Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Govt has no plan to impose new taxes on agri, real estate sectors, Dar tells NA

The coalition government has no plan of imposing new taxes on agriculture and real estate sectors, says Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. Speaking on the floor of the NA on Friday, he said he wanted to make it clear in letter and spirit that "no new tax" would be imposed... (Details on Page 8)



Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab calls cabinet meeting today

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has scheduled a meeting of the provincial cabinet for tomorrow, July 22. The meeting will take place at the Chief Minister's Office and will focus on crucial matters concerning the province. It is set to be

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

projects for attracting investments from

and actualising the projects. The meeting, which was

attended by Chief of Army Staff

General Asim Munir, chief

ministers, federal and provin-

cial Ministers and high-level government officials, reviewed

friendly countries

Muharramul Haram 3, Saturday, July 22, 2023

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Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Apex

Committee of the Special

Investment Facilitation Coun-

cil (SIFC) on Friday approved

the projects for attracting

SIFC approves

Meeting ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing the 2nd meeting of Apex Committee of SIFC on Friday.

SC rejects plea to stay civilians' trial in military courts

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme before hearing. He said that he had Court (SC) on Friday declined to spoken about the "organised" plan stay civilians' trial in the military

by CJP Justice Umar Ata Bandial comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Nagyi, and Justice Ayesha Malik is hearing the pleas against military courts.

In today's hearing the Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan continued his arguments before the court in the

Awan in his arguments said that civilians can be tried in the military courts in special conditions

and added staff hearing the cases in the military courts take oath behind the violent events of May 9.

"From the video clips shown A six-member bench headed in court, it is evident that a lot of people were involved in the events of May 9," he said. "Despite the large number, after exercising caution, 102 people were pinpointed for court-martial," he said.

At one point, Justice Naqvi asked how it was decided who would be tried in military courts and who wouldn't. Awan said that offenses under Section 2(1)(d) of the Army Act would be tried in military courts.

Awan argued that there was mention of the Army Act being applicable to civilians even before



the 21st Amendment, saying that the basic human rights were not applicable on the Army Act.

Upon being asked by CJP Justice Umar Ata Bndial about the right to appeal by the accused in the military courts, the AGP sought said this is a 'crucial' matter and sought a one-month time for consultation.

At this, former CJP Justice (retired) Jawad S. Khawaja, one of the petitioners said they don't have any objection if the government needs time for legislation

but pleaded with the government (GHQ) in Rawalpindi came to issue a stay order against mili- under attack during a protest by tary courts.

the SC bench. "When the trials of civilians are yet to start, who can a stay order be issued," CJP remarked.

In the month of May, the government decided to try the suspects accused of attacking military installations on May 9 under army laws.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was arrested from the premises of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9.

Army installations, Corps Commander's house in Lahore and General Headquarters PTI workers.

Photo: PID

Following th connection with the violent riots that erupted across the country on May 9, the government announced its decision to hold military court trials of those found guilty of damaging and attacking military instalments — a move both the government and the army considered a low blow.

In light of this decision, PTI Chairman Imran Khan, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja, legal expert Aitzaz Ahsan, and five civil society members, including Piler Executive Director Karamat Ali, requested the apex court to declare the military trials "uncon-

various projects presented by investments from friendly countries in agricultural, liveministries for broaching with stock, minerals, mining, inforinvestors under the umbrella mation technology, and enerof SIFC. gy sectors. The Apex Committee Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed satisfaction on func-Sharif, chairing the second tioning of the SIFC and its meeting of the Apex Commitstrategy to outreach the potentee, directed to extend impectial investors through conduct cable facilitation to the invesof seminars and project inautors, interested in undertaking gurations.

President urges society, family role to address disability, rehabilitation issues



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized that society and the family system would have to play their due role to facilitate the lives of disabled persons as well as those needing rehabili-

The president, addressing the concluding ceremony of a course held by the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute, said the community welfare had been the basis for all religions including Islam, Christianity and Judaism, citing the examples of holy prophets, Prophet Muham-

mad and his companions. He said at a time when the world lacked morality and humanism in its affairs, it was the society that would have to play its part, particularly for gated laws.

the welfare of persons with disabilities and those who could benefit from rehabilitation.

Citing a research study, the president told the gathering that around 24 percent of Pakistan's population suffered mental stress including 60-70 percent of the students.

He said the situation could not be addressed at a time when the country had just 600 psychiatrists and 1200 psychologists. In such a case, the family system could prove to be a good anchor to extend its support in the form of group therapy and stress sharing.

President Alvi said without depending on the state, the family system would have to come up to play its part as in Islamic societies where the communities always promul-

Pakistan strongly condemns another act of Holy Quran's desecration in

Sweden 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday condemned in the "strongest possible terms" yet another Islamophobic act of public desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

"Permission to carry out premeditated and provocative acts of religious hatred cannot be justified under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said that international law categorically obliged states to prevent and prohibit deliberate incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief.

She reiterated Pakistan's call on the international community to unequivocally condemn these Islamophobic acts.

"We expect the Swedish authorities to take all measures necessary to stop such acts of hatred and incitement. Pakistan's concerns about the latest incident are being conveyed to the Swedish authorities," the FO spokesperson added.

US urge upholding of basic democratic principles as Pakistan moves towards elections

News Desk

WASHINGTON: As Pakistan prepares for the general elections, the United States has called for upholding the basic democratic principles in the South Asian

"I will make clear that we support the peaceful upholding of fundamental democratic principles such as free media, free speech, freehis daily press briefing on Thursday.

"We champion the rule of law,



world. These principles are the foundations for democratic elections," he dom assembly," State Department said in response to a question from Spokesperson Matthew Miller told the correspondent of a private Pakistani television channel.

"I have spoken to this both with

of course, as it relates to other countries on numerous occasions," Mill-

Replying to a question about the increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in Pakistan, the spokesperson said, "We will continue to urge the Taliban to fulfill their promises (to the international community)."

At the same time, he said the U. S. has the ability to conduct its own

operations in the region to "ensure that, regardless of any promises that the Taliban makes and regardless of their relative ability or willingness to uphold them, that we retain the not just in Pakistan but around the respect to Pakistan specifically and right to protect American interests.

Marriyum grieved over demise of senior journalist Sanaullah's brother

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the brother of senior journalist Sanaullah Khan. In a condolence message, the



minister expressed her heartfelt condolences to Sanaullah and his bereaved family.

The minister sharing her thoughts prayed for the rest of the departed soul in eternal peace and grant of courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortibe created for charity and donations: Mohsin Naqvi

Nazrana Online

Website will

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has given his approval in principle for the creation of an online platform named Nazrana Online. This platform aims to facilitate online offerings and donations at significant shrines throughout the province. Dedicated websites will be established for revered places like Darbar Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh, Hazrat Baba Bullay Shah, Hazrat Baba Farid Ganj Shukar, and other important

The responsibility of developing this website has been entrusted to the Punjab Information Technology Board. Through this user-friendly platform, people will have the convenience of making donations and contributions online.

Moreover, individuals residing abroad will also be able to actively participate in the almsgiving process and witness the live distribution of alms.

NA body unanimously approves PEMRA **Amendment Bill 2023**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Friday unanimously approved the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023.

The committee, which met at the Radio Pakistan with Javaria Zafar Aheer in the chair, termed the Bill a historic initiative for the welfare of journalists and appreciated all the efforts of all stakeholders, including the government, in that regard.

Besides The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023, the committee also discussed The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, briefing the committee, said amending the PEMRA law was the need of the



hour as the entire scenario of the media had changed.

She said the PEMRA Ordinance, which was promulgated in 2002, was was being amended first time. Its nine clauses were amended while five new ones were added.

The minister said under the amended law, for the first time media workers were being given the right to file complaints in the Council of Complaints, whereas in the past they were sacked even for demanding salaries.

Under the new bill, a three-member committee would now have the powers to close down a channel instead of the PEMRA chairman, she

The Spokesman

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan in a group photo with Inspector General Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan during the inauguration of Dolphin force on Friday.



Govt has no plan to impose new taxes on agri, real estate sectors, Dar tells NA

B Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government has no plan of imposing new taxes on agriculture and real estate sectors, says Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Friday, he said he wanted to make it clear in letter and spirit that "no new tax" would be imposed on agriculture or real estate as the government had already endured much pain in fulfilling the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund

The global lender approved had been completed. a \$3 billion bailout programme \$1.9bn was immediately disbursed to help save the ailing manner.

al sectors before release of the remaining amount.

The finance minister told the lower house that the people representing the agriculture sector-for which the government expanded the loan volume from Rs1,800 billion to Rs2,250 billion in the budgethad showed concerns over the reports. He said the government

would pass no further burden on the masses as all the policies continued." commitments made with the IMF were on the finance ministry's website, adding all prior actions laid down by the lender

Dar reasserted that the for Pakistan, out of which agreement with the IMF ed Arab Emirates (UAE) have outsourced for 15 years was done in a "transparent"

"It is our effort to bring According to some media down the inflation. He said reports, the international lend- that according to State Bank er had asked the government of Pakistan, the inflation will for a plan to impose taxes on come down to 7 percent in two the real estate and agricultur- years' time if the consistency in said the total liquid foreign attention notice, Minister



On the occasion, the Finance Minister also placed before the House the documents pertaining to the standby agreement reached with the IMF.

Saudi Arabia and the Unitdeposited \$3bn in Pakistan's The National Assembly from default.

On Thursday, the FinMin

reserves of the country clocked in at \$14.06bn dollars. In a tweet, he said the State Bank of Pakistan's reserve position was also highest since October

Islamabad Airport to be

Responding to a calling

for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique told the House that about twelve companies have shown their interest in the operations of the Islamabad International Airport. He said the outsourcing process of Islamabad International Airport will be completed in next two and a half month.

The Minister said airports of Lahore and Karachi will also be outsourced, stressing that best international practices will be emulated at our airports. He assured that employees will not be laid-off.

Expressing concerns of huge deficit of Pakistan International Airline, the Minister emphasized for its restructuring, assuring that rights of the central bank in the last two was informed today that Islam- employees will be protected. days. China has rolled over abad International Airport will He said that PIA's flight oper-\$5bn in loans in the last three be outsourced for fifteen years ation to UK will resume in the months to save the country after a competitive bidding next three months which will be followed by resumption of flights to European Union and

Dolphin Force launched in Islamabad to curb street crime

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The inauguration of the Islamabad Police Dolphin Emergency Response Unit took place here Friday, signalling a significant stride in curbing street crime and bolstering citizen protection in the capital city.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, who marked the occasion by officially initiating the operational activities of the Dolphin Unit of Islamabad Police.

The minister appreciated the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan for establishing this unit in a short time to ensure public safety.

Addressing the personnel of the Dolphin Force, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan emphasised the noble duty entrusted to them, stating, "Your duty is the protection of the citizens, which is a form of worship." He expressed the hope that they would diligently safeguard the lives and property of the citizens.

The minister lauded the estab- maintain public safety.

lishment of the Dolphin Force and commended the entire team especially, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan for their commitment to ensuring public safety and security. He highlighted the importance of the Force in controlling street crime and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Rana Sanaullah expressed the confidence in the capabilities of the force and their ability to significantly reduce street crime in the capital city.

The force will also play a vital role in securing religious places and processions, ensuring a safe and peaceful environment for citizens during religious events. To commence the operations, the Dolphin Force has been equipped with 40 vehicles and 200 motorbikes, facilitating their rapid response to incidents across

As the Dolphin Emergency Response Unit takes charge, citizens of Islamabad can look forward to enhanced security measures, reinforcing the efforts of law enforcement agencies to combat street crime and

National Stakeholder Consultation on Energy Efficiency & Conservation in Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) organized a national level and Conservation Action Plan 2023-30, Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC)- 2023 and Pakistan Energy Labels Regulations" on 21stJuly, 2023, in Islamabad. The consultation was attended by stakeholders from Public Departments, Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Industrial Associations, Academia, Media, and Representatives from Civil Society.

Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch, Federal Minister for Science & Technology graced the event with his opening remarks. He highlighted the need for energy conservation and its impact on the national economy.

Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defence shared his valuable insights being the head of high-level committee on energy conservation. He stressed the need for conservation of water in parallel

At the end, he talked about the

changes in behaviors and stressed the need to educate the new generation especially at elementary level. He appreciated the NEECA team for their efforts to make energy efficiency a consultation on "Energy Efficiency workable agenda and presentation of content in an impressive manner. Mr. Khawaja also inaugurated the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Behavior Change Campaign launched by NEECA and requested the media to play their role in dissemination of public service messages by setting aside their personal and business interests for national cause.

During the session, Directors from NEECA present key features of National Action Plan 2023-30 and Energy Conservation Building Codes 2023. In last session, Pakistan Energy Labels regulations and Standards for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure were presented.

At the end of the session, Dr. Sardar Mohazzam- Managing Director, NEECA thanked all the participants and expressed his gratitude to all the government departments, ministries, industrial associations, and civil society for their continuous support to NEECA.

Over 200 guests enjoy Pakistani embassy's annual Mango Festival

Mews Desk

WASHINGTON: More than 200 distinguished guests attended the annual barbecue reception and the Mango Administration (SBA) Dila-Festival at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui from Pakistan and the Chairman House Foreign Affairs staff, members of the think-Committee, Congressman tank community, media and Michael McCaul, from Unit- diaspora community leaders. ed States were the guests of according to a press release of

hosted by Pakistan's Ambassa-

dor to the US, Masood Khan. Among the participants were the Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Small Business war Syed, State Representative in Connecticut State House, Maryam Khan, ambassadors, diplomats, Congressional honour at the event, which was the Pakistani embassy here.



Senator Hidayatullah and Member National Assem-

bly of Pakistan Ms. Shakeela Khalid Luqman also attended the reception.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui addressed the gathering in Urdu, the national language of Pakistan, highlighting the attributes of mango, the king of fruits.

He congratulated Ambassador Khan on the 'Mango diplomacy' which, he said, could contribute in bringing the two countries closer to

Replying to another query, she said

Iran was a very close neighbour and friend of Pakistan. "We have extensive

historical ties with Iran. These rela-

tions are multifaceted; they are in the

economic domain, political domain,

connectivity, science and technology,

education, culture, and defence and

Replying to another question, she

said Pakistan also had a close rela-

tionship with the Russian Federa-

tion as there had been a flurry of visits

exchanged between two countries.

The Senate chairman recently visit-

ed Russia where bilateral cooperation

was discussed. "Our engagement with

Economic Corridor (CPEC), she said

the 10-year celebrations of CPEC were

taking place not just in Pakistan but

With respect to the China-Pakistan

security as well."

Russia will continue."

Pakistan urges India to end protracted imprisonment of Kashmiri political leaders, activists

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday asked India to put an end to the protracted imprisonment of Shabbir Shah and thousands of other Kashmiri political leaders and activists, whose "basic crime" was to demand their inalienable right to self-determination.

Founder and President of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabbir Ahmad Shah, "who completed six years of his continued detention this month, must be released along with other Kashmiri political leaders and activists, and acquitted of the fabricated charges against them", Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

She said incarcerated currently in New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail, Shabbir Shah had spent 36 years in prison for his political views. "The total period of his confinement exceeds remaining dead bodies within the next



half of his life. He is rightly called by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience."

With respect to the Greek boat tragedy, the spokesperson said two separate flights carrying the mortal remains of four Pakistanis, who perished in the disaster, had arrived in Lahore and Islamabad, and were handed over to their families in Gujarat and Gujranwala districts.

"Our Mission in Greece has made plans for the transportation of the

few days. We also remain in contact terrorism emanating from the Afghan with the Greek authorities for identification of the victims," she added.

Condemning in the strongest possible terms the repeated Islamophobic acts of public desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, she said such disturbing acts were both legally and morally reprehensible.

"Permission to carry out premeditated and provocative acts of religious hatred cannot be justified under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest."

She said Pakistan's concerns about the latest incident were being conveyed to the Swedish authorities.

Replying to a question, she said the issue of terrorism was a matter of serious concern to Pakistan, and had been raised with the Afghan interim authorities on multiple occasions and at every important engagement that took place tween the two sides.

"We have discussed the threat of also in China. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Petroleum dealers defer strike for two days



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Friday deferred fuel strike across country for two days.

The moves comes as State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik arrived in Karachi to convince the PPDA to call off the strike.

The association would hold another round of negotiations with the government after two days, the PPDA said.

Fuel pump operators across Pakistan had announced a nationwide strike on July 22 (Saturday) in a bid to secure larger margins amid an inflation crisis, the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association said on Thursday.

"We will shut down all petrol pumps across Pakistan on July 22 at 6pm," said the association. It says it has more than 10,000 members.

In a statement, it said interest rates and inflation had hit operators' businesses and called for the dealership margin to be increased. It said sales had slumped by 30% due to Iranian fuel being smuggled

into the country.

Jamaat-e-Islami demands caretaker government to be neutral during elections

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq has said that it is the duty of the caretaker government to be established after August 12 to remain neutral and fully cooperate with the Election Commission in conducting the elections. The Election Commission should start discussions with political stakeholders to make the national elections transparent. A strong government is the most important need of the country. The nation has been living in the darkness of corruption, inflation, poverty and unemployment for decades. If PDM, PPP and PTI remain dominant in the future, prosperity and development will not come

Jamaat-e-Islami is the only option for improvement. He was addressing the Harmat Sood seminar in Multan. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab South Rao Zafar and Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Safdar Hashmi were also broken, the farmer will be representpresent on the occasion. Siraj-ul-Haq ed in the parliament by the farmer and said that Jamaat-e-Islami can improve



the ruling parties are only concerned about their children, some want to see their sons and some want to see their daughters as prime ministers, only a democratic party can bring real democracy. The status quo has been established for 75 years, it will have to be the laborer's worker, only then will the

the entire nation, while the leaders of rights of millions of farmers and laborers of the country be protected.

> Cruel landlords and corrupt capitalists are sitting in the Houses who want the continuation of the usurious system, usury is a war against Allah and His Messenger, the Constitution of Pakistan and the Islamic Ideological Council have spoken of the end of the usurious economy, the Federal Sharia Court has a categorical decision

against riba. A young man committed suicide in Islamabad due to usury, the rulers are responsible for his death, an FIR should be registered against them. Millions of people of the country are affected by usury, poverty, inflation and unemployment are due to usury. He said that Jamaat-e-Islami won the legal battle against usury, organized demonstrations and rallies to end it.

Conferences were held in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar on the prohibition of usury, but the rulers of the Islamic country are determined to continue it, the usurers are not expected to abolish usury. The nation is appealed to bring Jamaat-e-Islami to power for the implementation of Islamic economic system. He said that as the former finance minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he ended usurious banking, made the province free of interest and debt, today KP owes more than 1000 billion. The ruler has loaded the country with a Himalayan amount of debt, children are in debt, there was a celebration for getting a loan from the IMF.

US and Pakistan explore economic opportunities including agri-business: CG



HAFIZABAD: US Consul General William K. Makaneole visited Hafizabad as part of the US Consulate efforts to visit all 36 districts in Punjab. He toured the rice fields, which the district Hafizabad is famous for, and praised the efforts of the local farmers and business community. These visits aim to strengthen people-to-people ties between the United States and Pakistan and explore economic

opportunities outside Lahore, including agri-business. During his visit, Mr. Makaneole also visited the Nishat Dairy Private Limited, MH Sufi Foundation School, and the Al-Muqadas Garment Factory to promote economic development in Pakistan

Business community strongly protesting for various taxes on electricity bills: Khawaja

Marian San Marian San

MULTAN: Secretary General of Central Trade Association Cantt Moazzam Waheed Khawaja, Chief Coordinator Ghazanfar Malik, Clube Abid Khan, Khawaja Dilshad while speaking during the protest demonstration against cruel tariff and FPA, tax collection of electricity bills by the government at Quaid-e-Azam shopping center said that putting the entire burden of government expenditure and electricity theft on the white-clad and poor citizens is the worst economic exploitation. It has been done, the ruler should take the fingernails of the conscience and be fed with the curses and curses of the nation. He said The business $community\ has\ been\ strongly\ protesting\ the\ government's\ imposition$ of various taxes on electricity bills

Punjab Govt ordered control the prices of food items: Amir Khattak

B Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: As soon as the Punjab government ordered the divisional administration to control the prices of food items, Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak started taking strict measures. He presided over a meeting to review the performance of price control magistrates and said that all price control magistrates should be seen in the field to eliminate exaggeration and maintain

transparency. The price control mechanism should be implemented strictly for the relief of consumers.

he said Every shopkeeper should be obliged to display the rate list in a prominent place-Later, the commissioner also presided over a meeting to review the speed of work on government collections and development projects-He said in the meeting that the officers should increase the speed of asset recoveries and crack down on big defaulters.

He said that the administrations of the districts were proactive about flood and Muharram Al Haram arrangements. In case of rains, the concerned departments are immediately seen in the field. Additional Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed and officers of related departments were present.

Anti-dengue and Antiencroachment action start: Simal Mushtaq

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, **Assistant Commissioner** City Simal Mushtaq took anti-dengue, anti-encroachment action. In this regard, 2 tire shops were sealed when dengue larvae were found. In the anti-encroachment operation, 2 trucks of goods were seized from outside



the Children's Hospital and from different routes of Muharram. While the routes of Muharram processions are also being cleared on a daily basis for the mourners

Water fall

MUZAFFERABAD: Tourists are crossing the river in cable car to reach Kashmir Water Fall during their visit of Kashmir to enjoy the summer break in the Capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Our responsibility to improve the customer services: Jamal Laghari

👺 Kiran Asim

Electric Power Company (MEPCO) Board of Directors Sardar Jamal Khan Laghari has said that it is our responsibility to improve the customer services of the company for the convenience of customers in South Punjab and steps are being taken for this. They are creating convenience for customers by providing maximum facilities. He expressed these views while addressing the 202nd meeting held at Mepco headquarters. He approved the establishment of transformers reclamation workshop and posts of MEPCO in Rahim Yar Khan city for immediate and local repair of burnt and damaged distribution transformers. The Board of Directors appointed

Athar Ali Mazari

Chief Executive Officer Mepco MULTAN: Chairman of Multan Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana presented various agendas which were unanimously approved by the Board of Directors. Extension of daily wages for one more year, recruitment of disabled persons on 2% quota, long term advance for MEPCO employees, recruitment of four vacancies in basic scale 17 in Mirad department of MEPCO.

The selection committee for the recruitment of Director General Mirad Mapco presented the cases of approval of the annual procurement plan for the financial year 2023-24, the pay package of the officers appointed on lump sum salary equal to BPS 17, payment of SAP software annual support, maintenance fee, which were unanimously



approved by the board of directors. The board approved various agenda items including purchase of power transformers of 31.5/40 MVA and 20/26 MVA, 31 thousand kg of new copper wire, 32 thousand 500 kg of paper core copper strips and one lakh 79 thousand 250 single phase meters, increasing capacity from 66 KV Dajal grid station to 132 KV Dajal grid station.

Board Director Engineer Fazlullah Durrani, Mian Shahid Igbal, Khurram Mushtaq, Rana Yasir Rauf, Jam Muhammad Jaber Lad, Mian Muhammad Ali, Athar Ali Mazari, Hussain Ahmad Fazal participated in the meeting. On this occasion, Finance Director Mian Ansar Mehmood, Director General HR & Admin Liaqat Ali Memon, General Manager Technical Rana Muhammad Avub Khan, General Manager Operations Nasir Ayaz Garmani, Chief Engineer Customer Services Jam Gul Muhammad Zahid, Chief Engineer Development Muhammad Arshad Dharala, Director HRM Muhammad Wajahat Bucha and Company Secretary Sajid Yaqub Ansari were also present.

Steps should be taken to build Nishtar Model Pharmacy: Dr Javed Akram

MULTAN: The 13th meeting of the Syndicate of Nishtar Medical University was held under the chairmanship of the Caretaker Provincial Health Minister / Pro-Chancellor Dr. Javed Akram, in which Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Syndicate members Jalaluddin Rumi, Vice Chancellor of MNS University Prof. Dr. Rao Asif Ali, Divisional Director LFA Shahswar, Professor of Surgery Dr. Iftikhar Hussain Khan, Former Principal Nishtar Medical College Prof. Dr. Sami Akhtar, Hospital Dr. Rao Amjad Ali, Prin-Professor of Medicine Prof. Dr. Ijaz Hussain Malik, Talat Javed., Muhammad Waqas Khalid, Rehman Naseem, Professor of Gynecology Professor Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani



cipal College of Nursing Rukhsana Parveen, Registrar Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Principal Nishtar Medical College Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao were also pres-Medical Superintendent Nishtar ent. In the meeting, various important

decisions were taken regarding Nishtar Medical University. In the syndicate meeting, it was decided to adopt the statue of Nishtar Medical University soon. The vision and mission statements of the university were taken into consideration. New Members Syndi-

cate and Members Board of Advanced Studies and Research and Nomination of new members for Selection Board were also approved.

policies were reviewed. Approved to start PharmD program in Nishtar Medical University. Syllabus of nursing degree program was also approved in the meeting. It was also decided to create resources for the university. Application of fees for degrees, certificates and other documents was given. The renovation of the hall, staff club and syndicate room of Nishtar Medical University and the purchase of a vehicle for the Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University were approved. In the meeting, the financial matters of Nishtar Medical University were also reviewed and permission was given to form committees for various approved

Women University active and effective links with all major universities: Dr Uzma



Asim Tanveer

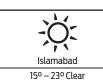
MULTAN: Under the auspices of the US Pakistan Universities Partnerships Grants Program project, a workshop was organized in collaboration with the Center of Professional Development of Women University Multan and Kinnaird College Lahore, titled "Leadership in the Field of Education", Curriculum Preparation, Promotion of Education. Dr. Malika Liaquat speaking on the occasion said that Dr. Uzma Qureshi said that this workshop is very important with such activities where something new will

It will also help in increasing coop-

eration between universities. Women University wants to have active and effective links with all the major universities of the country. The faculty members involved in workshop are expected to use their energies.

That they will utilize their energies. Our university is keen to promote the culture of research. Resource persons will provide researchers with better opportunities for research. Prof. Dr. Iram Anjuman said that for the promotion of education, there must be a leadership element among the heads of educational institutions. This workshop is an effort to highlight the leadership skills of teachers in which they will be informed.





Namaz Timings Maghrib ..7:16 pm . 8:55 pm

EMERGENCY

FINIEIZOFIA I
Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 445112
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

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MH	561116
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AIOU announces scholarships for deserving students

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Igbal Open University has commenced the admissions for matric to PhD programs in the autumn semester 2023. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood wishes that not a single student should be deprived of higher and quality education due to of lack of financial resources. For this purpose, AIOU is providing scholarships, fee concessions, and financial assistance schemes to poor and deserving students.

To utilize these schemes, deserving candidates are required to contact their respective regional offices of AIOU established in all four provinces of Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. The financial assistance committee of AIOU will assess the needs of the students and will make recommendations. This initiative will play a key role in eradicating illiteracy in

the country. It is pertinent to mention here that the university is playing its due role in the process of national progress and development as well as bringing the out-of-school children into the educational network by providing free matriculation education to the people of Baluchistan, merged districts (former FATA) and GB. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has instructed the concerned regional directors have been instructed to spread this message of the university door to door in these regions so that not a single student is deprived of this facility of AIOU.

Spotlights Pakistan's progress on sustainable development goals at HLPF 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development side witnessed an insightful address by Shazia Marri, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) and Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety of Pakistan. The topic of discussion was the crucial role of Parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

In her speech, Hon. Shazia Marri highlighted the significant contribution tion of children and women. of the National Assembly of Pakistan in supporting the aspirations of Agenda

2030. Pakistan became the first country to adopt the SDGs as its national development goals in 2016 through a resolution passed by the National Assembly. The establishment of a state-of-theart parliamentary SDGs secretariat and taskforces at the national and provincial levels has been instrumental in closely monitoring progress on the SDGs. The Parliament has passed essential legislations related to quality education, decent work and economic growth, peace, justice, and strong institutions, as well as laws concerning the protec-



The Federal Women's Parliamen- Forum, SDGs Taskforce, and Parliamentary Caucus, Young Parliamentarians tary Child Rights Caucus have played

vital roles in strengthening public-private partnerships and addressing specific areas of concern. The National Assembly's initiatives have spurred the Government of Pakistan to prioritize the SDGs agenda, leading to the implementation of various programs aimed at ending poverty and promoting inclusive devel-

Despite challenges such as limited fiscal capacity, data collection and availability, and climate change impacts, Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to the SDGs by submitting two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and releasing its first SDGs Status Report

Hon. Shazia Marri emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges and opportunities for Parliaments and Governments to focus on resilient and sustainable development. She highlighted the importance of embedding accountability mechanisms within legal frameworks, promoting digital transformation, and supporting skill development and entrepreneurship.

The HLPF discussions were aimed to foster global collaboration and commitment towards achieving the SDGs, with Pakistan's initiatives serving as an inspiration for other nations to address poverty, ensure healthy lives, and promote wellbeing for all.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: German Artist Dagmar Rauwald is briefing visitors about his paintings during exhibition entitled "Invention VS Convention" at Comsats Art Gallery in Federal Capital.



President IIUI visits newly established academic block with Saudi funding

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, International Islamic University (IIU) visited the new academic block and the Students Facilitation Centre established in the light of his vision to facilitate students under one roof on priority and with the use of modern and digitized approach. A new academic block has

been established with Saudi Funding, whereas a center for the facilitation of students has also been set up within the block as per guidelines of HEC. The academic block shall be inaugurated soon, while Worthy IIUI President was briefed by the Director Academics and Incharge Admission about all the shifting and allied new arrangements in the directorate of Academics and Students Facilitations Centre. The IIUI President directed the formed committee for SOPs and guidelines of the block to complete the tasks within given deadtive Incharges of all the sections ed at earliest.



apprised the President IIUI about the nature of work and new approach. Visiting the cafeterias, Worthy Presiimprove with best arrangements and added that vending machines must be installed in the building. He opined that there would be zero tolerance related affairs and this must policy for the officials who do be ensured that they will not not adopt professionalism. The IIUI President also directed matters. "All the issues must that a proper mechanism for the maintenance of the block line. During the visit, respec- be prepared and implement- approach without delays" he

H. E. Dr. Hathal reviewed the process of shifting, allocation of offices, operationalization of the official work dent IIUI directed to further and use of modern technology for the facilitation of the students. He passed direction that students must not face any issue regarding the academics visit any other office for their be solved within this facility and it must be a one stop added. He showed satisfac-

tion on the speedy completion of the arrangements made for the new academic block and

the students' facilitation center. He advised the staff to be friendly with the students and utilize the advanced gadgets and new system for the students' facilitation with energy. Worthy IIUI President said that this facilitation center and the new set up in the block must be an exquisite place that should address the issues of students with the help of courteous officials and modern use of technology.

Spotify reveals how 'Desi Music' is captivating listeners across the globe

ISLAMABAD: From July 18 to August 17, South Asians celebrate their culture, heritage, and traditions in monthlong festivities regarded as 'South Asian Heritage Month'. And once again, Spotify is honoring one of the strongest cultural elements of the region; music, in its distinct and personal flavor. The audio streaming giant has revealed some interesting insights on South Asian music consumption within the region and across the



UK, and Canada remain year growth of 72%, 54% the leading countries that and 50% respectively. stream desi music, followed

by Australia and Germany. 'Desi' music continues to be largest increase in streams

Over the past year, streams of the Desi Hits playlist on 'Desi' music is growing Spotify have increased by rapidly in UAE, Australia 55%. Of the total volume the According to Spotify, and Canada and shows the playlist has been streamed, 40% have emerged from a popular genre for listeners of the South Asian music outside South Asia. For all around the globe. USA, genre, recording year-on- Desi Lofi, 42% of listen-

ers are from beyond South South Asian Heritage Month Asia, 40% for Desi Hip Hop this year by building a strong and 38% for Desi Indie. The South Asian Sufi playlist has by far been the biggest musical export with 66% streams from countries far and wide.

Speaking for the occasion, Rutaba Yaqub, Spotify Senior Editor in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh said, "With Spotify significantly strengthening its position in South Asian markets, we are able to connect artists to their fans and communities across the globe, and have witnessed a growing love for South Asian artists and desi music that reflects

in the exponential growth of streams of our desi playlists".

added.

age Month, selected South Asian creators, including 'Pasoori' famed Ali Sethi and renowned influencer, Irfan Junejo, have also been featured under Spotify's Spotlight series. Among featured playlists of each creator, fans can now discover the favourite South Asian tracks of Ali Sethi and Irfan "Spotify is celebrating Junejo among others.

cultural connection between

desi music and its listeners

through our South Asian

Music Hub where listeners

can find and enjoy popular

desi playlists and more," she

around South Asian Herit-

As part of the celebrations

Bhambar district admin announces normal traffic in three tehsils after rains

Spokesman Report

BHAMBAR: During the rains in Bhimbar Samahni and Barnala tehsils, landslides and other obstacles have been removed from the road and the roads have been restored for normal traffic. They are monitoring the ongoing rehabilitation work in the three tehsils. Exion High ways Tahir Mahmoud Butt along with SDO Raja Imad Khalid and three other SDOs and sub-engineers



used heavy machinery for road maintenanc and obstacles have been removed, the administration has requested tourists, travelers and public to be careful. Motorcyclists should be more careful. Action will be taken against trolley and tractor drivers who do not cooperate with the administration and throw garbage on the roads, SSP Raja Muhammad. Akmal Khan has instructed the traffic police to keep an eye strictly on such drives.

6th all Pakistan bilingual dialogue and Punjabi Natara held



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The 6th All Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah Bilingual Dialogue and Waris Shah Punjabi Natara 2023 was jointly organized by the "Jinnah Debating Society" and Directorate of Students Affairs at Government College University Faisalabad.

Under the management of Dr. Sana Haroon.

This event in the recollections of the founder of Pakistan witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than forty teams. The event comprised of the distinguished judges, including Ahsan Bhatti, Ajmal Bhatti, Osman Pasha, Laiba Fatima and others who evaluated the debaitors' performances. In this competition the trophy winner was the University of Lahore. Furthermore, Asim Bilal from Jamia Rasheed Karachi was awarded the medal as an excellent speaker.

The esteemed Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Amin addressed the audiences. Dr. Sofia Anwar Dean of Economics and Management Sciences, Dr. Farhat Jabin Dean of Life Sciences, Dr. Rizwan Ullah Kokab alao graced the event. At the end of ceremony, certificates and shields were presented to the successful contestants by the Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Amin, Director of Students Affairs Dr. Nadeem Sohail, and In-charge of Jinnah Debating Society Dr. Sana Haroon.

Vohra end to 'perverted' rule of Pakistani rulers

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra expressed while talking to media, We wish! If our politics was related to public pains feeling men, then Pakistan would not have any kind of economic problem today, where the additional taxes of 170 billion rupees have been imposed on the nation in such a way that even the back bone has been broken.



The ruling style of the rulers has left the country and the nation into disastrous sea, from where should those who run a house on collecting ten/ten rupees till evening & pay tax? said Haji Abdullah Nawaz Vohra Senior Vice President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan.

According to the details, the poor people are already suffering from severe problems due to the sharp increase in the prices of medicines and further trials have become their destiny on more levy.

These views were expressed by the Central President of Cloth Board Ittehad Pakistan, Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra while talking to the media. He further said that there was no room left for the government to bombard the nation by imposing an additional tax of 170 billion rupees because the people were already not able to rise in the first place presently.

Moreover, Abdullah Nawaz Vohra expressed that the rulers have brought the country to ruin, while the fate of those who exploit the people and loot the national wealth is very near.

Further, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group of Pakistan has said that finally the current government has bombed the people by imposing additional taxes of billions of rupees on the request of the IMF. Federal excise duty on laptop, computer, LED, TV, electronic machinery, edible oil, biscuits, jam, jelly, noodles, cigarette, cement and beverages while other grocery items have also been limitlessly increased. More destruction is to come from the way the imported rulers have treated the country's imports and exports? and from the nationwide petrol pump strike, no one can imagine the devastation that is unfolding in coming days.

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Tencent's 'weixin pay' enhances mobile payment experience for overseas users visiting China

necent is deepening its collaboration with international card organizations including Visa, Discover Global Network (including Diners Club), JCB, and Mastercard in order to further improve overseas users' digital payment experience in China.

The move coincides with the full resumption of travel and international business to China and major international events in the country.

The latest development fully opens Weixin Pay's merchant network in China to international card organizations in gradual steps.

In 2019, Weixin Pay began supporting overseas users in linking their international credit cards for use with various pilot services, said a press statement issued here on Friday.

The expanded merchant network includes categories such as dining, transportation, shopping, hotel accommodation and more. Users can enjoy multiple payment methods such as scanning QR codes, presenting payment codes, Weixin Mini Programs and in-app payments, enhancing users' payment experience both online and of-

After linking an international card, overseas users will be able to conveniently access over tens of millions of merchants, including small and medium-sized merchants. Transaction fees are waived for single transactions of less than or equal to 200 RMB to fulfill users' small-amount and high-frequency payment needs, subject to the details specified on the payment page.

People entering the Chinese Mainland can use their passports, Mainland Travel Permit and Mainland Residence Permit for Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan residents, or Foreign Permanent Resident ID Card to set up their Weixin Pay, link an international credit card or debit card, and start enjoying mobile payments across the country.

Previously, Chinese regulators encouraged the refinement of mobile payment solutions for visitors to improve their payment experience. Domestic payment service providers are also encouraged to partner with overseas card issuers to provide mobile payment to overseas visitors in accordance with rules and regulations.

With the upcoming international sporting events such as the FISU World University Games in Chengdu and the Asian Games in Hangzhou, the number of incoming overseas tourists continues to rise. Tencent strives to improve mobile payment experience and offer more convenience for overseas users, through initiatives such as supporting international cards on Weixin Pay and connecting overseas local wallets with the Mainland of China.

People says, Multan Police 'involved in extrajudicial killings'

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

and property of the citizens as well as to protect their honor and dignity. But for three decades, another face of the police department has emerged. Some employees of this department have been involved in serious activates like torture and extrajudicial killings. Due to these illegal activities, the good, admirable and excellent work of the police is also ignored by the people.

Instead of praise, the police department is under constant criticism. Police are responsible for custodial torture and other serious human rights violations, a new report by Human Rights Watch has said.

The report comes amid growing allegations of rights abuses by Police. The document released detailed "Public surveys and reports of government accountability and redress institutions show that the police are one of the most widely feared, complained against, and least trusted government institutions in Pakistan.". There were several reported cases of police killing criminal suspects outside the legal system, torturing detainees for confession and harassing and demanding money from individuals wanting to file criminal cases. Fake encounters or extrajudicial killings and torture has become a symbol of Punjab police.

Scolding by the officers has made the policemen angry and greedy. To relieve their anger and get rid of it, these policemen use illegal tactics like violence against the common people. Two days ago in the Lodhi Colony area, Dolphin policemen

he responsibility of the Waseem, Majid, Faraz and Abid fired police is to protect the life shots at unarmed youths at night, as a Shamoon Joiya, a driver and constables. still absconding. result of which a MEPCO employee Rana Hammad Asghar was shot in the stomach, who went to Nishtar Hospital and died. His uncle said that the deceased Hamad Asghar was the sole sponsor of his family. He was a noble citizen and an employee of Mapco.

> He was not a professional accused or fugitive from court. The relatives of the victim say that Hamad was not alone at this time, he had two more friends with him who are missing. Hamad shows his identification employee card to dolphin force men but they shot

him. They said Multan police are raiding and ransacking the houses of Hamad's friends and stealing valuables from here. Hamad's relatives and Mepco union officials are demanding that justice be served to them. They proclaim "they will cut off electricity supply to Multan. On the other hand, as usual, the police published a list of cases against the deceased and the officers issued a statement to protect the killers under them. It has been released that the victim was shot by his peers.

Last year in the month of July After killing Faheem, the police registered a false case 460/22 Alpa police station, which was revealed as a police encounter. Then on January 18, a cross version has been filed in the Alpa police station on a false case, this case was filed against the former

Shamoon Joiya, a driver and constables.

The police officer and employees opened fire on Muhammad Fahim and his friend, as a result of which Muhammad Fahim died and Muhammad Azam was seriously injured. Their parents and relatives appeared before the senior police officers for justice, but the Multan police

officers failed to provide justice on merit.

Police bureaucracy succeed to save their subordinates' skin by creating a story that they were criminals and Faheem dead by the fire of his colleagues and several false cases were registered against the

relatives of the deceased under section terrorism and other serious provisions. No action was taken till time against the sub-inspector involved in said murder.

This year on April 22, the second day of Eid ul Fitar, 2 youths were killed in a police firing incident in the limits of Multan's Shah Rukn e Alam police station. It has been claimed by the police that the officers stopped the youths on the bridge last night they did not stop and police opened fire considering them as suspicious for not stopping. CM Muhsin Naqvi came to the house of the victims and announced an aid of Rs 10 lac.

The case was registered (FIR # 988/23 PS Shah Rukn e Alam) against the accused policemen Bilal and Yasir with provisions of murder, the family members were is still absconding.

The deceased Sami was celebrating Eid with his friend Irfan Usman. There is no criminal record of the youth who died in the firing. When we talked to a Police Officer on this critical issue, he said that maintaining law and order was an arduous task in the country, considering threats posed by armed extremist groups, local drug wars and land-grabbing. Insufficient infrastructure, lack of financial resources and interference from external sources contributed to the force's performance." Elite elements within Pakistani society-be they politicians, landowners or members of civil and police bureaucracyexercised outsized and improper control over law enforcement," the police officer explained his compulsion.

He says in the police department appointments to important positions were also made on the basis of "political" links. If the officials involved in the fake police encounters of Multan basis had been punished, there would not have been mourning at Hamad's house. The government introduced effective systems to ensure police accountability and redress people's grievances.

The government also needed to remove laws that increased the police's tendency towards impunity. The people of this era are very conscious. Police will also have to change their story that "the victim was shot by his colleagues." The IG Punjab Police and senior officers have to dispel the perception in the society that "police are involved in extra-judicial killing."



 ${\it Cartoon~by~Amjad~Rasmi.} \ ({\it Courtesy~of~Asharq~Al-Awsat})$

Stunning architecture dazzles in Chengdu

Noureen Chaudhry

n a few days from the writing of this article, the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games will begin. The focus of the event is obviously sport, but while people are in Chengdu they'll be dazzled by the incredible architecture that is omnipresent in this Sichuan

Province capital city of 20 million. The combination of unique shapes, materials, and colours make this a city that will draw the attention of visitors and viewers.

A prominent set of facilities to be used for the Chengdu 2021 FISU Games is the Dong'an Lake Sports Park. Located in Chengdu's Longquan District and designed by gmp Architects (von Gerken, Marg, and Partners), this futuristic set of three cuboidal blocks will host swimming and artistic gymnastics. Outdoor green spaces connect the three venues which are also tied together by spiraling corridors that link them to the Dong'an Lake Sports Park Stadium, host to the opening

ceremony on 28 July. The futuristic aluminum enveloping the venues helps set them as 'artifacts in nature,' as described by the designer, while the nearby Torch Tower brings another standout element to the area.

The Fenghuangshan Sports Park features two beautiful new venues in Chengdu – the gymnasium and football stadium. The former is an 18,000 seat venue built to National Basketball Association standards which will serve as a competition venue for basketball at by HKS, its inspiration is from a tea infusion

allows people to see the stadium as a bowl, the plaza surrounding it as the saucer, and the gymnasium as the lid that goes on top. This ties to the strong tea house culture that exists in Chengdu. The exterior of the venues is based on Shu Jin, or Imperial Embroidery, which originated in Chengdu, and the surface city, and when time permits away from all

gives the impression of silk threads that attract and reflect light uniquely throughout the day.

It's not just the sport venues that marvel visitors to Chengdu. If people land in the city's new airport they will see another great example of its unique architecture. Chengdu Tianfu International Airport opened midway through 2021 and will serve as the primary international airport for the city, with Shuangliu International Airport shifting focus to domestic flights. The design (by the China Southwest

the Chengdu 2021 FISU Games. Designed Architectural Design and Research Institute, China Airport Construction Group Corporation, and French firm ADP Ingénierie) features building space equal to 46 football fields. The mythical sunbird, representing the city of Chengdu, is referenced in the design with the two terminals built to be distinct while sharing the same architecture.

Once visitors have landed and are in the

the great sporting events of the Chengdu 2021 FISU Games, they will want to go and check out the Chengdu Museum of Natural History. The designer, Pelli Clarke & Partners, wanted to bring into the building's features some of the region's landscape. The form of the building evokes the process of rock breaking, emblematic of the tectonic plates coming together and the volcanic activity that formed the nearby mountains. The sky bridges and passageways inside the museum mirror the traditional cliff trails found in the Chengdu region.

Modern architecture has been the focus of this article, but traditional design also plays a significant role in

the feel people get living in or visiting Chengdu. The Wuhou Shrine Museum, Tazishan Park, and the Du Fu Thatched Cottage Museum are all great examples of the traditional architecture that dots the Chengdu landscape.

Chengdu is a feast for the eyes. Modern and traditional architecture, of which just a few examples are listed here, lend greatly to what will be an incredible experience for all those coming to, or watching from around the world, the Chengdu 2021 FISU Games.

A rail link to reshape the region - II

Qamar Bashir

at an important time. The somemay have been a major factor in the other two countries' decision to move forward with the project, despite the and properties of people living in border areas fact that other nations of the world may view it in great danger and in constant state of fear. with skepticism due to the unrecognized status
They have also martyred scores of civilians and of the interim Afghan government and its delib-security personnel in recent days, prompting the erate refusal to adhere to the Doha Agreement. Nonetheless, the region is presently experiencing a period of relative peace and stability, which has made the signing of this and other high-val-terrorist groups pose a significant risk to all

ue projects such as CASA 1000 and TAPI gas pipeline possible. The success of these essential initiatives will establish a regional ecosystem to promote economic industrial, trade and investments. The success of the project

will also depend on the strong political will of the states and should not be affected by the change of governments in the respective coun-

tries, the allocation of sufficient and timely resources to it, and the hiring of credible, experienced, and resourceful contractors who have the ability, expertise, and resources to adhere to the project's timelines in letter and spirit.

Importantly, the success of the project would largely depend on the security and safety of the entire region, the eradication of terrorism from all countries, the destruction of terrorist safe havens, especially in Afghanistan, and the creation of a law and order situation that ensures

the safe, secure, and effortless movement of goods along the route and to its destinations. The security situation in Afghanistan will be the most difficult barrier for this project.

he signing of the contract occurs
Contrary to the Doha Agreement, Afghanistan is providing safe havens to over 6000 fully what shaky peace in Afghanistan armed and trained Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists who are carrying out terrorist attacks all along the border, putting the lives Army Chief to warn Afghanistan to eliminate these terrorist groups which have ransomed the security and stability of the entire region. These

> such projects traveling through Afghanistan, necessitating the Afghan government's efforts to rid the country of the dangers of terrorism and extremism.

The donor agencies' commitment of huge funds will also be contingent on the security and safety and establishment of law and order in Afghanistan, in the absence of

which the donor agencies will naturally shy away from making any commitment for provision of funds, and one does not need rocket science to understand that cash starved Afghanistan and Pakistan are unable to fund this initiative with their own funds. With Afghanistan's security issues resolved, the project makes a lot of economic sense.

ConcludedThe author is the former Press Secretary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minis $ter\,of\,the\,Embassy\,of\,Pa \v{k} istan\,in\,France\,and$ also has been the former MD/CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company

Turkmenistan presented its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the SDGs

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On July 19, 2023, Turkmenistan's delegation, led by the Minister of Finance and Economy, Mr. Serdar Jorayev, during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development presented the second Volunachieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the presentation, the delegation shared Turkmenistan's socio-economic development achieves ments education, food security, gender equal-VNR in 2019. They also highlighted the successful implementation of al programs and strategies dedicat- experience in countering the pandemaccompanying video material showcased the country's efforts in adapting main macroeconomic indicators; SDG indicators at the national level,

ble development at both regional and global scales. Notably, particular focus was given to key areas like transport, energy, and ecology.

The main focus of the Voluntary National Review are as follows:

1. Expanding the Scope: In additary National Review (VNR) of Turk-tion to reporting on the UN's recommenistan on the progress towards mended goals, the report included six additional SDGs that reflect the country's key strategic priorities for development. These goals covered areas like healthcare, quality and inclusive and main indicators since the first ity, improving people's well-being, and environmental protection;

2. Handling the Pandemic: The medium-term and long-term nation- Review showcased Turkmenistan's ed to sustainable development. The ic, enabling the country to maintain its the State Committee of Turkmenistan economic growth and even improve

3. Strengthening Institutional

emphasizing initiatives for sustaina- Framework: Progress was demonstrated in enhancing the institutional framework to effectively implement SDGs. This, in turn, created favourable conditions for digitalization, entrepreneurship, and the use of innovative and eco-friendly technologies across all sectors of the national economy;

4. Integration of SDGs: Strategic policy documents were evaluated to assess the integration of SDGs. The results revealed a high level of adaptation (85%) of the 2030 Agenda objectives to national strategies, programs, and action plans, ensuring the continued implementation of SDGs in both completed and newly adopted coun-

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Bashimova, Deputy Chairman of on Statistics Ms. Annaniyazova, and young SDG Ambassadors Ms. Achilova and Mr. Gurbanmyradov formed link: https://hlpf.un.org/countries/

took part in the presentation of the

A detailed version of the Review is available on the official pages of the United Nations and the High-Level Political Forum at the following

the delegation of Turkmenistan and turkmenistan/voluntary-national-re-

In the final part of the Report presentation, an interactive dialogue took place, where delegations of UN Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations had the opportunity to inquire about the SDGs.

Turkmenistan's progress and provide comments on the national presenta-

Looking ahead, we can anticipate the next VNR to be released in 2025, further highlighting Turkmenistan's continuous efforts towards achieving



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Turkmenistan led by the Minister of Finance and Economy, Mr. Serdar Jorayev, arrived in New York to take part in the events within the High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development on the theme: "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at

During the plenary session of the Forum on the same day, Minister delivered his statement and highlighted the priority areas of national sustainable development initiatives, and activities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level and in the international format. In



his speech, the high degree of integramedium-term and long-term national socio-economic programs and strategies was noted.

Minister elaborated on Turkmen-

tion of global development goals into the standard of living for its population, promoting a healthy lifestyle, ensuring inclusive and high-quality education, fostering environmental sustainability, and driving innovations

istan's commitment to improving across all economic sectors. He also underlined that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Turkmenistan managed to maintain the stability of economic development without stopping the growth of key industries.

HSY Joins LRBT as Global Ambassador

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT), Pakistan's largest provider of eye care, proudly welcomes the celebrated fashion icon and philanthropist, Hassan Sheheryar Yasin (HSY), as its Global Brand and Goodwill Ambassador. The Chairman of LRBT, Mr. Najmus Saquib Hameed, presented HSY with a Certificate of built 19 eye hospitals and his early-life brush with Appointment during a ceremony held at LRBT Korangi, where he also shared the es for the poor. Since start of ed, but through organizalife-transforming contributions of LRBT in Pakistan.

LRBT's mission is: "No man, woman or child should go blind just because they cannot access or afford the its inception 37 years ago, more significant because of Hameed, Chairman of loss.



60 clinics, offering free-ofcost quality eye care servicoperations in 1985, LRBT has treated over 53 million patients, transforming lives to be the brand ambassador and offering hope to countless families.

treatment." To further this expressed his personal he said. mission, LRBT has, since attachment to LRBT's cause,

blindness. "The gift of sight is one we often take for granttions like LRBT, lives are transformed, I am humbled and stand alongside LRBT in their mission to bring light During the event, HSY to those living in darkness,"

LRBT, welcomed HSY as the LRBT global brand and goodwill ambassador and thanked him for lending his time and energy to the transformative cause. "HSY's compassion and dedication to social causes make him a perfect fit for LRBT. We are confident that his involvement will raise greater awareness about our mission, enabling us to reach more individuals in need," he

remarked. HSY's appointment as brand ambassador will help realize LRBT's vision of creating a better Pakistan by preventing the suffering caused by blindness and other eye ailments. Together, LRBT and HSY will continue to champion the cause of restoring sight and empow-Mr. Najmus Saquib ering those battling vision

PSA puts rumors to rest: No change ın Peak and Off-Peak hour electricity timings

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) has been inundated with inquiries from member companies and stakeholders within the Pakistan solar industry concerning purported changes to the Time of Use Tariff for customers of DISCOs (Distribution Compa-

After weeks of speculation fueled by incorrect news items circulating on social media and unofficial sources, the PSA takes this opportunity to clarify that there have been no alterations to the timings for peak and off-peak hours.

Upon consultation with relevant authorities at the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and DISCOs, the PSA confirms that there have been no adjustments to the existing timing for Peak hours and there are no plans to do so.

Pak-Iran Relations



ISLAMABAD: The new Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam met the Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad on Friday. Foreign Secretary congratulated Amb. Moghaddam on his appointment and said he looked forward to working with him towards further strengthening - coop in all areas of important incl. trade, investment, energy, and security

NUST holds 19th annual National Engineering Robotics **Contest**



跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The last two decades have seen tremendous activity in the field of Robotics. As part of its efforts to promote Robotics in Pakistan, NUST College of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering (CEME) has been holding the National Engineering Robotics Contest (NERC) since 2003. Over 200 teams from all over the country took part in the 19th annual

edition of this prestigious competition held in the second and third week of July. NUST CEME organised the event in collaboration with STEM Careers Program and HEC. The five-day event was split into nine categories, including Indigenous Robots, Modular Robots for Schools and Universities, Robowars, Aero, etc. What set the competition apart was the demographic diversity it entailed. A special award "Akhtar Nawaz Prize" was dedicated for those teams that came from far-flung areas of $\,$ Pakistan. The event sponsors included MRS Technologies, Graana, Headstart School, Sapient Hall School, Robotics World Pvt. Ltd., Education Resource Network and Buraaq Tractors.

Dr Rizwan Riaz, NUST Pro-Rector Research, Innovation and Commercialisation, was the chief guest. He complimented the efforts of NUST CEME towards the promotion of Robotics in Pakistan, especially amongst the youth.

Maroof Cardiovascular Center culminates Int'l Men's Health Awareness Week 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Cardiovascular Center in collaboration with ICCI organized Men's Health Awareness Session to conclude "Int'l Men's Health Week" observed from 12-18 June. It was pointed out that 1/8 men suffer from depression and 1/5 men suffer from anxiety at some point in their live. Parallel to the session, Maroof Int'l Hospital's medical camp conducted free Spirometry Test, in addition to BP, Sugar, Weight Check, Diet Plans and free Consultations. President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari & SVP ICCI Faad Waheed were also present on the occasion.

Asim Rauf CEO DRAP was the Chief guest. He applauded the organizers for addressing the need for awareness around



often-overlooked area in the

Talking on the occasion Dr. Sohail Naseem, HOD Maroof Sleep Disorder Centre, highlighted that most common lung diseases such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, asthma raphy (sleep study), which is men's health in Pakistan, an are self-inflicted or caused by now available at Maroof Sleep

environmental factors, such as pollution, dust, pollens, smoke etc. About 5-7% male population suffers from sleep apnea and disturbed sleep. Sleep

disorders can be diagnosed

and treated with polysomnog-

Disorder Center, Dr. Sohail added.

Haroon Naseer, the CEO MIH said that 51.46% of Pakistan's population comprises of male. Unfortunately, there is hardly any heed paid to men's health. He went on saying that under the guidelines of WHO,

'Int'I Men's Health Week/Mor Awareness Session & we support the communily health, workplace accidents, ty by engaging in partner- and men's higher likelihood of

affect men such as cardiovas-

gout, and osteoporosis, fami-

ship activities to raise aware- suicide and/or being a victim and managing emotions in a ness about men's need to seek of homicide. Dr. Mir Abdul Waheed Mediregular checkups & to educate

them about health issues that cal Director MIH emphasized to promote and support the health cular disease, cancer, diabetes, and well being of men and boys in our communities. He added

said it is a reminder for men to take steps to be healthier. Ms. Zubia Zubair (Resident Psychologist/Psychotherapist MIH wooed to "be the change you want to see" by practicing these changes at home. These include eating healthy, practicing healthy coping techniques productive manner.

if detected early, many health conditions and diseases that

men face can be prevented or

treated. It is imperative for men to understand their risk factors

and how they can improve their

During panel discussion

Dr. Omar Idress Mufti HOD

Maroof Cardiovascular Center

overall health.

Dr. Rashid Ali Khan; HOD Psychiatry Dept. & Dr. Yasir Rehman Consultant Oncologist/Hematologist, were also part of the panel discussion.

Index Fluctuation					
Pakistan: PSX 1	Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close				
45,920.73	45,398.31				
Day's High	Day's Low:				
46,122.16	45,391.55				
Index Value	Change				
9,395,263,456	+522.42				
Percentage	Time				
+1.15%	21 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm				
Europe: FTS	Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change				
	Glialiye				
7,663.73	+17.68				
	-				
7,663.73	+17.68				
7,663.73 Percentage +0.23%	+17.68 Time 21 Jul, 4:35 pm				
7,663.73 Percentage +0.23%	+17.68 Time 21 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1				
7,663.73 Percentage +0.23% USA: Dow Jones I	+17.68 Time 21 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average				
7,663.73 Percentage +0.23% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	+17.68 Time 21 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change				

-0.57%	21 Jul, 3:15 pm
-0.37 /0	GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

GMT-4

Change

Time

-186.27

+0.29%

Index Value

32,304.25

Percentage

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198.5	201
Bahrain Dinar	747.45	755.45
Canadian Dollar	221.5	224.5
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	42.34	42.74
Euro	323	326
Hong Kong Dollar	35.97	36.32
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.04
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.17	926.17
Malaysian Ringgit	61.87	62.47
NewZealand \$	176.75	178.75
Norwegians Krone	27.95	28.25
Omani Riyal	729.95	737.95
Qatari Riyal	77.21	77.91
Saudi Riyal	77	77.75
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.5	27.8
Swiss Franc	327.4	329.9
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	79	79.9
UK Pound Sterling	323	326
US Dollar	289.5	292.5

Government of Pakistan has approved the assignment of 44% Working Interest in Kalchas South Block: MPCL

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) is pleased to announce that Government of Pakistan has approved the assignment of 44% Working Interest in Kalchas South Block (2869-14) to MPCL alongwith assignment of 46% Working Interest to United Energy Pakistan Ltd (UEPL). Further,

torship has been transferred to UEPL. The previous operator i.e. Dewan Petroleum Private Limited will retain 10% Working Interest in the Block.



assignment is a part of Government of Pakistan (GoP) endeavor to boost the exploration activities in the country through revival of revoked petroleum exploration licenses. The block is located in districts Rajanpur (Punjab) and Dera-Bugti (Balochistan).

This farm-in is part of MPCL's aggressive strategy not only to increase its exploration acreage, reserves replacement ratio and maximizing shareholder's value but to also contribute in meeting Country's increasing energy demand from indigenous resources and lowering the burden of imported fuels on national economy.

Power prices be reduced through immediate reforms, says Mian Zahid Hussain

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 rising prices of electricity and gas have become a big threat to the people and the econ-

If energy prices continue to rise, thousands of businesses will close, exports will plummet, and millions of people will be unemployed, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the energy sector has become a major threat to the economy. This sector is facing issues like capacity charges, inadequate collection of bills, theft, line losses, subsidies, poor governance, and increasing corruption.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the power sector faces losses of Rs 600 billion every year, and that

consumers have to pay 71% capacity payment in their electricity bills.

Because the need for electricity in Pakistan is 12 thousand megawatts in winter and 25 to 27 thousand megawatts in summer, due to which the government needs to install power plants with a capacity of 27 thousand megawatts, he said.

The business leader said that consumers have to pay an extra 800 billion rupees annually for new power plants to satisfy the increasing need.

He observed that there is a need for reforms in this sector, which will result in making power cheaper by eliminating power losses and capacity payments so as to boost industry, promote commerce, employment, and exports.

The government has been assuring the IMF for the last 15 years that a plan has been drawn up to end the circular debt, whose implementation will bring the situation under control, but to no avail.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the first assur-



was made in 2008, when it increased from 51 billion to 189 billion rupees in five months.

For decades, neither the IMF's demands nor our excuses have changed. Now the circu-

lar debt of the electricity and gas sectors has increased by over three thousand billion rupees and the government continues to increase the rates, he said, adding that the tariff hike has nothing to do with reforms.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that before the previous government, the volume of central government revenue was greater than the amount of loans and interest payments, but during that government, the volume of loans and interest payments was also greater than the total revenue

The government does not have the resources to make the country a modern or welfare state as it is unable to ensure survival, and if there is a delay in obtaining loans, then big prob-

He said that rising government expenditure, imports, circular credit, unemployment, inflation, and declining exports, remittances, revenue, and employment are rapidly pushing Pakistan towards crisis.

ICCI and LCCI vow to abide by law on the term of Office Bearers of trade bodies

55 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Kashif Anwar, President, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) held a meeting with Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) during his visit to ICCI and discussed with him the matter of 2 years term for the office bearers of trade bodies determined by a new trade law.

Rizwana Asif President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Riffat Shaheen President Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sajjad Sarwar President Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries, Tariq Khan Jadoon President Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG and others were present on the

Kashif Anwar and Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari discussed the key features of the new trade law and analyzed its various aspects. Kashif Anwar said that the new trade law bearers of trade bodies and trade bodies perform effectively and deliver for the busi- and economic interests of Pakistan.



should abide by the law.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that a new trade law has increased the term for the office bearers of trade bodies from one year to 2 years and added that all chambers of commerce & industry of the country should take a united stand on this issue. It would promote unity among the business community of the entire country and help resolve their key issues with one voice.

The business leaders were of the view at the one-year term for the office bear-

ness community while the 2 years term would provide them ample time to work for the welfare of the business community and facilitate them in business development that would ultimately help improve the economic growth of the country.

Kashif Anwar and Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also discussed the key issues being faced by the economy and resolved that both chambers would develop closer cooperation with each other and work jointly to resolve the key issues of the business has determined a 2 years term for the office ers of trade bodies was a short period to community in order to promote business

Jubilee Life Insurance and Daewoo Express join hands



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: lee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, and Daewoo Express, the country's premier transportation service provider, are pleased to announce a one-of-a-kind strategic partnership offering insurance coverage to Daewoo passengers.

Daewoo Express serves over 6 million passengers annually, primarily in the age range of 25 to 35 years. This insurance product is specifically designed to address the ance penetration in Pakithis key collaboration aims Express passengers. Once a ance automatically comes throughout the passenger's journey. The comprehensive benefits of the policy

include coverage for accidental death, disability, and medical expenses. Speaking on the occasion,

Javed Ahmed, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Jubilee Life Insurance said, "We are delighted to partner with Daewoo Express to introduce this innovative insurance policy for their passengers.

Faisal Siddiqui, CEO-Daewoo Express, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "As a customer-centric organization, Daewoo has always strived to go beyond expecunforeseen risks associated tations in delivering superiwith accidents during tran- or services. We are excited to sit. Considering that insur- collaborate with Jubilee Life

The signing ceremony took stan is less than 1 per cent, place in Lahore that brought together key representatives to provide a sense of security from Jubilee Life Insurance and well-being to all Daewoo and Daewoo Express. This event marks a significant ticket is issued, the insur- milestone in the insurance and transportation sectors, into effect and remains valid reinforcing both companies' dedication to providing innovative solutions and enhancing customer satisfaction.

Zong's Digital Trainee Executive Program: Paving the Way for Future Digital Leaders

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading digital telecom operator, has launched its Digital Trainee Executive Program for 2023, aimed at developing young talent and fostering the Leaders of the Digital

This intensive on-the-job training and mentorship initiative is designed to provide aspiring individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge in Information, Communication, Data, and other Emerging Technologies. Zong 4G recognizes the significance of

empowering young minds and nurturing their potential in driving digital transformation. The company firmly believes that investing in fresh graduates will pave the way for a brighter and digitally advanced future for Pakistan.

The application process is simple and



user-friendly, allowing candidates fresh graduates to showcase their talents and aspirations effectively. Those meeting the eligibility criteria can apply by submitting their applications through the official Zong website

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their applications before August 10th, 2023, to be considered for this exceptional opportunity.

The official spokesperson of Zong 4G speaking about the program said, "We are extremely proud of our DTE program.

This initiative is one of its kind, enabling us to personally build the brightest of the upcoming generation into well rounded and dynamic corporate players."

Zong 4G, being renowned for its employee-centric approach and dedication to foster a positive and innovative work environment, values the potential and aspirations of young graduates, providing them with a platform to kickstart their careers and contribute to the

ever-evolving digital realm of the country. As the leaders of Digital Innovation, Zong 4G is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all its employees. Zong 4G continues to redefine the digital horizon of Pakistan and the Digital Trainee Executive Program remains a testament to the company's commitment to nurturing young talent, shaping the leaders of the digital future.

Korea to establish IT Centre in Karachi: CG Yi Sungho



Commerce Report

KARACHI: Consul General of the Republic of Korea Yi Sungho, on Friday, informed that the Korean Government was setting up an IT Centre in Karachi to provide young IT startups an opportunity to start working with Korea.

The Korean envoy, during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said that the Korean government was keen to support Pakistan in developing its IT sector and an IT center has already been completed in Islamahad

He urged Pakistan to come up with strong poliyoung people in the IT sector and must also invest more money in education and training to find some geniuses who could bring revolution not only in IT

the economy.

Korean Envoy pinpointing the low volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea observed "Trade between the two countries kept growing until 2019, but it suffered setbacks after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which was followed by some economic difficulties in Pakistan".

Efforts were being made to enhance existing trade volume, he added while expressing optimism that trade between Korea and Pakistan will rebound again in the future.

He said, "To support

Pakistan's economy in its quest for fetching maximum workers' remittanccies to train and educate es, the Korean Government encourages Pakistani workers to work in Korea, hence, we extended the maximum quota for Pakistani Workers to 4,000 workers, of which 3,000 workers have already but also in other sectors of been called to Korea."

United Bank Limited reports strong results for H1'23

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: United Bank Limited (UBL) declared a Consolidated Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 52.0 billion for the half year ended June 30th 2023, with an impressive growth of 50% over last year. Profit After Tax (PAT) was reported at Rs. 27.5 billion, with a two-fold increase. Earnings per Share (EPS) was measured at Rs. 22.01 (H1'22: Rs. 9.77). The ROE for the current period was reported at 26% (HI'22:

The asset base has crossed

reached Rs. 2.4 trillion and average CASA to total deposits ing services. UBL's digital advances were recorded at Rs. ratio continued to strengthen 916 billion as at Jun'23. The Bank's gross revenues stood at Rs. 85.5 billion, growing by 36%, driven by the buildup in the deposit base and well positioned investment portfolio. Net-markup income (NII) increased by a robust growth of 54% to Rs. 72.3 billion for H1'23. The Bank's Non-Fund all across Pakistan. The bank Income (NFI) was reported at Rs. 13.1 billion for H1'23.

averaged Rs. 1.5 trillion for on the UBL Ameen footprint. H1'23, with a growth of 13% year on year and a portfolio tal age by offering a compre-Rs. 3.4 trillion, deposits have increase of Rs. 167 billion. The hensive range of digital bank-

and was measured at 90% in H1'23 (H1'22: 87%). Islamic banking remains a key priority and UBL continues to expand within this fast-growing segment. UBL Ameen's branch network stands at over 150 branches with 500 Islamic Banking Windows (IBWs) sees the Islamic segment as a tremendous growth opportu-Domestic CASA deposits nity and will continue to build

UBL has embraced the digi-

banking platform has revolutionized financial services, providing convenient, secure, and user-friendly solutions. In 2023, the number of registered accounts reached 3.7 million increasing by 27%. The number of financial transactions has increased by 69%, while the payment value of financial transactions has grown by 84% to over Rs. 2.1 trillion YTD Jun'23. The Bank is redefining the financial landscape with a futuristic mindset, innovative ideas and well directed capital allocation towards technology investments.

Arshad Iqbal's five-haul takes Pakistan Shaheens into grand final

Sports Desk

COLOMBO (SRI LANKA): Arshad Igbal's five-wicket haul and half-centuries by Omair Bin Yousuf and Mohammad Haris led Pakistan Shaheens to a 60-run victory over Sri Lankan-A in the first semi-final of the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup at the P Saravanamuttu Stadium here on Friday.

Defending Champions Shaheens will now play against the winners of the second semi-final which is taking place between Bangladesh-A and India-A at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The final will take place on Sunday at the R Premadasa Stadium, where the first ball will be bowled at 2.00 p.m local time.

Chasing 323 to win, Sri Lankan-A lost three wickets in quick succession with 33 runs on the board. Opening batter Avishka Fernando and Sahan Arachchige got together and added 128 runs for the

After the departure of Fernando 97 of 85 balls with a dashing 12 boundaries for 262 in 45.4 overs.



and two towering sixes, Sri Lankan-Alost wickets at regular intervals which included the prized scalp of Arachchige, also on 97 off 109, with twelve cracking boundaries and one six, and were bundled out

with match figures of five wickets in his five-wicket haul. Mubasir Khan and Sufiyan Muqeem grabbed two wickets each.

Earlier after opting to bat first, Shaheens lost opening batter Sahibzada Farhan on 12 runs off 22 balls hitting one boundary in the sixth over to Lahiru innings. Samarakoon. Saim Ayub was joined by Omair Bin Yousuf and the pair added 37 runs for the second wicket before Saim was caught behind for 22 off 41 balls, which included three fours as Shaheens' scorecard read 61 for two in 13 overs.

Omair - the top run-getter for his side in Friday's match - partnered with Tayyab Tahir, who scored 26 runs off as many balls with four boundaries and stitched a 61-run partnership for the third wicket. After Tayyab and Qasim departed with the score at 145 for four in 26 overs, captain Mohammad Haris and Omair knitted a 48-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Omair scored 88 off 79 balls, smashing Shaheens).

Arshad, playing a key role, ended up 10 fours and a six. Haris and Mubashir, who made 42 off 45 balls with two 7.4 overs off 37 runs – his maiden list-A boundaries and as many sixes added another 73 valuable runs for the sixth wicket stand.

Haris made a quick-fire 43-ball 52, hitting five boundaries. Shaheens were dismissed for 322 on the final ball of the

For Sri Lankan-A, Chamika Karunaratne, Lahiru Samarakoon and Pramod Madushan bagged two wickets each.

Scores in brief: Pakistan Shaheens beat Sri Lanka A by 60 runs

Pakistan Shaheens 322 all out, 50 overs (Omair Bin Yousuf 88, Mohammad Haris 52, Mubasir Khan 42; Lahiru Samarakoon 2-42, Chamika Karunaratne 2-55, Pramod Madushan 2-56)

Sri Lankan-A 262 all out, 45.4 overs (Avishka Fernando 97, Sahan Arachchige 97; Arshad Iqbal 5-37, Sufyan Muqeem 2-44, Mubasir Khan 2-45) Player of the match - Arshad Iqbal (Pakistan

Pakistan squad reaches Colombo for second Sri Lanka Test

A Sports

COLOMBO: Pakistan's red-ball squad, led by Babar Azam, reached here on Friday to play the final Test of the two-match series against Sri Lanka, scheduled to commence on July 24.

After a successful show in Galle in the first Test, the Men in Green are now just one win away from completing a series sweep over Sri Lanka in their

backyard since 1994. Pakistan's squad reached here on Friday afternoon and will kick off their preparation for the second and final Test on Saturday.

Before commencing the preparation for the second Test, the touring contingent will enjoy a rest day today.

In the first Test, Saud light as Pakistan edged Sri Lanka by four wickets to script



campaign

Shakeel's first-innings double a winning start to their World Lanka spinner Prabath Jayasuri- ing the prized scalp of Pakistan century remained in the spot- Test Championship (WTC) ya made sure to make it a daunt- captain Babar Azam. ing one for the touring side by Pakistan's left-hand

bly in the tricky run chase and steered his side over the line with a gutsy half-century. He carried his bat all the way through for an unbeaten 50, laced with four boundaries and a six.

Saud Shakeel was equally impressive in the run chase as he tackled Sri Lanka's spin attack with the utmost domination and backed his first-innings 208' with a crucial 30-run knock.

Shakeel, however, remained unlucky, as he fell caught behind off Ramesh Mendis when his side needed a mere nine to pull off a remarkable victory. He scored a 38-ball 30 with the help of six boundaries.

Jayasuriya then caused yet another stir in the pursuit when he got rid of Pakistan's wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed, who could score a mere one.

But Imam and Salman Ali Agha (6*) batted sensibly to make sure there were no hiccups Set to chase a modest total, Sri picking up four wickets includ- er Imam-ul-Haq batted sensi- in Pakistan's run chase.

Muhammad Waseem's IBO title fight postponed

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistani boxing sensation Muhammad Waseem's International Boxing Organization (IBO) Bantamweight world title fight against Philippines's Donnie Nietes got postponed due to the former's non-issuance of visa.

According to the details, Waseem was denied a visa by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to an error, made by his team in the application process.

Mohammad Waseem is currently in Scotland and was due to reach Dubai on Friday, where he was supposed to take on Nietes for the IBO Bantamweight title

However, the non-issuance of the visa barred Muhammad Waseem from making it to Dubai in time.

It is important to note that following the error, Waseem himself applied for the Visa, which is likely to be processed after a month-long gap.

Consequently, his title fight against Nietes was postponed until further notice. To address the issue, Muhammad



Waseem released a video message and expressed his disappointment on the 'Unfortunately, my fight was sched-

uled today but due to visa issue, I could not participate," said Waseem.

"I worked really hard in the camp for

this fight. My aim was to win the title for Pakistan. I would like to thank my promotions for this opportunity. I am notable personalities of Pakistan hopeful that this fight will be rescheduled soon," he concluded.

Muhammad Waseem, famously known

as Falcon Waseem, was named Sportsman of the Year in the Pakistan Sports Awards (PSA) 2022.

Besides Waseem, Pakistan's ESports sensation Arslan Ash and female Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter Anita Karim also received top awards.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's sprint legend, Abdul Khaliq, who won 100 gold medals in the national games, 26 gold medals and 23 silver medals in the international games, received the Lifetime Achievement award at the event.

A total of 85 nominees competed for the prestigious 24-carat gold trophy in 17 categories in the second edition of the

The awards were presented by prominent stars including Aleem Dar, AisamUl Haq, Mahoor Shahzad, Wahab Riaz, Azhar Ali, Kulsoom Hazara, Nargis Hazara, and Imam Ul Haq among other

The event was hosted by renowned show anchor Fahad Mustafa while Zain-Earlier this year, Eminent boxer ab Abbas and Ahsan Khan were the

Hafeez Bhatti leaves for Japan for 20th World Aquatics Championship

 $LAHORE: Hafeez\ Bhatti, has\ departed\ for\ Japan\ to\ conduct\ the$ 20th World Aquatics Swimming Championship held at Fukuoka (Japan) starting from 21st to 31st July,2023. Hafeez Bhatti who is the former Director Sports Board Punjab has also command as a Swimming trainer, Referee, technical official and starter. He has a great honour for Pakistan who selected from Asia Pakistan to participate as a Technical Official in 20th World Aquatics Swimming Championship from whole 27 official and he is one of them after China, Saudi Arabia. He has also participated as a Coach, Swimmer, and Qualified Technical Official in 3 Islamic Country Games, 4 World Cup, and this is the 5th time he will get the honour to participate in World Swimming Championship. Hafeez Bhatti has trained over 500 hundred swimmers under his Coaching, Rubab Raza has participated as a swimmer in 2004 under his coaching,, Abdul Aziz record holder, Atif Shafique, Daniyal Lashari they have also taken the training from Hafeez Bhatti in Swimming and they got more achievements in Swimming. Hafeez Bhatti will return from Japan on 1st August.

DG Sports visited National Hockey Stadium



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail along with other officials visited National Hockey Stadium to inspect upgradation and renovation work on Friday.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was accompanied by Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Admin Ijaz Munir, Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and PMU officers during his detailed inspection visit.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail inspected newlylaid synthetic turf, outer space of playing area, renovation, upgradation, installation of new fans, chairs and water coolers and cleanliness work. He also visited VVIP Boxes and other parts of the National Hockey Stadium.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail directed the officials concerned to complete the remaining work as early as possible. "The installation of synthetic turf and the beautification of the stadium will help a lot in the promotion of hockey among the younger generation. "The new synthetic turf of the National Hockey Stadium will be inaugurated in the coming days".

Sports Board Punjab's Summer Świmming Complex completed

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab's Summer Swimming Camp is underway quite successfully at state-of-the-art Punjab International Swimming Complex on Friday.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement on Friday said that thousands of male and female athletes are taking part in the summer camps of 14 games. "Hundreds of young swimmers are taking part in a swimming summer camp in two sessions daily under the supervision of Sports Board Punjab's nine expert coaches," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail further said that young male and female swimmers are keenly taking part in Swimming Summer Camp. "The holding of Summer Camp is a useful activity carried out by Sports Board Punjab and young swimmers must avail this golden opportunity and polish their skills under the guidance of qualified coaches".

ICC U19 CWC qualification resumes next week

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Qualification for the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka 2024 resumes next week as Tanzania plays host to the Africa Qualifier from July 23 to 30.

The best young cricketers on the African continent would take to the stage over eight tournament days, all eyeing the ultimate prize of securing a spot at the global showpiece event in January, said a press release.

A total of 13 teams have already booked their tickets for Sri Lanka 2024, including Nepal and New Zealand, who joined the 11 automatically qualified nations by virtue of winning their respective regional Qualifiers in Asia and EAP earlier this year.

Taking to the field in Tanzania would be the most promising talent from six countries. Competing for the solitary spot available in the Africa Qualifier will be three teams that progressed from last year's Division 2 Qualifiers; Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, along with Namibia, Uganda, and the host nation.

Shahnaz Sheikh planning to make national hockey team a binding force

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The newly-appointed consultant of Pakistan hockey team Olympian Shahnaz Sheikh said on Friday that he would join the national team's camp in Lahore on Saturday where he would be trying to knit the players together to make them a binding force.

"I will want our players to give up their individual game and fight like a unit," Shahnaz told APP.

"I will also try to inculcate a spirit of playing attacking hockey in them. I believe in aggression as this is the brand of hockey we used to play in our days, which is considered the golden era of Pakistan in the game," he said.

He said he would hold a meet-

discuss his plan to raise a strong national side. "I believe we need to take on board the former greats of our hockey. So in the meeting, I will be discussing with them Tthe PHF management \(\) the ways of availing the expertise of our erstwhile Olympians. As former Olympians we can help our hockey by passing on our skills to the current players."

According to Shahnaz, preparing coaches to train budding players as well as polish the skills of senior players would be part of his plan. "I feel we need to prepare coaches to train players at all levels. For that we'll have to

chalk out a proper policy." He said his first focus would

ing with the management of Paki- be to enable the team to put up a stan Hockey Federation (PHF) to good show at the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, to be held in the Indian city of Chennai from August 3-12. "This event is very crucial as in September-October we will be playing in the Asian Games, to be held in Hangzhou,

"The Games serve as Olympic qualifiers. A top podium finish will mean a direct entry to the quadrennial spectacle."

He said he believed though currently Pakistan were a low-ranked side they could still make a cut to the Olympics. "I'm an optimist. Hockey is in our blood. I'm sure we can once again become a formidable side. I have a plan for that and it will be my effort it is fully implemented," he

Earlier, on Friday the PHF through a press release announced to appoint Shahnaz as the consultant of the national team for a two-year period.

The decision to appoint Shahnaz as a consultant was taken during a meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the press release said.

The PHF expressed the hope that Shahnaz would help revamp the performance of the national players.

The decision garnered appreciation from the Standing Committee, underling the positive impact his appointment could have on the national setup.

Chairman of the Standing



Committee, Nawab Sher Wasir Coordination, Ehsan Ur Rehman foresight in making this crucial and Minister for Inter Provincial Mazari lauded the PHF for their decision.