

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے مسودین سرور نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے نیکو بن سب سے نیکو بن گیا ان سے نیکو بننے کا جوہر ہے منور نے بیان کیا ان سے ابوالفضل نے اور ان سے ابو موسیٰ رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا قیروں کو چھڑا اور دعوت کرتے والے کی دعوت قبول کرو۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 7173)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

People's Government to be formed after winning the general elections on February 8

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the people's government formed after winning the general elections scheduled on February 8, will solve the economic and political crises facing the country and cut off the head of terrorism. He reiterated his commitment to do as much as possible for the prosperity and well-being of the people (Details on Page 3)



Brian Lara hopes to see Test cricket prosper beyond India, England, Australia

West Indies batting legend Brian Lara has suggested giving Test cricket importance in all countries, rather than only India, England and Australia, in order to prosper. Lara who is currently in Australia as part of the broadcasting team for the upcoming two-match Test series between the hosts and West Indies, has opened up about his love for Test cricket and suggestions to save the game. (Details on Page 7)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rajab-ul-Murajjab 5, Wednesday, January 17, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 17, Issue: 278 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Perfect

COAS Gen Asim Munir witnessed firsthand testing and trials of indigenously designed and manufactured weapons and ammunition during his visit to the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) in Wah on Tuesday.



Photo: ISPR

Latest technology essential for strengthening Pakistan's defence: COAS

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday vowed to work for self-reliance and the latest technology "which is essential towards ensuring reliability and strengthening Pakistan's defence".

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief visited Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Wah and said that the path to national progress is defined by indigenous and local

industries like POF Wah.

COAS Munir was briefed about the production capabilities of Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), its contributions towards fulfilling the defence requirements of the Pakistan Armed Forces and export potential.

The Army Chief also witnessed a wide range of POF Products including indigenously designed and manufactured new weapons and ammo under test & trials.

While addressing the POF officers and staff, COAS appreciated their contributions to the security and economy of the country by making POF the prime defence industry of Pakistan.

"Path to national progress is defined by indigenous and local industries like POF Wah. We will continue to work for self-reliance and the latest technology which is essential towards ensuring reliability and strengthening the defence of Pakistan," COAS remarked.

Earlier on Jan 12, COAS General Asim Munir said that the Armed Forces of Pakistan were modernising their systems in line with country's requirements to respond to any threat emanating against Pakistan.

The army chief made these remarks while interacting with the officers and troops at the occasion of witnessing firing of different air defence weapon systems during Exercise Al-Bayza-III, 2024 at Sonmiani today.

COAS Munir viewed integrated fire and battle maneuvers of Army Air Defence systems

which includes High to Medium Air Defence Weapons System (HIMADS), Low to Medium Air Defence System, Short Range Air Defence system and Extended Short Range Air Defence system.

In a landmark achievement and milestone in enhancing the Air Defence of the aerial frontiers of Pakistan, HIMAD system in maiden fire was able to successfully engage the target at maximum ranges along with other layered weapon systems which were tested during the exercise.

PM to attend WEF informal session, hold sideline meetings



Spokesman Report

DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is scheduled to arrive here on Tuesday to attend the 54th annual World Economic Forum (WEF) where he will participate in an informal session on global conflict besides holding different sideline meetings.

The prime minister will attend an informal session on "Preventing an Era of Global Conflict" to be participated by the world's renowned policymakers, investors, business leaders and experts, said a press release.

He will witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between DP World and JW International Holding. The prime minister will

meet Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and President and Chief Executive Officer of Cargill Brian Sikes.

He is also scheduled to attend a dinner reception hosted by the WEF founders Klaus and Hilde Schwab in honor of the global political leaders, heads of international organizations and business councils as well as the strategic partners.

PM Kakar on Tuesday met the U. S. presidential special envoy on climate John Kerry on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. During the meeting, they discussed the local and global impacts of climate change. The two leaders also discussed the climate change-related challenges being faced by the developing countries.

JIT constituted to probe campaign against judiciary

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government on Tuesday constituted a joint investigation team (JIT) to investigate a campaign reportedly launched against the judiciary following the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict that upheld the Dec 22 decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) depriving PTI of its iconic symbol — 'bat'.

According to a notification — a copy of which is available

with ARY News, the federal government constituted a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) in terms of Section 30 of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016.

Additional Director General (Cyber Crime Wing) FIA would be the Convener of the committee, which comprises representatives of Intelligence Bureau (IB), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and DIG Islamabad Police.

Syed Asif Hussain appointed new ECP secretary

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has appointed Dr Syed Asif Hussain new secretary of the commission.

Accepting resignation of ECP secretary Umar Hameed, the chief election commissioner appointed Dr Syed Asif Hussain as the new ECP secretary. Hussain is appointed for a period of one year.

On the other hand, Punjab election commissioner has also been transferred.



Saeed Gul has been appointed DG Election Cell ECP Islamabad while Muhammad Farid Afridi has been appointed provincial election commissioner Balochistan.

Elections could 'delay' in constituencies if electoral symbols changed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said that the polls could be delayed in constituencies if the court allowed change in electoral symbols.

The ECP meeting headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja was held to discuss matters related to change of election symbols ahead of election 2024.

Sources said, that the meeting was briefed on the proceedings regarding the publishing of ballot papers and overviewed the court verdicts on the pleas seeking change in electoral symbol.

The ECP also ordered the DROs across Pakistan to issue an order and bar the candidates from changing their electoral symbols, sources added.



Yesterday, PTI election candidates challenged the election symbols allotted to them in the Peshawar High Court (PHC).

PTI candidates Kamran Bangish, Asif Khan, Aftab Alam and Shafullah filed petitions in the high court. According to the plea, Kamran Bangish was allotted 'violin', while the opponent candidate has been given 'Baja' (mouth organ). "The rival candidate's name also begins

with Kamran," according to the plea. "Similar election symbols on ballot paper will cause difficulty for voters to recognize," according to the petition.

The candidates further pleaded that Asif Khan, contesting from NA-32, has been allotted hand-cart symbol. A provincial candidate from same constituency has also been 'Asif Khan' and he has been given the same election symbol of handcart. "The two candidates with similar election symbol will cause confusion among voters," according to petition.

Petitioners said that before allotting an election symbol the candidate's opinion used to be taken. The election commission, district returning officers and returning officers have been made party in the case.

Countries touch zenith of development by empowering LG system: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that all those countries which had

touched the zenith of development had done so by empowering local government. "Throughout my own experiences and understandings there is no democracy without local government", he said while delivering his speech at a two-day

Conference for the Civic Hackathon "Problem Identification".

The minister opined that probably lack of a strong local government system was probably one of the major problems in Pakistan's political history. Terming

the conference for the civic hackathon problem identification as a very interesting initiative, he said it aimed to bring together experts from the public, private sector and civil society to collectively identify the most pressing civic issues in the



country — in order attempt to later develop a digital solution for it. He said that in Pakistan, there was a lot of potential to focus on developing innovative local solutions.

PML-N prioritised state over politics: Shehbaz



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif said that his party is contesting the general elections 2024 with a manifesto to take Pakistan on the path of development and prosperity.

In an interview with a private news channel, Shehbaz Sharif said that his party had also won elections 2018 with a clear 'majority' but mandate of Nawaz Sharif was 'snatched through rigging'. He said that Nawaz Sharif won the 2018 elections despite being banned.

"The development and prosperity which began in 2013 was halted in 2018. Economy has been ruined after 2018 and inflation touched the highest and historical level owing to wrong decisions," he added.

Reko Diq project, a Game-Changer for Balochistan: Mark Bristow

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Barrick Gold Corporation's President and Chief Executive, Mark Bristow on Tuesday shed light on the monumental Reko Diq gold and copper project in Nokundi, Balochistan.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he underscored the company's commitment to sustainable development, job creation, and community empowerment.

Bristow emphasized Barrick Gold's commitment to local communities, highlighting the creation of 200 jobs already and plans to employ 1,000 by the end of the year, eventually reaching 10,000 during the peak of mining.

The company aims to have 5,500 long-term employees when the mine is fully operational, he added.

He stressed the importance of investing in people and announced initiatives such as partnerships with universities, skills development with NGOs, and the establishment of primary and high schools.

People's Government Formed after Winning the General Elections on February 8

Faheem Soomro

NAUDERO/LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the people's government formed after winning the general elections scheduled on February 8, will solve the economic and political crises facing the country and cut off the head of terrorism. He reiterated his commitment to do as much as possible for the prosperity and well-being of the people and said that unless I provide employment to every household, I will not be satisfied.

According to a press release issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, the PPP chairman, while addressing a luncheon party organized in honor of the workers and office-bearers at Bhutto House Naudero, said that it has always been his endeavour to meet the expectations of the party workers. "You elected us in 2018 and sent us to the National Assembly, so I exposed the

Selected Raj to the world on the very first day. We fought firmly against those who wanted to rob the rights of the people," he said. We foiled the conspiracy to once again set up one unit in the country and continue the Selected Raj," he added.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the terrorists and terrorist organizations who martyred Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and who were resisted by the Jiyalas, the people, the police and the army jawans and who did not have the ability to raise their heads again, are raising their heads once again. "Why are they raising their heads? Because as a state, we had decided that we will talk to the same terrorists by relying on the sacrifices made by our people. They invited them to come to Pakistan, come in large numbers. Come to Karachi and build your own house. When we were having tea in Kabul, we had no idea how the people of Pakistan would have to bear

the brunt of it," he pointed out.

Addressing the party workers, he said that if you supported, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became the Prime Minister of the country, became the Quaid-e-Awam, became the leader of the Muslim Ummah and became the founder of the nuclear program. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto became the first Prime Minister of the country and the first elected Prime Minister of the Islamic world. When you were together, I became the country's young foreign minister. If you support me, I will become the young Prime Minister of the country.

"We don't think about what Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif did in their respective constituencies as prime ministers, but we are answerable to Garhi Khuda Bakhsh. He said that in the year 2022, there were floods in other parts of the country including Sindh, but steps were taken only for the rehabilitation of the



victims. He said that the flood victims of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Southern Punjab are still homeless, while two million houses are being

constructed for the flood victims in Sindh. He said that this is the first example in the whole world that the government is not only giving houses to the flood

victims, but they are also being given land titles.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the difference between us and other political

parties and politicians is that they only think about their own interests, while our every struggle, sacrifice and work is for the people.

Violation

FAISALABAD: A view of smoke rising in a boiler in a local factory in the city.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Muslim League (N) will sweep from NA104 and PP112: Mian Sohail Raza



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N will form its own government in the national election 2024. Secretary Information of Pakistan Muslim League-N PP112 Mian Sohail Raza said this while talking to the media. He has further said that our leader Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who The last year has been spent with hard work and patience.

It is no less than a torture. Pakistan Muslim League-N has always served the people and moved the country forward in the field of economy. And while commenting on the public popularity of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif among the people of the region, he said that the number of voters of Pakistan Muslim League-N in the region is up to 80%, while the vote bank has further increased due to the development works of Raja

Riaz Ahmed and Asrar Ahmed Mane Khan. It has happened that now that the election is on, our leaders are present in public circles all day long and are gaining the popularity of the people. Asrar Ahmed Mane Khan has also inaugurated his election office in PP 112 constituency today. The candidate of NA 104, Barrister Raja Daniyal Ahmed Khan, son of former opposition leader of the National Assembly Raja Riaz

Ahmad Khan, has worked hard in the constituency and throughout the day. In NA-104, along with the young leaders, they are busy in their election campaign. If given a chance, I will follow the footsteps of my father and make NA 104 an ideal constituency. Pakistan Muslim League-N Information Secretary Mian Sohail Raza also thanked all his colleagues who are supporting him in the election campaign.

Christians Community Fulfill Support To the PPP Candidates in NA 148 and NA 151

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In connection with the election campaign for NA-148, NA-151 in Grass Mandi Gulnar Colony, a corner meeting and Christmas ceremony was organized by former member of the National Assembly Naveed Amir Jeeva. was welcomed and a large number of leading leaders of the minority community and Females and local people declared their full support for NA-148 candidate, former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and NA-151 candidate Syed Ali Musa Gilani, on this occasion former MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva while addressing said that the Pakistan People's Party always considered the problems of the minorities as their own and took practical steps to solve them. Parmalne is grateful to you, he added that Pakistan People's Party is with the Christian community and I will go to the House to House and play more role to solve their problems., Javed Feroze, Babar, Mukhtar Bashir and other heads of the Christian community were present, at the end of the ceremony, former MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva distributed rations among minority women and men on the occasion of Christmas.

Pakistan People's Party to be biggest political force in the country: Yasin



Spokesman Report

MANDIRA / GUJARKHAN: President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that history is telling itself record. Ms. Benazir Bhutto was hanged on the throne. Ms. Benazir Bhutto was martyred by terrorists, but we fought in the political field and even today Pakistan People's Party is the biggest political force in the country. While addressing the corner meeting of the Kashmiri community during the election campaign of National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf, former advisor Fakhr Zaman also spoke on this occasion and said that the leadership of Pakistan People's Party is the heir of the martyrs. GT Road will emerge as the largest political party. He said that the refugees living in Pakistan should vote for Pakistan People's Party for the freedom of Occupied Kashmir. He said that former President Asif Ali Zardari doubled the salaries. Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also announced to double the salaries after coming to power and Pakistan People's Party is the only one that talks about the rights of every class including laborers, farmers and government employees and will continue to do so. Make Kashmiri resident Pakistan Pakistan People's Party successful. Pakistan People's Party will protect their rights.

11th Judicial Conference on Dispensation of Justice held in Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The 11th Judicial Conference 2024 was held under the title of Responsibility of Judiciary, Government, Lawyers and Litigants in Dispensation of Justice in Muzaffarabad organized by the High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan was the chief guest of the Judicial Conference. Senior Judge Supreme Court Justice Khawaja Muhammad Naseem, Judge Supreme Court Justice Raza Ali Khan also participated in the conference. The host of the conference was Chief Justice Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja. And the judges of the High Court were Justice Sardar Liaquat Hussain, Justice Mian Arif Hussain, Justice Syed Shahid Behar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Khan,



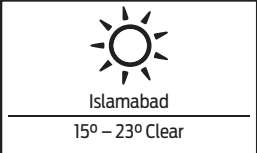
Justice Chaudhry Khalid Rashid. In the judicial conference, Advocate General Azad Jammu and Kashmir Khawaja Muhammad Maqbool War,

former judges of the Supreme Court, Justice Retired Sardar Abdul Hameed Khan, Justice Retired Muhammad Habib Zia, Custodian Avacue properties Chaudhry Khalid Yousuf, Chairman Service Tribunal Raja Tariq Javed, Members of Service Tribunal, Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Azad Govt. State of Jammu and Kashmir Mian Abdul Waheed, Secretary Law and Justice Dr. Muhammad Idris Abbasi, Accountant General Fakhir Ali Asad, Secretary Physical Planning and Housing Ghulam Bashir Mughal, Commissioner Chaudhry Muhammad Naseem, Chief Prosecutor Accountability Bureau Mushtaq Janjua, DIG Muhammad Yasin Qureshi, Vice Chairman Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation Syed Abrar Haider, President Supreme Court Bar Association Raja Sajjad Ahmed Khan Advocate, President High Court Bar Association Hamid Raza Advocate, Members

Bar Council Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Senior Lawyers, Presidents and General Secretaries of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bar Associations Representatives Print A large number of electronic media and lawyers participated. In the conference, Additional Registrar High Court Raja Mohammad Riaz Shafi presented the annual performance report of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Judiciary 2023, which was highly appreciated by the participants. Addressing the conference, Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan said that there is no concept of a judicial system without lawyers, the respect of the court is due to the lawyers, our lawyers are no less than anyone else, they have a lot of potential. Article We reject the decision of the Supreme Court regarding 370, this process is killing the rights of Kashmiris. I also condemn Israeli atrocities in Palestine and the

role of human rights institutions. He said that the Supreme Court gave decisions regarding other matters including the end of occupation of government land. He also issued instructions to the Law Secretary regarding the establishment of the Judicial Academy. The Chief Justice congratulated the Chief Justice High Court and Judges High Court for the successful holding of the Judicial Conference. Chief Justice Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja said that justice delivery is the primary responsibility of the judiciary, justice and delivery of justice is related to speedy trial, after assuming the office of Chief Justice of High Court in 2021, pending cases up to 2018 have been dismissed. What, the credit for this success goes to my fellow judges, the same policy that worked in the last two years will continue in 2024. In the presence of the leader-

ship of the lawyers, I am saying that there will be no room for making history next year. We have decided that a case management system is being established throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir after which lawyers will not be able to keep a date of their choice. Judge High Court Justice Syed Shahid Bihar said that if administrative justice is provided to people, the number of cases will be reduced. Reasons should be recorded before issuing any order. The second is circumstantial or evidential while the third is real justice. Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mian Abdul Waheed said that the government has a key role in the delivery of justice, it is the responsibility of the government to provide resources to the judiciary and the government realizes its responsibility and referred to the delivery of justice and good governance.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:17 pm
Asr3:45 pm
Maghrib5:23 pm
Isha6:50 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261107-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

PODA 16th Annual Rural Women Conference 2023 Report Launched today

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Reiterating its commitment for the uplift of the rural women, PODA launched the report of the last year's annual rural women conference today (Tuesday) here in Islamabad. The launching ceremony was attended by a visible number of representatives from the government departments, development sector, lawyers, media, rural women leaders, transgender persons, donor community and youth. The conference was attended by 2285 persons including 1826 women. The 3-Day, 16th Annual Rural Women Conference was held from October 15 to 17, 2023, in Islamabad, marked a significant occasion in the advocacy for rural women's rights and empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO and the Founder, PODA, Ms. Sameena Nazir appreciated the efforts of the rural women farmers who being the backbone of the agriculture are still not acknowledged for their contributions. She also appreciated the donor community who showed commitment for the protection and promotion of human rights and specially of rural women farmers who need dire attention of the government for their inclusion in the policies addressing their needs and priorities.

Applauding the efforts of PODA for organizing the conference every year since 2009, Senator Farhatullah Babar termed the conference resolution a timely measure as he was succeeded in accommodating some recommendations in his party's manifesto. "PODA conference opened new vistas for me to understand new dimensions of the work done by PODA every year in the form of the conference which provides a rich opportunity to around 2000 rural women who travel across the country and interact with each other on issues following their priorities," said Farhatullah Babar.

Riffat Inam Butt, Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, said that "usually organizations work on an issue for a limited period of time and then those are dropped in the middle of nowhere. However, PODA stands for a social cause like ending child marriages whole heartedly and owns the issue holistically leading towards a pragmatic way forward," she said.

Sharing her views, Sameena Nazir, said that It has been PODA's signature event for the past 16 years, an annual celebration dedicated to honoring and commemorating the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of Pakistani women, particularly from rural communities. Former Federal Minister, J. Salik also



addressed on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of PODA for the protection of the rights of women, minorities and person-with-disabilities. The report launch ended on musical performance of Dr. Nagina Sadaf.

Pakistan Engineering Council announces 'PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards-2022'

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Engineers of the country have been playing enormous role in the development and progression of Pakistan, especially mega projects and strategic initiatives making use of indigenous resources. In this regard, Pakistan Engineering Council has announced "PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards-2022" which are conferred every year to decorate outstanding engineers through a comprehensive evaluation process, in recognition of the efforts and outstanding contributions put in by engineering professionals in their respective fields.

To recognize the outstanding services and achievements of eminent Pakistani Engineers who have made notable impact in national interest and contributed significantly to the country's social and economic development, "PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards-2022" will be conferred by the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H. E. Dr. Arif Alvi on January 22, 2024 at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

The PEC Engineers' Excellence Award would be conferred in following eight categories to cover all aspects of recognition towards contribution and services of notable engineers, whether local or expatriate: Categories: Lifetime Achievement for Distinguished National Service, Academia and Research, Innovative and Emerging Technology Development, Young Technopreneurs, International Associate, Engineering Policy, Regulations and Advocacy, Engineering Consultancy Services, Infrastructure/Construction Industry.

Annual General Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President RDF Brig r Muhammad Aslam Khan, Chairman RDF Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik and all council members appreciated the working of the RDF team. Dr. Nawaz, Dr. Gillani and Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed posing for a group photo at the Annual General Meeting of Rural Development Foundation (RDF) held in the Head Office of RDF.



Experts call for mulling over hill torrents' floodwater management

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, the Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) has said that the blockade of waterways due to illegal construction after flooding in hill torrent prone areas is inflicting heavy losses to infrastructure, livelihoods and human lives.

He was speaking at a one-day roundtable titled: "Climate Resilient Water Governance Approaches for Hill Torrent Management in Pakistan", organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Tuesday in collaboration with Pakistan Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), and DAI.

The roundtable aims to stir result-oriented dialogue among the public, private sector, and civil society stakeholders to mull over hill torrents' floodwater governance issue. The roundtable incorporated community perspectives from representatives, who joined from hill torrent affected areas from D. I. Khan, Rajanpur, Swat apart from Sindh and Balochistan.

Dr Suleri said that population explosion, deforestation, and urbanisation are the major causes of fading away of water management systems and infrastructure. He added that the temperature systems of La Nina and El Nino effects and weather change had already increased precipitation to an erratic level.

"SDPI's climate change and water management teams are closely working on these areas, and it's impacts that were above normal on girls, women, children and others," he said.

Mr Ahmed Kamal, the Chairman of Federal Flood Commission (FFC), said Pakistan has been facing the worst flooding due to reverse monsoon activity as monsoon used to start from Tarbella, but in 2022 the low pressure was built up in Sindh province that caused abnormal rains in Sindh and Balochistan.

Darren Saywell, Senior Lead Specialist, Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene (WSSH) at DAI Global, said the context of the discussion is important as it is based on the improvement in water management, climate

resilience, and Green Pakistan movement that is crucial for the country's climate resilience.

He added that the Pakistan case study based on its experiences is important particularly in water governance. However, nothing changes unless there are incentives to adopt that change and therefore the incentives for hill torrents management needs to be identified.

Bilal Anwar, Chief Executive Officer, National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), said the 2022 floods were a mammoth disaster and the entire efforts of the Fund in reconstruction were focussed on riverine floods and hill torrents management.

Ms Zainab Naeem, SDPI's Associate Research Fellow,

Provision clean drinking water, improvement in sanitation and sewerage system

Asma Ali

KOHAT: Like provision of basic amenities throughout the world are essential for progress and prosperity of the nations wherein a clean environment is also imperative for the human being because a healthy human can perform his responsibility as a responsible citizen of the state.



Over the past various terms, federal and provincial governments gave time due attention to provision of clean drinking water, cleanliness, sanitation like other issues but neither results came out nor a permanent solution was sorted out.

Taking extremely serious of this issue by provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it has not only formed water and sanitation companies but Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Citizens Improvement Project (KPCIP) was launched in collaboration of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and handed over projects to the sanitation companies worth billions rupees.

From 2017, the Water and Sanitation Company Kohat (WSSCK) has efficiently carried out operations in six urban areas of the city of Kohat and Kotal Township for cleanliness, sanitation and provision of clean drinking water.

On the basis of good performance, the WSSCK won the public trust and its operational activities and services of people were also appreciated at governmental level as well.

Owing to hardwork and best performance, projects worth billions of rupees had been handed over to WSSCK under KPCIP, which formally launched from December 2022 by the former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehmood Khan, the projects include Kohat Sports Complex, establishment of Milam Women Business Development Centre, restoration of sewerage system and construction of new sewerage treatment plants in KDA and water supply system.

The 353 km long water pipeline will be completely replaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project to ensure delivery of clean drinking water in Kohat city.

The project involves rehabilitation of existing 20 tubewells of WSSCK will be carried out and 10 new tube wells will be constructed to meet water shortage.

Similarly, five new head reservoirs and three new surface reservoirs will be constructed to provide uninterrupted water supply to the public.

Likewise, the new water supply system will be fully solarized to deal with the problem of load shedding.

Also, Construction of a new sewage treatment plant in KDA Phase 2 is underway at Zoroshwar, with a total area of 13 acres and will treat 3 million gallons of water per day, which will further be used for irrigation.

Apart from that the 75 km long sewerage network in KDA will be completely replaced. Pumping stations will also be constructed at two places in KDA for the sewage treatment plant.

Under the KPCIP, a new and modern Milam Women Business Development Center is being established for the women of Kohat.

Similarly, the upgradation work of Kohat Sports Complex to provide sports facilities to the citizens of Kohat is going on rapidly and 40% of these two projects have been completed so far.

For regular monitoring of all these projects, Asian Development Team missions visit Kohat regularly and they are briefed on the ongoing work on all the projects by Chief Executive Officer of WSSCK Kohat Arif Rauf and Chief Engineer Mian Mohsin Gul. Briefing is given about

With the success of these projects, Kohat will be on the path of development very soon and the problems of sanitation and clean water supply will end.

It should be noted that WSSCK played its role in cleaning the city by collecting 39900 tons of garbage from the city and cleaning 209 km of meter drains in the year 2023.

Google Launches Election Search Trends Page in Pakistan

PNP

ISLAMABAD: With General Elections scheduled to be held on February 8, 2024, many Pakistanis will be searching for information online about the political parties and other related topics to help them navigate the electoral process.

To help the media outlets and general public get easy access to this data, Google has set up a Google Trends Pakistan General Election page, a tool that exhibits the top search queries, topics, and interests in parties contesting the elections. The page also includes data on the top election-related topics searched in each part of the country, such as the economy, taxes, and wages, among others.

All the charts from the Google trends page are embeddable on any site and will continue to update even after they're placed on an outlet's site.

For more information including how to maximize the trends page, visit the Google News Initiative's website. Explore more Google Trends at google.com/trends.

Healthcare activists urge immediate implementation of Tobacco Health Levy in Pakistan

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In a press release issued by The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), health activists emphasized the urgent need for the implementation of the Tobacco Health Levy in Pakistan, a measure that has been pending since 2019. The levy, if executed in a timely manner, could have generated an additional revenue of 250 billion Pakistani Rupees for the national exchequer. This substantial amount could have been utilized to enhance healthcare infrastructure and sustain efforts in tobacco control.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager at SPARC, said that the



Tobacco Health Levy, pending since 2019, presents a crucial opportunity for Pakistan to bolster its healthcare infrastructure and fortify the ongoing efforts in tobacco control. The potential additional revenue of 250 billion Rupees could significantly contribute to the betterment of public health, particularly for our children. It is imperative that the caretaker government takes swift action and moves towards the immediate implementation of this bill.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Director at Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, stated that the delay in implementing the Tobacco Health Levy is a missed chance for Pakistan to address critical public health concerns and

generate substantial revenue for the national exchequer. With the potential to inject 250 billion Rupees into healthcare and tobacco control efforts, this levy could pave the way for a healthier future. We urge the caretaker government to seize this opportunity and prioritize the immediate implementation of the Tobacco Health Levy.

He further urged the government to consider the immense benefits that the timely implementation of the Tobacco Health Levy can bring to the nation's health and economy. This will send a much-needed message to the general public that the government remains committed to the protection of children's rights and the improvement of public health in Pakistan.

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Sirajul Haq: A Dynamic personality and Role Model - II

Sirajul Haq, a distinguished leader and the former minister in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, is renowned for his groundbreaking initiatives that significantly transformed the socioeconomic landscape of the region. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to serving the people led to several pioneering projects aimed at uplifting communities and providing essential services to the underprivileged. His tenure marked a milestone with the establishment of Khyber Bank Islami, an initiative geared towards introducing Islamic banking principles and services in KPK. This initiative aimed to provide banking facilities adhering to Islamic financial guidelines, catering to the needs of the region's Muslim population. He is the person to start the first interest free banking system in kpk.

Under Sirajul Haq's leadership, the KPK government implemented transformative policies to ensure access to education and healthcare for all. Free education initiatives were introduced to make quality education accessible to students, while free Outpatient Departments (OPDs) in hospitals aimed to provide healthcare services to the masses without financial barriers.

His government's commitment to social welfare and inclusivity was exemplified through the establishment of Darul Kifala, a shelter aimed at providing a home and support to the underpriv-

ileged, destitute and needy individuals in KPK. This initiative underscored Sirajul Haq's dedication to caring for the most vulnerable segments of society.

Recognizing the importance of empowering women in healthcare, His government took a significant step by establishing Khyber Medical College for Women. This institution aimed to provide educational opportunities for aspiring female medical professionals, contributing to gender empowerment and healthcare development in the region.

Sirajul Haq's legacy in KPK remains etched in the transformative initiatives that addressed crucial societal needs. His focus on Islamic banking, provision of free education and healthcare, support for the underprivileged, and empowering women in the medical field exemplifies his commitment to inclusive development and social justice.

Now I have to discuss other qualities that reflect his commitment to ethical governance and fiscal responsibility. That is Sirajul Haq's leadership is characterized by his exemplary qualities of simplicity, honesty, and modesty, which have left an unforgettable mark on his tenure as a senior minister. His commitment to ethical governance was clearly demonstrated during an official visit to

the United Kingdom with government officials, where he exhibited an extraordinary display of integrity.

During this official trip, instead of opting for luxurious accommodations at a five-star hotel, Sirajul Haq chose a path reflective of his modesty and responsibility towards public funds. He made a conscious decision to spend all the nights of the visit at Islamic Centre, foregoing the extravagance of a high-end hotel, in a sincere effort to save government funds. This act became a powerful testament to his unwavering honesty and commitment to the prudent utilization of state resources. Sirajul Haq's decision to forgo luxury and opt for a more humble and cost-effective accommodation option echoed his dedication to simplicity and ethical conduct, setting an inspiring example for responsible governance.

In today's life Sirajul Haq's actions exemplified his ethos of leading by example, inspiring others within the government and society to prioritize financial prudence and ethical conduct in their respective roles. His leadership style, grounded in integrity and humility, resonated with the public, earning him admiration and respect. This incident remains an impressive illustration of Sirajul Haq's unwavering commitment

to upholding honesty and modesty in governance. His principled approach to leadership continues to inspire a generation, emphasizing the importance of ethical conduct, responsibility, and accountability in public service.

Sirajul Haq is known for his commitment to the principles of Jamaat-e-Islami, advocating for an Islamic welfare state based on justice, equality, and transparency. His leadership style is characterized by a grassroots approach, engaging with local communities, and addressing their issues directly. He has been a vocal advocate for the rights of marginalized communities, including farmers, laborers, and the underprivileged. He envisions a Pakistan where the principles of social justice, Islamic values, and democratic norms coexist harmoniously. However, he faces challenges in navigating the complex political landscape of Pakistan, with issues such as economic disparities, political polarization, and governance hurdles. If he has been able to establish a Government in Pakistan then he can prove himself as a best and sincere leader of Pakistan. He has a very clear vision and manifesto for his nation which I will mention here shortly. His manifesto encompasses various facets aiming for the betterment of the nation, grounded in Islamic principles and democratic values. He advocates for the establishment of an Islamic welfare state in Pakistan, where justice, equity, and compassion prevail.

To be continued



Analysis

Sohail Ahmad Baber

Troubled year in store for the world's children

World's children in 2024 are likely to see increased exposure to violence and war as well as economic hardship, the UN children's agency (UNICEF), warned in a flagship study released Tuesday. At the beginning of each year, UNICEF said it looks ahead to the risks that children are likely to face, and suggests ways to reduce the potential harm. The latest report, Prospects for Children 2024: Cooperation in a Fragmented World, paints a picture of a short-term future characterized by continued conflict and economic uncertainty.

The prospects of conflict, says the report, will be driven by escalating competition among world powers, threatening the rights and lives of children. As well as the immediate harm to children's lives, violence and war affect children by diverting resources from education, health care and nutrition. Turgid economic growth is undermining years of progress on child poverty reduction, making it difficult for young people to access global job markets. If international trade is stymied by distrust and tit-for-tat tariffs, food prices could increase, and child nutrition could suffer. The way to safeguard children, says the report, is economic solidarity, market collaboration, and investment in future skills. The report expresses concern that a fragmented multilateral system is not delivering on key issues for children. This can limit efforts to address grave violations of child rights; hinder global efforts to address risks, including the climate crisis; and inhibit the collective action needed to prevent and end conflicts. The multilateral system has a chance to reset its course in 2024 through stronger collective action, global governance, and financing reforms. Developing economies still face fiscal structural inequities, the report said. This means that resources, opportunities, and power are not distributed equally, limiting a country's ability to invest in children. As a result, many citizens are reliant on remittances to cover their health and education costs. New technologies and reforms to lending could offer hope for a more egalitarian future. Dozens of elections will take place in 2024, and global democracy will face unprecedented risks, presented by disinformation and political violence, threatening the rights and services of children, the report noted. Children and young people can be particularly vulnerable to this violence, which may result in death, physical or emotional harm, disruption of public services, and school closures. Young people are expressing dissatisfaction in democracy, but they are channeling their energy into constructive civic action, and online activism.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

Indian False Assertions about Normalcy in Occupied J & K - III

Former Chief Minister of Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), Mehbooba Mufti, has expressed distress over the recent killings. Speaking to the media in Srinagar, as reported by the Kashmir Media Service, she characterized the actions of Indian troops as the "worst kind of state terrorism in the territory." During a search operation, soldiers reportedly detained 15 individuals, with three facing brutal torture and martyrdom, while the remaining 12 sustained serious injuries and were admitted to hospitals. Mufti highlighted the emergence of "heartbreaking videos" depicting Indian soldiers allegedly throwing young people down and applying chilli on their wounds. She painted a grim picture of IOK, describing it as an open prison where thousands, including imams, lawyers, and journalists, are incarcerated, and employees are being terminated from their jobs. These voices resonate from within both India and Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, in its report, expressed concerns that religious freedom and related human rights in India are in jeopardy, with government policies failing to safeguard religious minorities. The report highlighted the negative impact of Indian government policies on Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Adivasis.

Subsequently, there was another development where the Indian Army relocated three officers, including a brigadier, pending an investigation into the custodial deaths of three civilians. These individuals were taken in for questioning after the December 21 ambush that resulted in the killing of four soldiers and injuring three others. As per reports, while a court of inquiry is underway,

the Indian Army transferred the three officers—a brigadier, a colonel, and a lieutenant colonel—from Poonch.

As compared to Occupied J & K the people in AJK enjoy greater independence, with the freedom to live and work anywhere in the state and Pakistan independently. The journey toward normalcy in AJK commences with the establishment of a stable and secure environment. Proactively striving for political stability, the region ensures that its residents can construct their lives without the disruptions of conflict. Families thrive, communities flourish, and the essence of normalcy is ingrained in the peaceful atmosphere. In AJK, the pursuit of normalcy translates into granting residents the freedom to lead fulfilling lives. Unlike occupied Kashmir, AJK offers a space where families can establish homes, children can pursue education, and communities can coexist harmoniously. This freedom to live is the bedrock of a society that values peace and treasures the diversity characterizing the region. Normalcy in AJK extends to the economic sphere, where residents enjoy the liberty to work and prosper. Local initiatives aimed at boosting industries, encouraging entrepreneurship, and attracting investments have opened up a range of employment opportunities. Whether in agriculture, tourism, or other sectors, individuals in AJK have the autonomy to explore diverse avenues for economic independence. AJK takes pride in its rich cultural tapestry, where various ethnic and religious communities come together in harmony. The freedom to embrace cultural traditions and celebrate shared histories fosters a sense of identity and unity among residents. Festivals, traditions, and cultural events contribute to a vibrant landscape that epitomizes the

region's dedication to normalcy. The breathtaking natural beauty of AJK has positioned it as an emerging tourist destination. Tourism not only showcases the region's splendor but also acts as a catalyst for economic independence. The freedom to explore entrepreneurial ventures in the tourism sector empowers locals, providing opportunities for economic growth and contributing to the overall prosperity of AJK. While the Indian Army is involved in actions resulting in the loss of lives in occupied J & K, the Pakistani Army is actively engaged in the welfare of the people in AJK. This stark contrast serves as an eye-opener for those supporting India, advocating for an independent Kashmir, and comparing Indian Occupied Kashmir with Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

If the situation is genuinely normal in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India should address some pressing questions. Why is India implicated in custodial killings of innocent Kashmiris, labeling them as terrorists without conducting a fair and transparent investigation? The removal of senior Indian Army officers raises further concerns about the incident. If everything is indeed normal, why do Modi and other Indian political leaders not openly address the public in J&K, while in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistani and Kashmiri political leaders freely hold public gatherings and deliver speeches?

Readers, the reality is evident to the world: the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is far from normal. The people of Jammu and Kashmir express their desire not to coexist with India, favoring Pakistan as their natural choice. India should cease the charade of projecting normalcy in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and acknowledge the truth that it cannot suppress the voice of Kashmiris despite all the atrocities. India must be compelled to adhere to the resolutions of the United Nations, granting the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

PTI to seek justice from people?

Proactive communication with voters about the change in the election symbol and the reasons behind it is paramount. Ensuring that information reaches voters through diverse channels is crucial for their awareness and the ability to easily identify the party on the ballot. Cultivating adaptability and resilience within the party's leadership and campaign team is equally vital. The willingness to adjust strategies based on feedback, changing circumstances, and emerging trends is essential to overcoming challenges and maintaining competitiveness in the electoral arena, even in the absence of the traditional symbol. Moreover, developing alternative symbols or branding elements that preserve visual recognition can mitigate the impact of losing the iconic election symbol. Initiating distinctive branding, such as a unique logo or color scheme, serves as an alternative visual identifier, encapsulating the party's identity and resonating effectively with voters.

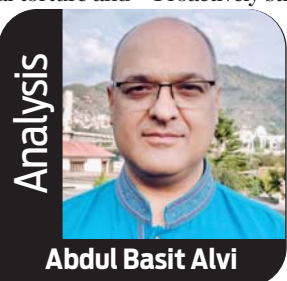
Leveraging recognizable party figures who can act as symbols themselves proves to be an effective strategy for seeking endorsements from respected individuals and organizations. Personalities within the party who are well-known and respected can become powerful symbols in the absence of the traditional election symbol. Exploring innovative campaign strategies that do not overly rely on visual symbols is

key. Utilizing technology, such as social media campaigns, FM Radio, virtual town halls, and podcasts, facilitates connection with a diverse audience and effectively conveys the party's message.

While capitalizing on complaints of lack of level playing field by other two major parties such as JUI and PPP, and complaining by PPP of allotment of different symbols to its candidates, PTI should seek forming alliances with disgruntled political entities and present a unified front to voters.

In the midst of this politically turbulent atmosphere, a silver lining emerges as politicians, with the exception of JUI, unite in their resolute stance against delaying or boycotting elections. Their collective realization that even the flaws of democracy surpass the perils of an outstanding dictatorship is not just pragmatic but commendable. The readiness of all political parties to confront any challenge, face potential electoral losses, and stand firm against the looming specter of martial law, a dark echo from the past, speaks volumes. This shared determination is poised to become the bedrock for fostering growth and development in the country, demonstrating a unified commitment to the democratic values that will shape its future.

The writer is former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day celebrated



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Defence Adviser Brigadier General Oseni Omoh Braimah & his spouse hosted a reception on the occasion of Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day. Vice Admiral Abid Hameed Hilal-e-Imtiz (Military), the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Material) was the chief guest. High commissioners, ambassadors, senior military officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces, defence advisers and attachés of different countries' Charge d'Affaires of the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Islamabad, Babagana Ahmadu and acting Dean of diplomatic corps & Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmouné present on the occasion. Celebrating the Armed Forces Day, the Brigadier General Oseni Omoh Braimah said that

the Nigerian Armed Forces have partnered with many friendly countries, most of whom are represented in this esteemed audience, in our bid to build a peaceful and prosperous nation and contribute to a better world. Pakistan Armed Forces have been a key ally in this regard. On this occasion he said while addressing the gathering "we gather to pay tribute to our fallen comrades, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, so that Nigeria, and indeed humanity, may be a better place for all. This day is also set aside to celebrate our colleagues, who toil day and night, in missions within and outside Nigeria, in the service of my great country Nigeria". He said "I wish to briefly recall the giant strides made by the Nigerian Armed Forces from its humble beginnings as a small constabulary force of Lt John Glover of the British Navy in

1863, to the present-day modern tri-service entity. We also particularly acknowledge with pride the selfless sacrifices made by our troops during the world wars and under the auspices of the United Nations, African Union amongst others. Special mention must also be made of the liberation of sister West African countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia from rebel incursions in the 90s and the ongoing peacekeeping efforts in The Gambia and Guinea Bissau by Nigerian gallant troops. These indeed, have contributed in no small measure to the ensuing stability being enjoyed by these countries today. Hence, the celebration affords us the opportunity to project the Nigerian Armed forces as an instrument of regional stability, national pride, prestige, unity, and development". The Defense Adviser said

Nigeria, and indeed our Armed Forces, has continued to partner with many friendly countries, including those of the distinguished guests here present, (all of you) to build and sustain a more secure world, especially in the fight against the various threats to our collective survival such as the recent menace of terrorism. As you are aware, Nigeria also had its fair share of this menace, although affected areas of the Boko Haram crisis have largely returned to normalcy, with the terrorists effectively defeated. Stabilization efforts have also commenced and this has so far been effectively

sustained. In this regard, permit me to recognise and acknowledge the unflinching support of the Pakistan Armed Forces. The Brigadier General Oseni Omoh Braimah said that the Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day celebration, which is observed annually every 15th January, to remember and honour our fallen heroes and compatriots. This event is also to commemorate the end of the Nigerian civil war and appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans who fought in the First and Second World Wars, United Nations peacekeeping operations, internal security opera-

tions and counter terrorism war not only to safeguard a united and prosperous Nigeria, but also to bequeath us a safer and more peaceful world. Furthermore, the celebration affords us the opportunity to project the Nigerian Armed forces as instruments of national unity, integration and development. General Oseni Omoh Braimah said that Pakistan has partnered with Armed Forces of Nigeria in the sharing of experience, training, exercises, equipment maintenance and upgrades and induction of cutting-edge platforms and aircraft, such as the versatile

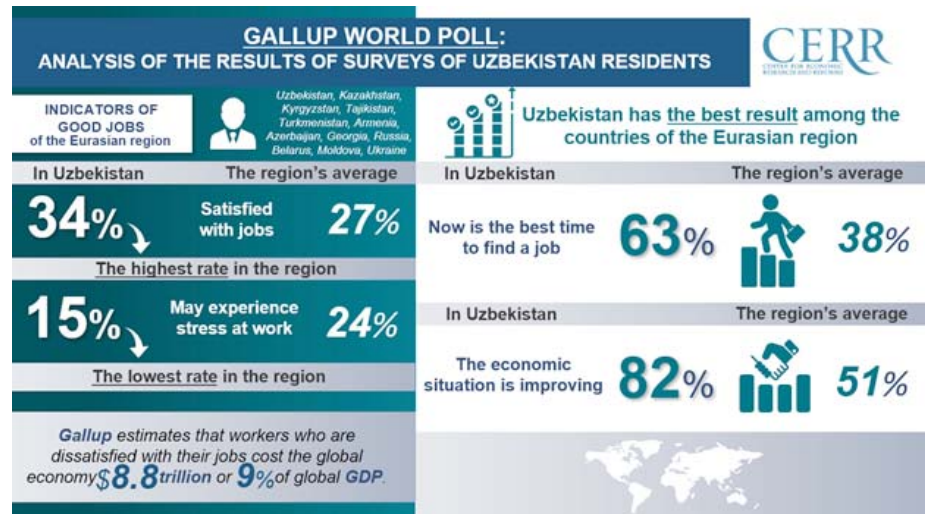
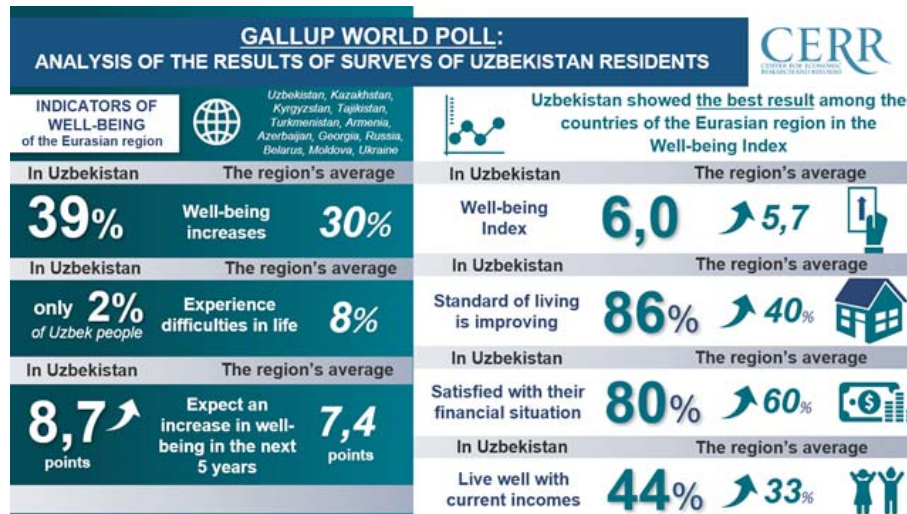
Super Mushshak trainer aircraft and the multi-role JF 17 Thunder Fighter. Indeed, many other countries, some of whose DAs are in this gathering, are also collaborating with the Nigerian government and its Armed Forces on capacity building, equipment support, intelligence sharing and many other critical areas, for which we are highly grateful. This critical support has assisted the Armed Forces of Nigeria to transform and innovate in tandem with current realities and changing dynamics of security challenges and the environment. **Photos By Raja Farid**

Gallup World Poll 2022: Analysis of the results of surveys of Uzbekistan residents

News desk

ISLAMABAD: The Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) analyzed the annual Gallup World Poll, which is being prepared based on the study of public opinion. Since 2005, Gallup has been conducting an annual World Poll among 160 countries (1 thousand people per country), which accounts for 98% of the world's adult population. The Gallup World Poll consists of 100 questions and includes Indexes: Law and order; Food and accommodation; Institutes and infrastructure; Good jobs; Well-being. Gallup's study compares Uzbekistan with the countries of the post-Soviet Eurasian region.

Indicators of Well-being
In 2022, the Well-being Index (from 0 to 10 points) was 6.0 points, while the region's average is estimated at 5.7 points. Consequently, Uzbekistan has shown one of the best results among the countries of the post-Soviet Eurasian region. The region of post-Soviet Eurasia includes such countries as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine. According to the results of the survey in 2022, 39% of Uzbek people indicated that their well-being is currently increas-



ing, which is significantly higher than the region's average of 30%. To evaluate life satisfaction, the results of a survey called the Cantril-ladder scale are used. Respondents are asked to imagine a ladder from 0 to 10, where step 0 means the worst possible life, and step 10 means the best possible life. Only 2% of Uzbek people reported experiencing difficulties in their lives, which is 6% lower than the region's average result. Uzbekistan showed the best result among the countries of the region in the Well-being Index. At the same time, Gallup estimated that Uzbekistan has become the fastest

recovering country after the pandemic. Uzbek people rated their well-being in the next 5 years at 8.7 points. In particular, regarding expectations of future well-being, Uzbekistan showed the highest result in the region, while the region's average score was 7.4. 86% of respondents stated that standard of living is currently improving, and the average for this indicator in the region was 40%. 80% of the surveyed residents of Uzbekistan expressed their satisfaction with their current financial situation, which is also a high indicator for the region, where the average score was 60%. 44% of Uzbek people believed that they

live well with current incomes, whereas the average for the region was 33%. **Indicators of good jobs** 34% of workers in Uzbekistan stated they were satisfied with their jobs. This, in turn, is the highest rate in the region, where the average score was 27%. According to Gallup estimates, workers who are dissatisfied with their jobs cost the global economy \$8.8 trillion, or 9% of global GDP. 15% of workers in Uzbekistan reported that they may experience stress at work, 24% in the region. Since 2020, the share of those who believe that now is the best time to find a job has increased by 17% and amounted

to 63% which is one of the highest rates in the region, where the average score was 38%. In two years, the confidence of Uzbek people in the improvement of the country's economy has increased by 7%, reaching 82%. This indicator averaged 51% in the region. **Institutions and infrastructure** The confidence of Uzbek people in their government has improved and amounted to 92% in 2022, which is one of the best results among the countries of the region, where the average score was 68%. At the same time, the share of those who have confidence in judicial systems

in Uzbekistan has increased by 10% in two years and amounted to 74% in 2022. This indicator is noticeably lower in the region, about 45%. On average, 55% of the region's residents have confidence in the financial sector. 82% of Uzbek people expressed "quite high" confidence in the banking and financial system. 94% of Uzbek people note "great" attention to children and youth, which is also a high indicator relative to the region's average of 76%. 93% of Uzbek respondents reported having all the opportunities for education and growth in the country, compared to 68% in the region.

PIDE 4th Think Tank Moot held

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, once envisioned as the next Asian Tiger, finds itself grappling with persistent governance challenges since its inception into the League of Nations. Despite successive governments' promises of transformative change and substantial reforms, the efforts undertaken appear akin to attempting to bail out a sinking ship with a thimble. The enduring consequence is shouldered by the people of Pakistan, who continue to bear the brunt of these challenges. These sentiments were articulated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), during the opening of the Third Think Tank Moot, a collaborative initiative by PIDE and its partners. Dr. Haque underscored the

crucial need to recognize the historically passive nature of the demand side for reforms throughout the country's history. Addressing this passivity, he argued, is pivotal in fostering a more engaged and participative society as the nation seeks a path towards sustainable and impactful reforms. Dr. Haque further noted that political party manifestos often highlight broad policy directions and commitments. Ideally, these commitments should be thoroughly evaluated when a party assumes power. With the upcoming General Elections scheduled for the 8th of February 2024, it is disheartening to observe the absence of discussions among political parties regarding a clear reform agenda aligned with the country's pressing needs. PIDE Pro VC Dr. Durre Nayab delivered a compelling address at a recent Think Tank Moot, high-

lighting crucial perspectives on urban development and governance. Dr. Nayab stressed the paramount importance of respecting the heterogeneity of cities, underlining the need for policies that cater to the unique characteristics of each urban center. A critical observation surfaced concerning the challenges faced by vibrant cities within the existing governing structure, prompting the call for transformative policies to unlock the full potential of urban areas. Emphasizing the instrumental role of local governments, Dr. Nayab highlighted their key position in delivering essential services, advocating for a decentralized approach to address the specific needs of local communities. Notably, the Pro VC argued that true decentralization can only be achieved by granting autonomy to locally elected councils

in their spending and planning decisions. This perspective calls for a fundamental reevaluation of governance structures to empower local authorities and shape more responsive and vibrant urban environments. Dr. Durre Nayab's insights offer a compelling vision for a paradigm shift in urban policies, urging stakeholders to embrace diversity, overcome governance challenges, and empower local governments for effective decentralization. Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Chief Research PIDE, earlier, provided background on the Think Tank Moot, highlighting its role as a unique platform for esteemed partners and thought leaders to collectively address transformative and sustainable reforms. He said that the PIDE has formulated a reform agenda "Transforming Economy & Society" identifying ten priori-

ty themes i.e., political stability, reforms in civil service, productivity and competition, fiscal management, building social infrastructure, market efficiency, etc. In this context, PIDE organized 4th moot with Think-Tanks and Partners to present its reform agenda. The idea is to have a collective intellectual capital and action, instead of working in silos, with minimum to zero influence over policy-making. During the Moot, speakers from different think tank underscored the significance of transforming the economy and society in Pakistan, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of this imperative endeavor. They stressed that addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the nation requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. There was a unanimous acknowledgment and praise for PIDE's Reform Agenda, recognizing it as the need

of the hour for Pakistan. Participants voiced a collective concern that if attention is not directed towards these critical issues now, the consequences may become insurmountable in the future. The urgency of embracing reform for the betterment of Pakistan was emphasized, with the consensus that proactive measures are essential to avoid reaching a point of no return. Representatives from various organizations convened, creating a diverse assembly that included Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Pakistan Science Foundation, Quaid-i-Azam University, American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA), Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), Centre for

International Strategic Studies (CISS), National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), World Bank, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), COMSATS, Establishment Division, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Prime Consultant, IIIE Institute of Islamic Information and Education, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Population Council, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Independent News Pakistan (INP) Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), NUML, Beijing Institute of Technology, and National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). This gathering reflected a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives across academia, research, policy, and international relations.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
63,737.46	64,269.37
Day's High	Day's Low
64,246.67	63,397.94
Index Value	Change
9,184,827,993	-531.91
Percentage	Time
-0.83%	16 Jan, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,558.34	-36.57
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	16 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
37,319.02	-273.96
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	16 Jan, 12:36 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
35,619.18	-282.61
Percentage	Time
-0.79%	16 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	187.85
Bahrain Dinar	744.59	752.59
Canadian Dollar	207.5	209.5
China Yuan	39.2	39.6
Danish Krone	41.09	41.49
Euro	304	307
Hong Kong Dollar	35.87	36.22
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.94	2.04
Kuwaiti Dinar	910.88	919.88
Malaysian Ringgit	60.38	60.98
New Zealand \$	175.2	177.2
Norwegians Krone	27.15	27.45
Omani Riyal	727.21	735.21
Qatari Riyal	77.08	77.78
Saudi Riyal	74.25	75
Singapore Dollar	208.5	210.5
Swedish Korona	27.28	27.58
Swiss Franc	327.42	329.92
Thai Bhat	8.03	8.18
U.A.E Dirham	76.2	78
UK Pound Sterling	354	357.5
US Dollar	280.2	282.35

UBL Ameen partners with philanthropic organizations for serving humanity in the field of health

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: UBL Ameen has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHNN), ChildLife Foundation, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) and Akhuwat, institutions which are serving humanity in the field of Health, Infant Care, Education and Employment respectively. This collaboration stemmed from the launch of "UBL Ameen Esaar Account" which is a one of its kind Islamic liability product that not only caters to banking requirements of consumer, but also contributes to the welfare of society. UBL Ameen has designed Esaar Account to incentivize the customer for contribution to humanitarian causes. The Bank sponsors free of cost Takaful plan for securing risk of

Income loss due to Death or Accidental/permanent disability of account holder for succeeding 12 months in addition to Reimbursement of Medical Expenditure as a token of gratitude.

The idea behind contribution for the sake of welfare of society is that the bank allocates a certain amount from its own pocket, based on the balance maintained in the account by the customer, and distribute among above-mentioned four organizations for onwards spending among deserving people. This contribution gives customer a sense of satisfaction for playing their part in noble cause.

From UBL's side, the signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Alee Khalid Ghaznavi, Group Executive - Islamic Banking, UBL, and senior executives of the Bank. Donation amounts allocated under UBL Ameen Esaar Account since its inception were handed over by UBL Ameen team to respective representatives of these organizations.



Economic decisions should be made above political interests, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain called on Tuesday to end the practice of causing harm to the economy to gain political advantages.

He said that A short-term benefit is unacceptable, resulting in a long-term loss as the whole nation has to pay the price for such decisions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that political choices at the expense of the economy have pushed the country to the brink; therefore, such practices should be stopped.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that economic decisions aimed at gaining popularity have shaken the country's foundations.

Decisions related to the economy should be made above political considerations; otherwise, the country would remain in trouble.

The business leader said that our rulers are not in the habit of controlling expenditures but start lavish expenditures for political interests. They have to borrow and print excessive currency due to a deficit, which results in currency depreciation and inflation.

Mian Zahid Hussain informed that the money supply in the country increased by 100% in the five and a half years since FY 2018, which witnessed a sharp acceleration from January



to June last year, which also boosted inflation.

Now that the process of printing currency has slowed down, inflation is also decreasing slowly. If the prices of electricity, oil, and gas were not increased, the process of reducing inflation would have been accelerated.

He said that private-sector borrowing cannot be blamed for excess money in the market, as government borrowing has more to do with it.

In these circumstances, the central bank is left with the option of increasing the interest rate, which is being implemented.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that if production also increased along with the increase in money supply, inflation would not have occurred, but if production remained stagnant, inflation would increase.

Local plants

ISLAMABAD: A worker of a local nursery arranging fancy flower plants attraction for customers at sector H-9 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

MOL Pakistan donates two ambulances to Kohat, Hangu: CEO



PPA

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony, held at Islamabad today, marked the formal hand-over of the ambulances by Mr. Gyorgy Loncsar, CEO MOL Pakistan, to Deputy Commissioner Kohat, Dr. Azmat Wazir and Additional Deputy Commissioner Hangu, Faheed Khan, both represented the commissioner Kohat.

The event was attended by senior officials from both MOL Pakistan and the district administrations of Kohat and Hangu.

MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company B.V. reaffirms its commitment to the well-being of community with the donation of two state-of-the-art ambulances to the district administrations of Kohat and Hangu. This initiative, a part of MOL's Corporate Giving

initiatives, aims to enhance and strengthen the local administration's capacity to deliver on healthcare accessibility by ensuring fast-track transportation for patients across the Kohat district to the nearest medical facilities and enabling the health department to respond effectively to natural disasters and mass casualty incidents.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Loncsar stated, "Since 1999, MOL Pakistan has actively engaged with the communities of its operational areas, focusing on uplifting local education, health, and communication infrastructure. This fresh donation aims to further build community resilience by facilitating emergency transportation for patients to the nearest medical facilities."

Deputy Commissioner Kohat read the message of Commissioner Kohat, Mr.

Muhammad Abid Khan, expressing gratitude for the donation, "Local administration welcomes generous initiatives by corporate entities like MOL Pakistan, which enhance the capacity of local governments to handle unexpected crises. We appreciate MOL Pakistan for this donation, as these ambulances will significantly improve our response to natural catastrophes."

MOL Pakistan, a fully owned subsidiary of MOL Group, has been operating in the country since 1999. The company remains dedicated to prioritizing health and education for communities in its operational areas, conducting free medical and eye camps, and contributing IT equipment and academic books to schools and universities for the benefit of underprivileged students of all ages and backgrounds.

FPCCI assured review of unnecessary cases within 2 months: Atif Ikram Sheikh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that in a high-profile, detailed and candid meeting with the honorable Chairman NAB, Lt Gen (Retd) Nazir Ahmed, over pending NAB cases. Chairman NAB has, in principle, agreed that the business community should be facilitated and there should be no harassment of the trade & industry, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh elaborated that Chairman NAB told us that, in order to alleviate the concerns of businessmen, he will get the review and reassessment of the pending NAB cases done pertaining to business community; and, all those cases which are not genuine, valid or are unnecessary will be dropped. The process is expected to complete quickly - i.e. within the next two months, he added.

It is pertinent to note that

Mr. Husnain Ahmed, Director General Operations, NAB and Mr. Javed Akber Riaz, Director General, NAB Sindh, were also present on the occasion. Whereas, President FPCCI was accompanied by Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI; Mr. Asif Inam, VP FPCCI; Mr. Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, Mazhar Ali Nasir & Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, former SVPs FPCCI; Mr. Ahmed Chinoy and Mr. Mustafa Shekhani; among some other top business community leaders.

FPCCI Chief also informed that Chairman NAB has told FPCCI delegation that they can bring any cases of harassment or bribery against the business community to his knowledge; so that, he can protect and resolve their cases.

Chairman NAB also appreciated business community's role in keeping the national economy afloat; and, creating employment opportunities and generating revenues for the country.

SECP, UN Women Pakistan to host ESG symposium

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange of Pakistan (SECP), in partnership with UN Women Pakistan, is all set to host a symposium on "Driving Progress on Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations." The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, will be the chief guest of the symposium.

Leadership and experts from capital market institutions including Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Pakistan Business Council, Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance, Mutual Fund Association of Pakistan, Asian Development Bank, International Finance Corporation, InfraZamin, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan,

CFA-Pakistan, ACCA-Pakistan, corporate leaders, and academia will be participating in the event, scheduled for January 23, 2024, in Karachi.

The symposium will focus on policy discussions on ESG-based investing and climate change, facilitate consultations on draft ESG disclosure guidelines. In addition, experts will discuss ESG action plans in an open forum and share their feedback on the 'ESG Sustain' website, the premier resource for sustainability knowledge.

The SECP is committed to promoting sustainable and responsible business practices in Pakistan. By improving ESG ecosystem, the SECP aims to improve transparency and promote sustainable business practices in capital markets.

IPO-Pakistan sensitizes SMEs about the importance of IPRs to flourish

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Farukh Amil, Chairman, Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) said that SMEs should get better awareness about the protection and enforcement of patents, copyrights, and trademarks to avoid counterfeiting and piracy of their products and flourish their business at the national and international level. He said this while addressing an awareness session on intellectual property rights organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with IPO-Pakistan for the business community.

Farukh Amil said that adherence to global standards on IP, through international treaties and societal practices will enhance Pakistan's reputation as a business and investment-friendly country. He said that SMEs should benefit from the services of IPO-Pakistan for better protection of their patents, copyrights, and trademarks.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that SMEs are the backbone of the economy and IPO-Pakistan should further simplify the IP registration processes and procedures and introduce mobile apps to facilitate SMEs in online registration of their products and services for copyrights and trademarks. He said that

in the global competitive business environment, the role of IPO-Pakistan is very important in promoting innovations and startups and ensuring better economic growth of the country through strict enforcement of IPRs. He assured that ICCI would work with IPO-Pakistan to raise more awareness in the business community about the importance of IPRs for better growth of their businesses.

Faod Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan needs to lay a strong foundation for a vibrant IP system to encourage innovations, business growth, and investment and hoped that IPO-Pakistan would contribute to making Pakistan



a competitive economy. The business community members asked many questions about the IPRs and were given detailed answers.

Karachi, Lahore, Multan register victories in National Women's T20 Tournament

A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Karachi and Multan registered their maiden wins, while Lahore grabbed their second consecutive win on day two of the National Women's T20 Tournament on Tuesday.

An unbeaten half-century by Sidra Amin, followed by a three-wicket haul by Ghulam Fatima took Lahore to their second win in as many games, as they beat Rawalpindi by 41 runs at the Diamond Club in Islamabad.

After opting to bat first, Lahore suffered an early blow as right-arm pacer Waheed Akhtar removed Sadaf Shams (6, 8b, 1x4) in the third over.

Bismah Maroof replaced Sadaf on the crease to stitch a 42-run stand with her captain Sidra Amin.

Rawalpindi captain Aliya Riaz broke the partnership by disturbing Bismah's stumps, who had to walk back after scoring 12 from 20.

Iram Javed (22, 20b, 3x4s, 1x6) build a 60-run stand with Sidra, before falling to Aima

Saleem.

Kaynat Hafeez (22 not out, 13b, 3x4s) also contributed with the bat. Sidra top-scored for the side, hitting an unbeaten 85 from 60, showcasing 12 boundaries and a maximum, to take Lahore to 160-3 in 20 overs.

Aima (25, 25b, 4x4s) and Fajar Naveed (16, 19b, 3x4s) propelled Rawalpindi's chase with a 52-run opening stand until it was cut short courtesy of Areesha Noor who removed Fajar in the seventh over and dismissed Aima in the ninth over.

Natalia Parvaiz (24, 21b, 2x4s) and Waheeda Akhtar (19, 20b, 3x4s) attempted to keep Rawalpindi in the game.

Leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima and left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu both picked up three-wicket hauls, while Areesha Noor had two wickets to her name as Rawalpindi were restricted to 119-9 in 20 overs.

On the other hand, Karachi outclassed Peshawar by 101 runs courtesy of half-centuries by Muneeba Ali and Javeria Khan at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium.

Karachi posted a mammoth

total of 183-2 in 20 overs after they were invited to bat first by Peshawar. Opening batters Muneeba Ali and Javeria Khan allowed Karachi a breezy start courtesy of a 93-run stand.

Momina Riasat provided the breakthrough for Peshawar when she removed Muneeba (64, 41b, 8x4s, 2x6s).

A 60-run stand between Javeria and Yusra Amir further solidified Karachi's position in the game.

Javeria completed her second consecutive half-century (51, 39b, 6x4s) before she was dismissed by Salwa Raheem.

Yusra remained unbeaten at 39 from 29, including four boundaries and a six. Skipper Fatima Sana also contributed 15 from 11 and hit two fours.

Peshawar's chase got off to a faltering start as Raahima Syed was run out for a duck in the second over and Tehzeeb Shah was trapped leg-before wicket by Aimen Anwar for just a run. Then, Momina fell to Masooma Zahra after scoring 10 from 18, including a boundary.

Syeda Aroob Shah picked up



two wickets on consecutive deliveries to further push Peshawar against the wall.

Captain Aleena Shah's fighting knock of an undefeated 44 from 66, including seven boundaries, went in vain as Peshawar ended with 82-6 in 20 overs, awarding

Karachi victory by 101 runs.

Meanwhile, in another National Women's T20 Tournament match, Multan found success against Quetta after the latter fell 22 runs short while chasing 130 at Ayub Park Ground.

Quetta won the toss and decid-

ed to field first. Aleena Masood was run out for a duck by Quetta captain Saima Malik.

Gull Feroza and Gull Rukh built a commendable partnership, that yielded 88 runs, to bring stability to Multan's innings.

Anam Amin struck to take out Gull Rukh (38, 37b, 5x4s), breaking the partnership. Gull Feroza (75 not out, 66b, 9x4s), playing a captain's innings, hit an unbeaten half-century to take Multan to a fighting total of 129-3 in 20 overs.

Saiqa Riaz (14, 16b, 2x4s) was the other contributor with the bat.

For Quetta, Anam bagged two wickets for 24 in four overs.

Gull-e-Uswa struck early to remove Fareeha Mehmood (5, 10b, 1x4) inside the powerplay. Trouble deepened for Quetta in the seventh over when Khadija Chishti (10, 12b, 2x4s) fell to Asma Shareef and Tuba Hassan was run out for a duck.

Opening batter Dua Majid's resilient knock of 42 from 48, including three fours, kept hope alive for her team until she was run out by the Multan skipper. Saima also chipped in 12 from 10, including one four.

Quetta only managed to get to 108-9 in 20 overs, losing against Multan by 21 runs. Samina Aftab, who grabbed two wickets, was the pick of the bowlers in the second innings.

Brian Lara hopes to see Test cricket prosper beyond India, England, Australia

A Sports

LAHORE: West Indies batting legend Brian Lara has suggested giving Test cricket importance in all countries, rather than only India, England and Australia, in order to prosper.

Lara who is currently in Australia as part of the broadcasting team for the upcoming two-match Test series between the hosts and West Indies, has opened up about his love for Test cricket and suggestions to save the game.

"As someone who has played Test cricket, the love I have for the game, it is something I don't want to see die," said Lara.

"I'm hoping that we can find a way outside that triangle of nations of India, Australia and England to bring back importance to West Indies, Pakistan,

New Zealand and South Africa."

South Africa recently announced an inexperienced squad, featuring seven uncapped players for the two-match Test series against New Zealand, commencing from February 4, 2024.

South Africa named uncapped batter Neil Brand as the captain for the New Zealand tour which will be played at the same time as the SA20 league, featuring the frontline Proteas players.

Meanwhile, West Indies also announced a second-string squad for the Australia series with several new faces.

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Lara acknowledged the financial reasons for players backing out of the Test series to prioritize franchise leagues, but he urged stakeholders to find a solution to save Test cricket.



"I can't begrudge any player for making financial decisions to secure their future," the former West Indies' captain stated.

"You want your best team playing international cricket. South Africa will have their reasons but when I did look at the team there was not one name that I knew. It is a very compact schedule, trying to force all three forms of the game in.

"Sport as a whole is a very short-term thing, cricket you never know when you're in or you're out, and we just have to find some sort of middle ground where all cricket prospers - not just English cricket, Australian cricket or Indian cricket."

Brian Lara then shed light on the golden days of West Indies cricket back in the day, when they used to do frequent tours of Australia and England.

"Back in those days, the halcyon days of West Indies cricket in the 1970s and '80s, we were almost in Australia or England every other year, and we were the fancied team to tour around the world," Lara said. "India is now, for obvious reasons."

The Test series between Australia and West Indies will kick off tomorrow in Adelaide.

Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Girls & Boys Hockey Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah will be held at the Hockey Academy.

Government Boys Secondary School Federal Capital Area won the boys title of Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Girls and Boys Hockey Tournament, while the girls title went to Government Physical Girls College. Chief Guest Sector Commander Sachall Rangers Brigadier Muhammad Kabir Ahmed distributed the prizes.

According to the details in the boys inter-school final played at Olympian Islahuddin Academy, the team of Government Boys Secondary School Federal Capital Area played a great game against the team of Happy Palace School On their behalf, Rohan Khan scored the deciding goal of the match, the winning team beat Happy Palace School by one goal to become champions. In an interesting and thrilling final for girls, Government Physical College beat Government Girls Degree College North Nazimabad Block M by 2 goals to 1 on penalty shootout, the match between



the two teams was tied 1-1 at the scheduled time.

Stayed. In the boys event, Rohan Khan of Federal Capital School was declared the best player, Noman Khan of Federal Capital School won the best goalkeeper award, Bilawal Abbas of Happy Palace School was the top scorer. In the girls competitions, Syeda Jawaria

Kashif was the best player, Humna Bilal was the best goalkeeper and Mubashera Farqan was the top scorer. Sector Commander Sachall Rangers Brigadier Muhammad Kabir Ahmed distributed the prizes. Islahuddin, Olympian Hasan Sardar, Olympian Ayaz Mehmood, Chairman Organizing Committee Syed Sameer Hussain, Dr. Farhan Esa, Begum

Asma Ali Shah, Olympian Kamran Ashraf, International Arif Siddiqui, Tasneem Usmani, Muhammad Ali Khan Mubashir Mukhtar, Dr. Naayer Jabeen and others also participated.

The Chief Guest Sector Commander Sachall Rangers, Brigadier Muhammad Kabir Ahmed in his address congratulated his entire team including Olympian Islahuddin, Olympian Syed Sameer Hussain for the successful organization of Girls and Boys Hockey Tournament. The Chief Guest also thanked the sponsors. He said that a large number of fans were enjoying the matches in this event, which is a guarantee of its success. In conclusion, he said that the peace of this city includes the sacrifices of Pakistan Rangers and will continue to make such sacrifices for the establishment of peace and order. Former ICC President Zaheer Abbas said that hockey is alive in Karachi thanks to Islahuddin, an Olympian who is recognized all over the world as a hockey player but also a good organizer. I wish that they continue to promote hockey in the same way. Olympian Islahuddin thanked all the naigey, players and sponsors.

First phase of Rising Punjab Games begins today



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The inter-division competitions of two games-hockey and volleyball will be conducted from January 18 (tomorrow) to 22 in the first phase of Rising Punjab Games 2024; DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail made this announcement while presiding over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum and Deputy Directors Zahoor Ahmed and Ataur Rahman attended the meeting in person while all Divisional Sports Officers of the province participated in the meeting through video link.

Daily allowance, food, traveling, sports gear and other relevant issues of the participating teams were discussed in detail during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Dr Asif Tufail said that best arrangements are being made for smooth holding of Rising Punjab Games. "There will be no compromise on discipline and in this regard a strict code of ethics is being formulated. All DSOs will be responsible to implement the code of ethics in their respective contingents."

Sharing more details of the grand event, Dr Asif Tufail informed that the competitions football and badminton will be organised from Jan 23 to 27 in the second phase and the events of athletics and table tennis will be conducted from Jan 30 to Feb 2 in the third phase.

He informed that overall more than 950 male and female players from all divisions will participate in the competitions of six games during the 16-day Rising Punjab Games. All DSOs also gave valuable suggestions to make the Rising Punjab Games a successful event.

Jose Mourinho sacked by AS Roma



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Jose Mourinho has been sacked as coach of Roma, the Serie A side announced on Tuesday, saying it was "in the best interests of the club".

Mourinho, whose contract was due to expire in June, would leave the club alongside his technical team "with immediate effect", Roma said.

"We would like to thank Jose on behalf of all of us at AS Roma for his passion and efforts since his arrival at the club," said owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin.

"We will always have great memories of his tenure at Roma, but we believe that an immediate change is in the best interests of the club.

"We wish Jose and his assistants all the best in their future endeavours."

The 60-year-old Portuguese took over in 2021 and guided Roma to the inaugural Europa Conference League trophy in 2022 and the final of last season's Europa League.

However, Roma have struggled this campaign and currently sit ninth in Serie A, five points away from the Champions League positions, after being convincingly beaten 3-1 at AC Milan on Sunday.

Italian media report that former Roma captain Daniele De Rossi, a World Cup winner with Italy in 2006, could replace Mourinho as coach.

South Africa add uncapped Edward Moore to squad for New Zealand tests

Sports Desk

LAHORE: South Africa have added uncapped left-handed opening batter Edward Moore to their severely depleted squad for the two-match test series in New Zealand next month.

Edward Moore, 30, is the eighth uncapped player to travel on tour with most of the team's regulars staying at home as the series clashes with South Africa's lucrative domestic SA20 competition.

He has been in good domestic form this season with 414 runs at an average of 51.75, including two hundreds, and provides a left-handed option at the top of the order after



Tony de Zorzi was a late selection to play in the SA20.

The decision to field a weakened squad has drawn strong criticism but Cricket South Africa say the SA20 is vital to their financial stability and an attempt to move the test series to alternate dates was unsuccessful.

Only two players from the squad that drew their recent home test series with India, batters David Bedingham and Keegan Petersen, will be on the tour under coach Shukri Conrad. South Africa leave on Friday and will play a warm-up fixture against a New Zealand XI, with the first test to begin on Feb. 4.

South Africa squad for New Zealand Test series: Neil Brand (captain), David Bedingham, Ruan de Swardt, Clyde Fortuin, Zubayr Hamza, Tshepo Moreki, Edward Moore, Mithlali Mpongwana, Duanne Olivier, Dane Paterson, Keegan Petersen, Dane Piedt, Raynard van Tonder, Shaun van Berg, Khaya Zondo.

Bangladesh's Nasir Hossain banned for two years on corruption charges

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Bangladesh allrounder Nasir Hossain has been banned for two years from all forms of cricket, with six months suspended, for breaching the sport's anti-corruption code, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old admitted three charges of failing to disclose that he was "approached to engage in corrupt conduct", receiving an iPhone as a gift and not cooperating with the investigation after being charged by the ICC in September.

"Mr [Nasir] Hossain has chosen to admit to the charges and has agreed to the sanction in the place of an Anti-Corruption Tribunal hearing," the ICC said in a statement. "Subject to him satisfying the conditions in respect of the suspended part of the sanction, he will be free to resume international cricket on 7 April 2025."

Nasir Hossain, who has played 19 tests and 65 one day internationals for Bangladesh, has not represented his country since 2018.

Celebration

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi cutting cake to mark the 29th anniversary celebration of the commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the south (COMSATS), at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

President for sharing scientific knowledge to benefit entire humanity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday while alluding to the significance of the technological advancement and innovations in diverse fields and the availability of knowledge, stressed the need to share the latest scientific breakthroughs, experiences and achievements for the greater benefits of entire humanity.

The president said that the availability of knowledge should not be contained under the mere tag of 'copy-

rights' as greater accessibility could help humanity to move through the current economic, social and global challenges.

The president was speaking as a chief guest at a ceremony to mark the 29th-anniversary celebration of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, former diplomats, members of academia and the media.

The president said that scientific knowledge should be shared among the nations without any hindrance by resetting the priorities which were focused somewhat elsewhere.

"Open knowledge resources should be utilized and the world should work for the mutual transfer of knowledge. The injustices should be addressed," he emphasised.

The president further said that transformation in the world could take place in the presence of 'ethics or humanity-based order', adding the

new world would be dependent upon these shifts. While the rules-based world order was dominated by material-driven priorities, he opined.

He regretted that contrary to the requirements of the world, the prevalent tendency was towards the ultra-rich who had been becoming richer while the poor of the world were mired in poverty and deprivation.

He stressed that just and equitable distribution of wealth in the world could alleviate the sufferings of humanity.

"The world is not ready to change the exploitative attitude and end exploitation," he said and referred to a recent report of OXFAM which said that billionaires had doubled their income while about 5 billion people in the world witnessed shrinkage in their earnings.

President Alvi said that genome sequencing was one of the major breakthroughs in the scientific world which had become more accessible to people due to the exponential pace of scientific developments.

Mushaal announces formation of Palestinian Consultative Committee on human rights

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has chaired a high level meeting regarding the human rights situation in Palestine. The meeting explored ways to help Palestinians faced with the current humanitarian crises.

The meeting was attended by South African High Commissioner to Pakistan H. E. Mthuzuzel Madikiza, Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Ahmed Jawad Rabei, Deputy Head of Mission Nader. K. Alturk, Spokesperson to SAPM Ms. Sabien Hussein Mullick, Palestinian journalist Jalal Al Farra, Al-araby TV journalist Belal



Elustal, Advisor to SAPM Faisal Babri, Al-Jazeera TV chief Abdulrahman Matar, AL Mayadeen TV journalist Bakr Younis, Representative of Area study center Quaid e azam university Dr. Munawar Hussain, Advisor to SAPM

Prof. Zafar Iqbal Sindhu and Advisor to SAPM Dr. Shahid Ahmed Afridi.

During the meeting, Special Assistant to Prime Minister announced the formation of Palestinian Consultative Committee. She said the

committee would explore ways to alleviate the pains of the Palestinians suffering under Israel's Occupation. She said that the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a staunch advocate of Independent Palestine-

an state. "The State of Pakistan always strives to stick to the views of the founding father on Policy matters regarding the Palestinian Conflict", she added.

Mushaal expressed deep concern over the ongoing human rights violations in Palestine. She expressed her surprise that these transgressions were taking place in the 21st century. She highlighted that the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupation forces had led to a devastating toll on the Palestinian population. She said that in the past three months alone, over 25,000 Palestinians had lost their lives, 61,000 had sustained injuries, hundreds of thousands had been forcibly displaced and 70,000 buildings reduced to ruins.

CM Punjab 5-hour long visit to Multan for the convenience of the people of South Punjab

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's 5-hour long visit to Multan for the convenience of the people of South Punjab, inaugurated 5 big welfare projects worth billions of rupees. Inauguration of Children's Hospital with 100-bed state-of-the-art new emergency functional, OPD, pathology and other departments up graduation project.

Business with speed, the fourth Business Facilitation Center of Punjab was opened in Multan, three major road projects which have been stalled for 2 years have also been completed in a few months.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the 48 km long Shuja

Abad, Jalalpur Pirwala Road, 17 km long Jalalpur to Permit Road and 15 km long Basti Maluk, Shuja Abad Road.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Shujaabad Flyover Project, reviewed the progress, inspected the upgradation works of the shrine of Hazrat Shah Shams Tabriz.

The condition of Children's Hospital Multan was very bad, visited the new emergency block, I was very happy to see the best treatment facilities, Mohsin Naqvi said while talking to the media.

We are very happy for the hard work of the entire team, the results are in front of the public, Fawad Mukhtar of Fatima Fertilizer and his sister have supported Child Life.

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi indicted in Iddat case

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his wife Bushra Bibi have been indicted in Iddat case.

The case was heard in Adial jail by Civil Judge Quadratullah on Tuesday.

The judge read out the charge sheet in the presence of the PTI founder in the courtroom.

However, Bushra Bibi was not present on the occasion for which the court expressed its indignation.

The lawyer of Bushra Bibi sought immunity for her appearance while the prosecution Rizwan Abbasi opposed the immunity request.

It should be noted that Bushra Bibi and the PTI founder were not indicted in the case yesterday.

Sheikh Rashid arrested in May 9 case

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid was taken into custody outside a courtroom following the denial of his bail application in connection with the May 9 riots on Tuesday.

Rashid faces charges related to the destruction at the Metro bus station located on Sixth Road in Rawalpindi.

The ex-interior minister is being transferred to New Town Police Station.

The hearing for cases related to the riots has been postponed until January 25.

In the General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi has granted bail to the former federal minister and other accused. The case was filed against them at the RA Bazaar Police Station.



In another update today, the court also sanctioned bail for the nominated individuals, including the AML chief, in May 9 riots that spread nationwide following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder. Before this development, Sheikh Rashid and other defendants had obtained interim bails in 12 out of 13 cases from the ATC in Rawalpindi.

US Ambassador calls on Air Chief



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: U. S. Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Donald Blome called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting, both dignitaries expressed their mutual desire to elevate the training momentum between the two sides through enhanced collaboration in air force to air force mutual exercises. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of fostering a robust exchange of delegations and knowledge sharing to bolster the capabilities of both the PAF and the US Air Force. The discussion also centered around collaboration in the recently established techno parks, with a focus on leveraging technological advancements to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency. The reorganization of mutual cooperation parameters was also deliberated upon, with an aim to fortify existing ties and explore new avenues for joint ventures and strategic partnerships.

The Air Chief accentuated the cordial relations that exist between the two nations while emphasizing his steadfast determination to elevate

the existing synergistic partnership between the two key allies. Chief of the Air Staff further said, "Pakistan deeply values its robust diplomatic, economic and defence ties with the United States of America which are firmly rooted in mutual consensus concerning all important matters pertaining to regional peace, security and stability."

The visiting envoy lauded the commendable level of professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and acknowledged the remarkable strides made by PAF through indigenization under the current leadership. The US Ambassador also expressed his admiration for Pakistan's unwavering commitment to facilitate regional peace and stability. Both sides concurred to further optimize the existing military-to-military relationship between the two countries with specific focus on enriching training and bolstering operational competencies.

The meeting between the US Ambassador and Chief of the Air Staff manifests the deep interest and willingness on both sides to further consolidate the longstanding bilateral strategic ties into concrete and mutually rewarding defence partnership.

Pakistan-Sri Lanka agree to strengthen bilateral relations



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations through exchange of high-level visits and engagement on a wide range of issues including trade and investment. The agreement was expressed during a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister of Pakistan Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry, on the sidelines of

the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Kampala, Uganda.

FM Jilani underscored the importance that Pakistan attaches to its relations with Sri Lanka. He said Pakistan was committed to work with Sri Lanka for mutual prosperity and development. The two Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction over the strength and vitality of Pakistan-Sri Lanka bilateral relations and agreed to further strengthen these relations.

Barrister Gohar urges PTI leaders, workers to shun differences

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan urged the party leaders and workers to avoid internal differences.

He mentioned that the finalisation of candidate lists will be completed by tomorrow evening, with only a few seats pending.

The PTI will upload the lists on its

website, allowing voters to identify the candidates.

Barrister Gohar clarified that there won't be an alliance with Sheikh Rashid as in the previous election. Also, he highlighted Bilawal's participation in the elections on the PPP (parliamentarian) ticket and the GDA candidates in Karachi taking part in elections under the (N) League banner.

Islamabad International Airport records highest passenger flow in 2023

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) recorded its highest passenger flow ever in the year 2023 with a whopping six million people passing through.

According to the spokesperson Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) out of this number, domestic flights saw about 11,000 trips transporting approximately 1.5 million passengers. Similarly, international ones served around four and a half

million individuals.

The airport noted an exceptional figure of flight operations which sums up to about 31,000 movements all reflecting the day-to-day busy status it keeps running with diverse connections, he said.

He said that the surge in passenger volume underlines IIAP's pivotal role as an extensively used aviation gateway too.

It is pertinent to mention here, that the government decided to outsource Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad International Airports.