) hero award from Anthony Blinken, United States, Secretary of State.

The website of the US Embassy in Islamabad reads, "Officer Ahmed was recognized for his efforts in guiding the Government of Pakistan's implementation of anti-trafficking in persons reforms, his leadership in capacity building, and his training initiatives. These efforts were instrumental in Pakistan's promotion from TIP Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2 in 2022... Ahmed's unwavering commitment to the cause has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, and he will now begin an International Visitor Leadership Program tour of the United States, meeting and learning from fellow anti-TIP leaders."

Sardar Zaheer Ahmed Sahib expressed his appreciation to the Kashmiri American community of Washington metropolitan area for recognizing his contribu-



tion in fighting the human trafficking which is a crime that needs to be eliminated. He added that the credit also goes to his colleagues at Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) who have been source of strength for him during his time at FIA.

Raja Liaquat Kayani, President of Kashmir House, Washington, and the host of the event thanked the chief guest and the guests for honoring the occasion.

Dr. Fai added that the message of Zaheer Ahmed was loud and clear that never give up. History tells us that attempts to forcibly suppress the legitimate demands of the people of Jammu and Kashmir have resulted in failure and it will be no different tomorrow.

Dr. Fai warned that

gimmickry and maneuvers, no matter by whom encouraged and approved, cannot be a response to a demand for which tens of thousands have shed their blood in Kashmir. To ignore this principle is to plan for failure. He called upon the international community and the UN Secretary General to fulfill their obligations towards the maintenance of peace as well as realization of the Kashmiris' rights as enshrined in the UN Security Council resolutions.

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Professor at George Washington University Medical Center was asked to give his perspective about Modi's visit to Washington. Dr. Khan said that red carpet treatment meted out to Narinder Modi by present USA adminis-

tration has raised eyebrows worldwide and dismayed the people who value inalienable rights of individuals, irrespective of cast, creed or color.

Sardar Zarif Khan, main Emcee of the event expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guest — Zaheer Ahmed Sahib for becoming one of the top eight recipients of the illustrious award.

Sardar Zubair Khan raised the issues of law-and-order situation in Azad Kashmir. He added that members of Kashmiri diaspora do not demand a special treatment upon arrival in Islamabad by the immigration authorities, but treatment based on fairness and justice.

Dr. Aashir Hussain said that some Pakistani American youth have excelled in various disciplines. Are there opportunities for these qualified young professionals to contribute and develop the Pakistani society?

Others who attended the event included among others the following: Sardar Zubair Khan, Sardar Zahid Khan, Sardar Asghar Khan, Sardar Abid Khan, Raja Latif Kayani, Sardar Aftab Roshan Khan, Amin Khan, Tahseen Khan, Mohammad Nazim and others.

## US Coast Guard opens probe into Titanic submersible implosion

The US Coast Guard has launched an investigation to identify the factors involved in the underwater implosion of the tourist submersible that killed all five people aboard amid a dive to see the century-old wrecks of the Titanic.

The announcement comes a day after the Canadian Transportation Safety Board said it was conducting an independent probe into the Titan's tragic fate, which has raised questions about the unregulated nature of such expeditions.

"My primary goal is to prevent a similar occurrence by making the necessary recommendations to enhance the safety of the maritime domain worldwide," Captain Jason Neubauer, the Coast Guard's chief investigator, said at a press conference in Boston.

The Coast Guard opened what it calls a marine board investigation on Friday, Neubauer said, and is working with the FBI to recover evidence, including a salvage operation at the debris site on the seabed about 1,600 feet (488 meters) from the bow of the Titanic wreck, about 2-1/2 miles (4 km) below the surface.

The findings will be shared with the International Maritime Organisation and other groups "to help improve the safety framework for submersible operations worldwide," Neubauer said.

## Faithful swarm from Makkah to Mina for Hajj climax



MINA: Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims walked or rode buses Monday to a giant tented city near Makkah for the climax of the annual Hajj that Saudi officials say could break attendance records.

After performing the ritual circumambulation of the Ka'abah at Makkah's Grand Mosque that Muslims pray towards each day, the faithful set off for Mina, about seven kilometres away, in suffocating heat. Pilgrims in robes and sandals, many carrying umbrellas against the beating sun, undertook the journey on foot or crowded onto hundreds of air-conditioned buses provided by Saudi authorities.

They will spend the night in white tents in Mina, which every year hosts the world's largest encampment, before the Hajj's high-point on Tuesday: prayers at Mount Arafat, where the Holy Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is said to have delivered his final sermon.

"My dream has come true," said Jamila Hammoudi, a 62-year-old Moroccan school teacher. "I will pray for everyone," she told AFP after arriving in the tented city.

Shortly after midday, pilgrims packed most of the tents, which contain two to three beds and are fitted with water and food. Many were overcome by the experience as they fulfil a lifelong dream at the sites where Islam began.

Saudi officials say this year's Hajj — one of the five pillars of Islam — could be the biggest in history. After 2.5 million attended in 2019, numbers were capped in 2020, 2021 and 2022 because of the COVID pandemic.

The pilgrimage has seen multiple crises over the years, including militant attacks, deadly fires and a 2015 stampede that killed up to 2,300 people. There have been no major incidents since.

As part of the safety measures, helicopters and AI-equipped drones have been deployed to monitor the flow of traffic towards Mina, which sits in a narrow valley flanked by rocky mountains.

A small fleet of self-driving buses, seating up to 11 people, is in operation between the sites of the rituals, including Makkah — Islam's holiest city — Mina and Muzdalifah.

One of the biggest risks this year at the Hajj, which follows the lunar calendar, is heat, especially after maximum age restrictions were removed.

## Sardar Attique demands end to Indian incursions on Kashmir

**Abdul Majid Tahir**



RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan termed the killing of innocent civilians by unprovoked firing by Indian Army in Tetri Note area of Line of Control as Indian terrorism and said that Indian Army The unprovoked firing on innocent

civilians is condemnable. The United Nations should take notice of these provocative actions by India. India is worsening the situation by creating tension in the region, which will lead to disaster for the peace of the entire South Asia and the world. He expressed these views while talking to the media. He said that India is firing on innocent civilians on the LoC to divert attention from the Kashmir issue. The people of Kashmir are making sacrifices for the defense of Pakistan.

The sacrifices of the Kashmiri martyrs will not go in vain. The sacrifices of the martyrs of the Pakistan Army for the defense of Kashmir are our greatest pride. Thanks to the great sacrifices of the martyrs, we are breathing in free air today. There is no cemetery in Azad Kashmir where the Pakistani flag is not flying on the grave of a martyr. Strong forces are the guarantor of the security of the country and the freedom of Kashmir. Kashmiri people are standing by the side of Pakistan Army.

## UK Islamic Mission Oldham organized a special banquet in honor of the Muslim community leaders

**Arif Chaudhry**

OLDHAM UK: UK Islamic Mission Oldham organized a special banquet in honor of Muslim community leaders living in the North West region at the European Islamic Centre. Maulana Muhammad Iqbal, in-charge of the European Islamic Centre, welcomed the guests while performing the duties of the Niqabat. Mayor of Oldham Council Dr. Zahid Chauhan, Mayor of Bolton Council Raja Muhammad Ayub, Mayor of Team Side Council Tafeen Sharif, Lord Mayor of Manchester City Council Yasmin Dar, Mayor of Blackburn Council Parvez Akhtar, President of UK Islamic Mission UK Dr. Hamad Lodhi, Zahid Parvez, Abdul Haq, Sajjad Amin, Barrister Amjad Malik, international business personality Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry and other important personalities participated in the event.

The event participants urged the younger generation to come forward



to play a key role in British society. Lord Mayor Manchester City Council Yasmin Darr said that the participation of a large number of young women is the guarantee of our bright future. Mayor of Oldham, Dr Zahid Chauhan, said that if we are to move forward in British society, communities of other faiths must be respected and recognized so that we can do the same.

Mayor Team Side Council Tafin Sharif said that there is a message for the youth and especially the women to create their place in the commu-

nity. Bolton Mayor Raja Muhammad Ayub said the UK Islamic Mission's services to the wider community across the UK are commendable. Barrister Amjad Malik We have come together to tell the community leaders how to deal with the obstacles that stand in the way of moving forward in order to plan for the future.

Dr. Hamad Lodhi for the UK Islamic Mission in Great Britain said that we British Muslims are playing a significant role in British society today due to the efforts of our elders over the past

six decades. Blackburn Mayor Pervaiz Akhtar said that the interaction today will be helpful for the future.

Dr. Liaquat Malik described the event as beautiful. Mian Abdul Haq, head of the UK Islamic Mission, also described the event as exemplary.

Sajjad Amin said that the UK Islamic Mission is playing a key role within the community. Councilor Imran Rizvi and others also described the interaction of the community as a bright future. The host Maulana Muhammad Iqbal thanked all the guests and said that our people are celebrating the place they have found in different areas of life. Tell them what they found so that they can be role models for our children. Guests were treated to traditional Asian cuisine.

UK Islamic Mission Oldham citizens initiative to bring together British citizens of Pakistani and Kashmiri origin who have played significant roles in various fields of life from the North West of Great Britain under one roof will be a golden letter in history

### Letter to the Editor

## Addressing Poverty and Unemployment in Pakistan

I am writing to express my deep concern about the continuing problem of homelessness and unemployment in Pakistan, which continues to affect the lives of countless individuals and families. As a concerned resident, I agree that it is important to expose the issues and urge action to alleviate these crippling hardships that are impeding the progress and prosperity of our country.

Homelessness and unemployment are two interrelated problems that have drastic consequences for individuals and fami-

lies, as well as the overall financial fabric of the general public. The inability to meet needs, quality training, medical services, and valuable open doors for business perpetuates a pattern of needing that is difficult to break. Pakistan, with its abundant potential and human resources, cannot easily overlook the magnitude of these difficulties. It is appalling to see a significant portion of our people struggling to earn enough to pay the bills, while so many capable people remain unemployed or out of work.

To successfully address need and unemployment, I suggest

taking the following steps:

Job creation and economic strengthening: The public authority should focus on strategies and incentives that favor a climate conducive to job creation and business. This can be achieved by taking an interest in areas that can produce business, such as farming, assembly, and small scale companies. In addition, providing financial assistance, project preparation, and mentoring to aspiring business owners can enable them to design compliant organizations.

Improving the nature of education: Training assumes an inevi-

table role in breaking the pattern of want. It is very important to work on the nature of training in the country, and to ensure that it equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to conquer the self-employment market. A joint effort between educational institutions and companies can help overcome any barriers between acquiring the superior knowledge and skills that superiors expect.

Social safety nets and government assistance programmes: Implementation of health social care nets and government assistance projects can provide tempo-

rary assistance to those who are often unable to cope. These projects should include dedicated modules, for example, cash movements, preparation for technology advances and access to medical services for under-appreciated networks, ensuring that they are studied and promoted.

Strengthening Career Preparation Programs: Emphasis on job preparation and specialized training can equip people with attractive skills and improve their employability. Building the foundations of career readiness, designing organizations with businesses, and undertaking

apprenticeship projects can close the skills gap and open doors to viable livelihoods.

The public authority and associations of the joint community and residents shall cooperate to combat homelessness and unemployment. Expanded openness, accountability and reliable oversight is essential to ensure the effective implementation of these proposed measures.

I encourage you to continue disclosing information about the situation of people affected by homelessness and unemployment, providing examples of overcoming adversity and culti-

vating public discourse about sustainable arrangements. Therefore, we can prepare collective efforts to build a more prosperous and just Pakistan.

Together we can make the general public where each individual approaches, opens doors and can add to the progress of the country. Let us take a stab at Pakistan where want and unemployment are no longer an obstacle to balance and human satisfaction.

Thank you very much for your interest in this essential issue.

Raif Ahmed (University Of Karachi)

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,437.10	40,065.32
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,491.87	40,334.05
Index Value	Change
6,028,804,815	+1371.78
Percentage	Time
+3.42%	26 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,453.58	-8.29
Percentage	Time
-0.11%	26 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,762.62	+35.19
Percentage	Time
+0.10%	26 Jun, 1:16 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,698.81	-82.73
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	26 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	761.81	769.81
Canadian Dollar	224	226
China Yuan	40.01	40.41
Danish Krone	42.24	42.64
Euro	314	317
Hong Kong Dollar	36.58	36.93
Indian Rupee	3.5	3.61
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	939.55	948.55
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	175.93	177.93
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	743.91	751.91
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	75.8	76.5
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.94	27.24
Swiss Franc	320.87	323.37
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42
U.A.E Dirham	79.3	80
UK Pound Sterling	367	370
US Dollar	289.5	292

# Govt should take people into confidence about its Plan B: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khatta**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the current EFF program of IMF is ending in a week and now the chances of a tranche are slim. As a result of Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with IMF MD, if the suspended loan is granted, then both the international organization and Pakistan will have to take special measures to do so, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF will have to withdraw from some of its conditions and Pakistan will also have to make changes in the federal budget.

Talking to the business community, the veter-



an business leader said that the finance minister Ishaq Dar has already said that the IMF is look-

ing at the issue of Pakistan geopolitically, which seems to be correct to some extent.

The business leader said that apart from Prime Minister, the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is also meeting the ambassadors of America and important countries in a bid to restore the program.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has fulfilled most of the conditions of the IMF, but compared to the financial requirements of six billion dollars, 4 billion dollars have been arranged.

The finance minister has also clarified that national interests cannot be sacrificed for the IMF, in which case the IMF's inflexible attitude makes it impossible to revive the program.

He said that due to the IMF, Pakistan has increased the interest rate to 21 percent, the petroleum levy has been increased to 50 rupees

per litre, the value of the rupee has also been reduced; but the lender is still not satisfied.

The IMF has also described the current budget as going against the basic terms of its program, which include increasing the tax base and reforming failed public institutions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that ten months have passed since the suspension of the IMF programme, our foreign exchange reserves are touching the lowest level and the imports are also being stopped due to shortage of foreign exchange.

Now that all hopes for the restoration of the IMF program seem to be fading, the government should take the people and the business community into confidence on its Plan B to save the country from default and restore the economy so that the market uncertainty can be addressed, he demanded.

## Zong 4G Announces Innovative Partnership with MCB Bank

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator, is proud to announce its strategic partnership with MCB Bank, one of the country's most renowned financial institutions. This collaboration brings together the expertise of two industry leaders to offer customers an unmatched level of convenience and simplicity in managing their mobile services.

Zong 4G's official spokesperson talking about the partnership said, "We are thrilled to partner with MCB Bank to offer our valued customers a seamless and user-friendly experience in managing their Zong 4G services. Through this integration, we aim to provide our users with a convenient, secure, and efficient platform to access and control their mobile bundles, further strengthening our commitment to delivering unmatched services in Pakistan."

"At MCB Bank, we are constantly exploring opportunities to meet the evolving needs of our customers and to provide them with innovative solutions. This strategic partnership aligns with our mission to create a comprehensive and seamless digital ecosys-



tem for our customers. We are excited about the possibilities this collaboration brings and the positive impact it will have on our customers' lives", said Syed Jaffar Abbas Shirazi, Division Head Digital Channels & Branchless Banking, MCB Bank at the signing ceremony held at MCB House, Lahore.

Zong 4G and MCB Bank's partnership set

a new benchmark in the industry, highlighting their commitment to harnessing technology to improve customer satisfaction and streamline processes. This collaboration will undoubtedly revolutionize the way Zong 4G users interact with their mobile services, making it more convenient and accessible than ever before.

## Corporate reporting on sustainability strengthens significantly

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Corporate reporting of sustainability-related information takes a significant step forward with the publication of two ground-breaking global standards.

ACCA welcomes the publication of two standards from ISSB (the International Sustainability Standards Board) IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information and IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures.

Helen Brand, ACCA chief executive, said: "The launch of these first two global sustainability standards is an important and significant step forward in business reporting, providing a global base-



line for comparable information on sustainability issues, which will help investors, financial markets and society more widely. The focus they provide will help drive the positive changes we need in the way businesses operate in the face of the threat from climate change.

Assad Hameed Khan, head of ACCA Pakistan, said: "These standards will make sustainability reporting more consistent, connected and meaningful."

## Protest

LAHORE: A large number of pensioners holds protest in the favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Rwanda's development is an example for world, Naeem Khan

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan has said that Africa region is very important for Pakistan. Africa is the largest consumer market in the world due to the lack of large-scale industry and production at the local level. There are immense opportunities for Pakistan's business community in this region. The way Islamabad Chamber has made efforts for trade relations with other African countries including Ethiopia for some time is commendable. I hope that as the Head of Mission to Rwanda and other countries, I will continue to receive the full support of the Islamabad Chamber and the business community.

He expressed these views during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday. He said that the diplomatic and polit-

ical importance of Africa for Pakistan has its place but the most importance is trade. In the policy given to us by the government, trade has priority. I invite the business community of the whole country, including Islamabad, to set up their display center in the Pakistani Embassy in Rwanda, we will provide full facilities, Rwanda is an excellent tourist destination, the business community should also pay attention to it.

He said that the African region is of great importance at the political and diplomatic level in the whole world. Africa is well represented in all international forums including the United Nations, OIC. We need to take advantage of it. Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the past and present of Rwanda is an example for other developing countries of the world. We also need to learn from the



way Rwanda has taken steps to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment and increase the level of education in a period of 20 years.

Through political stability and continuity of policies, Rwanda has achieved a position that is now called

the Singapore of Africa.

The presence of more than 50% women in Rwanda's cabinet is proof that women's full participation in the race for development is essential. Africa is the most important region of the world where there are immense

investment opportunities to provide basic facilities like food, health and education to a population of more than 100 billion. For success in this most important region, Pakistan needs to take support from friendly countries China and Turkey, which have a lot of influence in the African region at the commercial and political levels. Pakistan's deployment of ambassadors to African countries is welcome, this project needs to be expanded further.

He said that the appointment of a seasoned diplomat like Naeem Khan as ambassador to Rwanda, Congo, Burundi and Angola is a welcome step. He said that direct flights have started between Pakistan and Ethiopia. This will help connect not only the Central African region but the entire Africa with Pakistan. He said that the current trade volume between Pakistan and Rwanda is not encouraging.

## Relentless Efforts to improve Pakistan-Russia Economic Relations



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry and the Chamber of Commerce of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia have signed an MOU desiring to contribute to the expansion of friendly relations in the future through the development of cooperation projects aimed at mutually beneficial development of joint business projects in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Pakistan, guided by the desire to develop foreign economic relations between the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and in Pakistan: The

MOU was signed after a week of 75th anniversary on the establishment of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russian Federation, at the Saint Petersburg economic forum 2023. Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI and Mr. Bogoslovskaya Marina President CCR have signed the MOU.

Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is the largest republic of Russia, located in the Russian Far East, along the Arctic Ocean, and with a population of roughly 1 million Sakha comprises half of the area of its governing Far Eastern Federal District.

## Stocks witness 1,372-point bull-run as IMF loan hopes rekindle

**TLTP**

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a massive bull run on Monday after Saturday's revised budget rekindled hopes for revival of the stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 1,371.78 points (+3.42 percent) to close at 41,437.10 points.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday announced the withdrawal of all restrictions on imports to facilitate the industrial sector and meet one of the IMF's conditions. All these steps ignited hopes of resumption of the IMF programme and resulted in across-the-board buying. The stocks witnessed the highest day-on-day points increase since April 2022.

The market opened on a bullish note and remained positive throughout the session. The benchmark index saw an intraday high of 41,491.87 points and an intraday low of 40,334.05 points. Among other indices, the KSE All Share Index gained 763.67 points (+2.73 percent) to close at 27,965.97 points, while KMI All Share Islamic Index gained 497.17 points (+2.43 percent) to close at 20,421.28 points.

Total volumes traded for the KSE-100 Index more than doubled to 122.32 million against 59.55 million a session earlier, showing an increase of 62.77 million shares. The overall market volumes increased by 84.49 million to 221.39 million shares against 136.9 million shares a session earlier.

Among scrips, WTL topped the volumes with 26.226 million shares, followed by FFBL (13.15 million) and SNGP (12.50 million). Stocks that contributed significantly to the volumes included WTL, FFBL, SNGP, OGDC, and TPLP, which formed around 31 percent of total volumes.

A total of 324 companies traded shares in the stock exchange as compared to 311 a session earlier. Out of traded companies, shares of 267 closed up, shares of 42 closed down while shares of 15 companies remained unchanged. A total of 94 companies traded shares in the KSE-100 Index against 90 companies a session earlier, out of which shares of 86 companies closed up, four closed down and four remained unchanged.

# Saudi Arabia to host 2023 FIFA Club World Cup

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 2023 Club World Cup will take place in Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, soccer's world governing body FIFA said on Monday.

The decision was made following a FIFA delegation visit to Jeddah to assess ongoing preparations for the tournament, which takes place from 12-22 December 2023. It will be the first time the FIFA Club World Cup is held in Saudi Arabia.



Yasser Al Mischal, President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, said:

"We are delighted that Jeddah, with its state-of-the-art facilities and reputation for hosting major international sports events, has been selected as host city for the FIFA Club World Cup. Sport is a key driver of Saudi Arabia's ongoing transformation under Vision 2030, which has established the Kingdom as one of the fastest growing and most exciting countries in world sport.

The FIFA delegation visit included detailed inspections of key infrastructure including the King Abdullah Sport

City Stadium and the Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium, as well as the proposed training and accommodation facilities.

The tournament, which will be played from Dec. 12-22, will be held in Saudi Arabia for the first time, as previously announced in February.

The 2023 edition of the Club World Cup will be the last of current format — an annual competition with seven teams — which will be discontinued before its expansion to a 32-team event to first be held in 2025 in the United States.

# Netherlands prevail after Super Over to dent West Indies WC hopes

## A Sports

HARARE: Logan van Beek put on a scintillating all-round show in the Super Over and propelled the Netherlands to a narrow 22-run victory over West Indies after the 18th match of the CWC Qualifier ended as a tie.

Put into bat first, West Indies piled up a massive 374/6 on the scoreboard in a must-win CWC Qualifier group stage clash against the Netherlands with Nicholas Pooran leading the charge with a quickfire century.

West Indian openers Brandon King and Johnson Charles scripted a solid start with a quick 101-run partnership and both scored half-centuries.

Charles scored a 55-ball 54 with the help of nine boundaries and a six before making his way back to the dugout in the 18th over.

King, on the other hand, stood his ground firm and put on a brief partnership with Shamarh Brooks (25) before finally perishing in the 29th over, scoring 78. He faced 81 deliveries and smashed 11 boundaries.

With West Indies slipped to 163/3 in 28.1 overs, skipper Shai Hope got the support of hard-hitting batter Nicholas Pooran, who bolstered the team with his quickfire knock.

The pair of Hope and Pooran



added 108 runs to the total until Bas de Leede got rid of Hope in the 41st over. He scored 47 off 38 deliveries, hitting three boundaries and two sixes.

Meanwhile, Pooran, who was the core aggressor of the fourth-wicket stand, put on brief partnerships with Romario Shepherd (0) and Jason Holder (8) before receiving firm support at the other in the form of Keemo Paul.

Paul supported Pooran well in the death overs, who continued to dominate the Dutch bowlers and finished with a century. Paul, on the other

hand, also carried his bat all the way through with a brisk 25-ball 46, featuring four boundaries and two sixes.

Pooran top-scored for West Indies with an unbeaten 104 off just 65 deliveries, laced with nine boundaries and six sixes.

Set to chase a massive total of 375, a quickfire century by Teja Nidamanuru and a quickfire Logan van Beek came off lifted the Netherlands to finish exactly level with West Indies' total but for the loss of nine wickets.

Teja Nidamanuru, who gave life to the Dutch run-chase, top-scored for his side with a

sensational 111 from a mere 76 balls with the help of 11 boundaries and three sixes.

Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards, who put on a 143-run partnership with Nidamanuru, played a pivotal role in his side's run chase with a 47-ball 67.

Later on in the innings, Logan van Beek's sensational cameo of a 14-ball 28 took the Netherlands in touching distance from the glory but he perished on the final delivery when his side needed just one run and thus, the CWC fixture ended as a tie.

The high-scoring thriller

between West Indies and Netherlands then entered the Super Over with the Dutch to bat first.

Netherlands' captain Scott Edwards opted to stand up and walked out to bat alongside hard-hitter Logan van Beek with Jason Holder to bowl for the West Indies.

Edwards, however, did not have to face a single delivery as Logan van Beek struck all of them for a boundary — three fours and three sixes — to register the highest total (30) in the Super Over history.

West Indies then had a mountain to climb to claim two vital points heading into the CWC Qualifier Super Sixes and had to chase down 31 runs in just six deliveries.

Johnson Charles and Shai Hope came out to bat for West Indies while Scott Edwards showed his belief in Logan van Beek's skills with the ball also.

The first delivery of the West Indies Super Over went in their favour as Charles smoked van Beek for a maximum.

Right-arm pacer van Beek, however, soon recollected himself and bowled the next two deliveries in block holes, settling West Indies for a couple on each delivery.

He then dismissed Charles and Romario Shepherd on the next two deliveries to complete a stunning 22-run victory for the Netherlands.

# From Netherlands to Pakistan: For Kayanat football is her passion

KARACHI: From top-quality football in the Netherlands to donning Pakistan's colour for Kayanat Bokhari it is just about passion for the sport and her aim is to show how good Pakistan can be as far as women's football is concerned.

Kyanat, an attacking midfielder for DSVP first women's team in the Netherlands, has joined Pakistan women's football camp in Karachi to prepare for next month's friendlies. Her debut was delayed earlier due to documentation but now she's all set to represent the country of her origin.

Bokhari told Geo News, after her first training session in Karachi, that she looks forward to work with the team to get to know these amazing girls.

"It's an amazing team with positive energy and have great coaches. So, I look forward to build with the team to win matches to win tournaments and just build together," she said.

"My goal is to just grow as a player to have new experiences, to represent my country, for my parents, for myself, and to have accomplishments with the team. I just think it's really a team thing. I want to grow with the team and show



how good Pakistan can be and that we can grow with the players we have," she added.

Kyanat said that there's a huge difference in grassroots football of the Netherlands and Pakistan and the players in the camp are eager to learn from her and it is reciprocal as she is also trying to learn from the local players.

"I think it goes like to the technical stuff mostly because the difference is too big but we can learn from each other. So, they learn from me. I learn for them."

"In Holland, we have a lot of clubs that we can just join to. So, I've seen in Pakistan, we don't have that many clubs. So, Inshallah maybe in the future, it will be amazing to see more of the women's football and more grounds,

more facilities, coaches, but I think this amazing team is a great example for the future," she added.

Kyanat says that her parents are from Pakistan and she feels proud to represent the home country of her parents and now aims to make Pakistan proud.

The young Netherlands-based footballer has joined the Pakistan team at a time when there's been a debate over the inclusion of diaspora players in the country's football setup, men's and women's.

But Kyanat feels that there's no such thing in the team and everyone is gelled together.

"I'm not saying this to make it sound better than it is. But actually, this team is just so welcoming. We have diaspora players, we have origin Pakistani players, but we go well together. There is a togetherness. Nobody feels left out in this team," she concluded.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Football Federation has also started discussions with Singapore to arrange international friendlies during the FIFA window after talks with Mauritius and Kyrgyzstan didn't work out.

# Rybakina skips Eastbourne with viral illness ahead of Wimbledon

In a setback ahead of Wimbledon, reigning champion Elena Rybakina has withdrawn from the Eastbourne International due to a viral illness. The world number three's absence from the warm-up event casts doubt on her ability to defend her title at the All England Club next week.

Rybakina, who claimed her major breakthrough by winning Wimbledon last year, has been steadily climbing up the world rankings in 2023. However, her preparations for this year's tournament have been hindered by health issues. Earlier this month, she withdrew from the French Open citing illness before her third-round match, and in the German Open last week, she suffered a surprise defeat to Donna Vekic.

Speaking about her withdrawal from Eastbourne, Rybakina expressed her disappointment and explained her decision: "Unfortunately, I have to withdraw here in Eastbourne today. I am still recovering from the virus I had in Paris, and after Roland Garros, it was really tough. I also picked up another small issue in Berlin, so my team and I decided it would be better to recover this week and prepare for Wimbledon."



# ICC Men's World Cup trophy to reach Pakistan on August 31

## A Sports

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Trophy Tour 2023 has been launched on a stratospheric scale, giving fans around the world a unique opportunity to interact with the coveted trophy, ahead of the marquee event in India.

The Trophy Tour will begin on June 27 in India, travel around the globe and then return to the host nation on September 4.

The prestigious silverware will reach Pakistan on August 31 for a five-day tour and will depart on July 4 to Sri Lanka.

The Tour was launched in spectacular fashion, with the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Trophy being launched into the stratosphere, 120,000 feet above the

earth, before making a stunning landing at the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad.

This was achieved after the trophy was attached to a bespoke stratospheric balloon, and some stunning shots were captured of the trophy sitting on the edge of the Earth's atmosphere from 4k cameras.

The 2023 edition of the Trophy Tour will be the biggest by far, giving the fans a chance to connect with the coveted piece of silverware in various countries and cities around the globe.

Starting on June 27, the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Trophy will travel to 18 countries around the world, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Malaysia, USA, Nigeria, Uganda, France, Italy, the United States of America and



the host country India.

The first full-scale Trophy Tour since 2019, the 2023 edition will provide cricket fans around the globe with a chance to recreate the celebratory and

carnival atmosphere witnessed during the marquee event.

Through innovative activations and events in different countries, the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Trophy Tour

will provide a chance to one million fans to have their own personal interactions with the coveted piece of silverware.

On the launch of the Trophy Tour, ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Trophy Tour is an important milestone in the countdown to what will be the biggest ICC Men's Cricket World Cup ever. This Tour will see the iconic silverware meet heads of states, launch community initiatives and support cricket development programmes in addition to visiting some of the most iconic landmarks around the globe.

"Cricket has more than a billion fans and we want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to get up close to this famous trophy that has been

# The 16th Special Olympic World Games conclude with a spectacular closing ceremony



## Sports Desk

BERLIN: The 16th Special Olympic World Games played in Berlin, Germany ended with a spectacular closing ceremony at the Brandenburg Gate on Sunday night. The next Winter Olympic World Games will be held in Italy in 2025.

At the closing ceremony at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, the torch of the Games was extinguished and the flag of the Special Olympics was handed over to Italy, the host country of the next Games.

In the Games which lasted for 9 days, about 6,500 athletes from 176 countries took part in the closing ceremony.

At the closing ceremony, the athletes enjoyed the musical program. They performed various dance performances and exchanged their jackets and souvenirs.

In the end, there was a beautiful display of fireworks.

# BHC stops PCB chairman election until further orders

## News Desk

QUETTA: Balochistan High Court (BHC) has stopped the election of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman until further orders

As per details, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Amir Nawaz Rana issued the written verdict regarding the constitutional plea against the PCB board of governors.

The plea filed by former member of management committee Gul Muhammad Kakar was accepted for hearing and notices were issued to the respondents.

The plea stated that the board of governors was constituted against the nominations of former management committee and the meeting to elect the PCB chairman tomorrow is illegal.

Furthermore, BHC issued notices to the respondents and the hearing was fixed on July 17 after the summer vacations and Eid holidays.

The election of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman scheduled on June 28 tomorrow. The PCB Board of Governors suggested by Najam Sethi was rejected and a new Board of Governors was constituted.

The new Board of Governors includes Larkana, Dera Murad Jamali, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, National Bank, State Bank, Sui Northern and Sui Southern.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif nominated former chairman Muhammad Zaka Ashraf and Advocate Supreme Court Mustafa Ramday as members of the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The notification, stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in the capacity of PCB patron-in-chief, has nominated Ashraf and Ramday as members of the PCB's Board of Governors.

# Ashleigh Gardner gives Australia women's Ashes win over England

## Sports Desk

LAHORE: Ashleigh Gardner took eight wickets in England's second innings as Australia's women secured victory in the one-off Ashes Test match by 89 runs on Monday.

Chasing the highest run chase in women's Test history of 268 to win, England were all out for 178 as Ashleigh Gardner took all five wickets to fall on the final day.

Defeat at Trent Bridge gives England a mountain to climb if they are to reclaim the Ashes.

Australia's Women's Ashes win is worth four points in the multi-format series with three one-day internationals and T20 matches to come, each worth two points.

The Australians are world champions in both white-ball formats and also proved just too good with the red ball after a tight contest that went all five days in front of record crowds for a women's Test in England.

Ashleigh Gardner's three wickets towards the end of play on Sunday left England up against it at 116-5 overnight.

The hosts added 25 to their tally before Kate Cross edged behind off Gardner.

Amy Jones added just four before she was stumped but Danni Wyatt's half-century got the target down to double figures with three wickets still in hand.

However, those final three wickets fell for just three runs as Gardner removed Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer and Wyatt for figures of 8-66 in the innings and 12-165 in the match.

27 June – 14 July: India  
15 – 16 July: New Zealand  
17 – 18 July: Australia  
19 – 21 July: Papua New Guinea

22 – 24 July: India  
25 – 27 July: USA  
28 – 30 July: West Indies  
31 July – 4 August: Pakistan

5 – 6 August: Sri Lanka  
7 – 9 August: Bangladesh  
10 – 11 August: Kuwait  
12 – 13 August: Bahrain  
14 – 15 August: India  
16 – 18 August: Italy  
19 – 20 August: France  
21 – 24 August: England

25 – 26 August: Malaysia  
27 – 28 August: Uganda  
29 – 30 August: Nigeria  
31 August – 3 September: South Africa

From 4 September: India