لولا یاجائے گااوراسسے پو چھاجائے گا کہ

(صحيح بخاري: حديث نمر 6538) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Kashmiris expressed strong disapproval, resentment towards India; Mushaal

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Mushaal Hussain Mulick stated that Kashmiris across the Line of Control (LoC) marked Indian Republic Day on Friday as a Black Day, expressing their strong disapproval and resentment towards India. (Report on Page 8)



Gaza's Health Ministry blames Israeli troops for deadly shooting as crowd waited for aid

Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses said Israeli troops ope

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rajab-ul-Murajjab 15, Saturday, January 27, 2024



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(a) @daily spokesman



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Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) hold a banner during protest as they observe Indian Republic Day as Black Day during an anti-Indian protest in front of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Federal Capital, to show their solidarity with people of Indian-administered Kashmir.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Feb 8 election to bring political stability: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that the general election on February 8 would bring political stability in the country.

The prime minister, in an interview with a private television channel, said after the elections. the new government would work to achieve political and econom-

He said his government successfully achieved most of the targets set by it and a white paper would be issued to enlist those

"The biggest challenges were economic issues," he said, adding the next government would have to work with the International Monetary Fund and bring reforms in the taxation system to take the economy forward.

He said the government carried forward the process of privatisation of state-owned entities, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The process of privatisation was almost complete,

The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) led the effort to sign \$ 25 billion worth of memorandums of understanding with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The SIFC was formed by the previous government after enactment of a law in the Parliament, he recalled.

He said the social media would be regulated and some people would have to stop the wrong use of the medium.



The previous governments worked to control negative aspects of the social media and in future a "national firewall" through use of technology would be created to subdue the negative tendencies,

He said May 9 was an attack on the concept of the State of Pakistan and from the very start he was very

the incidents.

However, the whole of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could not be kept away from Pakistani politics, he said, adding only some specific people of the PTI were involved in the incidents of May 9.

He clarified that his government did not target any political party. He remarked that undermining social order created anarchy which was not acceptable in any society.

"Social order is the guarantor of political order," he added.

PM Kakar said the political parties needed to democratise themselves and decrease influence of individuals.

The Supreme Court's decision on the intra-party elections of PTI was a welcome step and would critical of the elements involved in increase the opportunities for

politicians from the middle class to make a mark on the political landscape, he opined.

He said veteran politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman undertook a private visit to Afghanistan and the State of Pakistan was not involved in it, however, the Foreign Office did brief him on the situation in the neighbouring country.

He said the citizens of neighbouring, countries including Afghanistan had to observe immigration laws of Pakistan as was

done all over the world. He said Iran's attack on Pakistani soil was absolutely wrong and Pakistan responded appropriately to the aggression. "We were shocked by the attack of Iran. We were not expecting this."

Both sides had agreed to the need for de-escalation, he added.

Kashmiris observe Black Day on India's 'Republic Day'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris across the Line of Control and world over observed Indian Republic Day, on January 26. as Black Day to protest against continued denial by India of their right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

In Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK), the day was marked by complete strike whereas protest rallies and demonstrations were held in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan and world-over. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) had given call for observing the Black Day and was supported by other freedom-loving organizations and leaders.

In IIOJK, the Indian authorities had turned the whole territory into military garrison and had intensified checking and frisking in Srinagar city and other parts of the valley. In and play its role in stopping

Chapter) staged a protest in front of the Indian High Commission. The protest was also joined by heads and leaders of various political parties of AJK. Speaking on the occasion, the speakers said India had no right to celebrate its Republic Day in IIOJK, which it had occupied against Kashmiris' will. APHC-AJK Convener, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, while speaking on the occasion said India had been using brutal tactics to suppress the Kashmiris' freedom sentiment but miserably failed in its nefarious designs. The protesters were holding black flags and banners and placards with slogans against India and in favour of Kashmir's freedom from Indian occupation.

Protest rallies were also carried out in Muzaffarabad and other cities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to mark the day as Black Day. The protesters demanded the world community to break the criminal silence Islamabad, the APHC (AJK Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

Pakistan 'seeks' rollover of \$2bln loan from China

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has 'sought' rollover of \$2 billion loan from China, as the term for safe deposit is expiring on March 23.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a letter penned to his Chinese counterpart, requested a rollover of a \$2bln loan for a year.

Pakistan has formally requested China to rollover its loan, which is expiring on March 23, on the same terms and conditions, the sources

They further said Pakistan's finance ministry is in contact with the Chinese officials for timely loan rollover. Islamabad is confident of getting the rollover facility from China.

Kakar's letter also appreciated the steps of the Chinese government in helping Pakistan ease the burden of foreign

It is to be noted that Paki-



its of \$4 billion from China to address the balance of payments issue.

On January 17, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rolled over \$2 billion for one year to Pakistan.

The development came after Islamabad 'requested' the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the rollover of \$2 billion loan, which was getting mature in the current month of January.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar penned a letter to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, seeking rollover of

PTA revenue $surges \ to \ Rs$ 850b; access to cellular services reaches 90pc: PM told

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) Major General (Retd) Hafeezur Rehman on Friday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar here.

In the meeting, the PTA chairman presented to the prime minister the annual report 2023 of the Author

The prime minister was informed that the PTA's revenue increased by 17 percent to Rs 850 billion comparing the last year while the access to cellular services in the country had reached 90 percent.

The PTA chief said that the number of cellular consumers had touched 192 million and highspeed broadband users reached 130 million during 2023.

ICJ directs Israel to prevent 'acts of genocide' in Gaza, fails to order ceasefire

THE HAGUE: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Friday ordered Israel to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza and do more to help civilians, although it stopped short of ordering a ceasefire as requested by South Africa.

South Africa brought the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) earlier this month, asking it to grant emergency measures to halt the fighting, which has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians.

It accused Israel of stateled genocide in its offensive, began after Palestinian group Hamas stormed into Israel killing 1,200 and kidnapping more than 240. Israel sought to have the case thrown out.

In Friday's ruling, the judges said Israel must take all measures within its power to prevent its troops from committing genocide, punish and must take steps



to improve the humanitarian situation. Israel must take "immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Pales-

tinians," the court said. While the ICJ did not order a ceasefire, it said it would not throw out the genocide case, ruling that the Palestinians appeared to be a protected group under the 1948 Genocide Convention. It did not decide the merits of the genocide alle-

Over two days of hear-

ings earlier this month in the gilded hall of the Peace Palace, where the ICJ sits, lawyers from both sides battled it over the interpretation of this Convention. South Africa urged the

court to order Israel to "immediately suspend" its military operations in Gaza and allow humanitarian aid to reach the civilians there. Israel has called South

Africa's allegations false and "grossly distorted", and said it makes the utmost efforts to avoid civilian casualties.

The question now is whether the court's rulings will be obeyed. Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu has already hinted Israel would not abide by any ruling saying "no one will stop us", not even a verdict in The Hague. But experts believe that aside from the significant symbolic impact of the ruling, there could be tangible consequences on the ground.

"It makes it much harder for other states to continue to support Israel in the face of a neutral third party finding there is a risk of genocide," said Juliette McIninternational law expert from the University of South Australia.

"States may withdraw military or other support for Israel in order to avoid this," she added. At least 26,083 Palestin-

ians, around 70 percent of them women, young children and adolescents, have been killed in the Gaza Strip in Israeli bombardments and ground offensive since then, according to the Hamas government's health ministry.

China firmly opposes double standards on counterterrorism: Wang Wenbin Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China firmly opposes double standards on counter-terrorism and stands ready to step up cooperation with other countries and jointly combat all forms of terrorism, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday. Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily press briefing in response to a question regarding evidences of Indian support to terrorist forces in some areas of Pakistan such as Balochistan prov-

He said that terrorism was the common enemy of mankind, adding "China firmly opposes double standards on counter-terrorism. Such practices will only backfire." "China stands ready to step up cooperation with other countries and jointly combat all forms of terrorism," he added.

Ambassadors of Iran, Pakistan exchange greetings on return

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani and Iranian diplomats on Friday greeted each other on the return of their countries' ambassadors to the respective embassies.

Additional Foreign Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rahim Hayat Qureshi in a post on X expressed his delight on the return of the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan.

He said, "Excellency Iranian ambassador we here in Pakistan are delighted with your arrival back at your second home. Our fraternal relations will go from strength to strength. Grateful for the constructive role played by the two governments and their diplomats." Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam in a post on X expressed pleasure on the return of Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran Muhammad Mudassir he said, "Pleased to hear that ambas-



sador Mudassir arrived in his second home in Tehran. I am on my way back to Islamabad. My special appreciation goes to the governments of Iran and Pakistan and diplomats Seyed Rasoul Mousavi and Rahim Hayat for their deft and tactful diplomacy."

Ambassador Mudassir in his post said, "In conformity with the sincere & good wishes of Pakistan's leadership, I am en route to Tehran. Ever more determined to work for a more robust, stronger & peace-loving Pakistan. Strong Pakistan & Iran are critical for the region & to promote historic people-to-people ties. Time to turn a new leaf."

№ Election Campaign 2024

Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto address to the public gathering in Multan

Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto public gathering of the Party in Multan expressed his graticoming out in huge numbers and proving that the city supports the

Chairman Bilawal said that the Jiyalas of Multan have supported the party through adversities. From February 8, there will be a new beginning and the tough times will come to an end. Pakistan is currently facing unprecedented challenges, and inflation, poverty and unemployment are on the rise. Simultaneously, terrorists are again conspiring against the country and trying to render the sacrifices of our policemen and soldiers redundant. There is also a societal crisis in our try, but coming to power for the

have changed politics to a means of exacting revenge and settling personal scores. This has divided entire societies, institutions and families. The PPP resolves Zardari addressing a mammoth to bury the politics of hatred and division. The Party will unify the country and combat the tude to the Jiyalas of Multan for challenges faced by the people, including the economic quagmire and the security situation. The PPP will form a modern, powerful and progressive Paki-

> Chairman Bilawal said that he is the sole politician who has been touring the country for many months, ranging from KP to Balochistan. The PPP is the only party that is looking towards the people and believes that they are the source of power. With the votes of the people, the people will form a government that serves them. The rest of the political parties do not care for the problems faced by the coun-



the country, harming the economy but are pleased just because they get to sit on the seat of the PM for the fourth time. Chairman Bilawal said that he is not contesting the election by resorting to violence or hate.

The PPP resolves to not only increase wages, but double them within five years. The Party also resolves to provide 300 units nation. Traditional politicians fourth time. They are burning of electricity free-of-cost to the

deserving citizens of the country through solar power. The PPP aims to construct three million houses for the people all over the country, and give ownership to the women of the households. The Jiyalas should convey to the people that the PPP government is resolving to regularise temporary houses while giving ownerthe women of Waseb, Chair-

man Bilawal said that he wishes to serve the women of the nation as a son. The PPP plans to not only expand the revolutionary Benazir Income Support insurance and financial assis-Programme but also provide interest-free loans to the women of the country so that they can February 8. For the youth, the gain financial independence and PPP aspires to initiate the Youth them.no-confidence successful. contribute to the economy of the ship to the women. Addressing country, Addressing the farmers be dealt with and the youngsters to make the PPP triumphant so and labourers of South Punjab, are equipped with all the neces-

Chairman Bilawal said that he is aiming to provide the 'Benazir Kissan Card' and the 'Benazir Mazdoor Card', to provide crop PPP achieved its aim. The PPP tance to all small farmers, and social security to labourers after Card' so that unemployment can

sary skills they need, along with financial assistance.

Chairman PPP said that if the people do not waste their vote by opting for independent candidates, and decide that they will stop the lion in its path, then the country will prosper. The country should stamp the symbol of the arrow to hunt the lion and establish a government of the people. Chairman PPP said that when given the opportunity, the CM Punjab will be from South Punjab while he himself serves the people as their PM.

In the Senate elections, the PPP had resolved to make Yousaf Raza Gillani a senator. This was received with speculation but the also made the no-confidence successful. On February 8, the people have to make the PPP triumphant so that it can serve On February 8, the people have that it can serve them.

Wonderful

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Jinnah Avenue in evening hours in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Chaudhary Razzaq launches food package for 1055 poor, destitute families

MUZAFFARABAD: With the efforts of Chief Administrator Zakat and Ushar Chaudhary Mohammad Razzaq, with the support of Hamza Foundation and Danish Muslim Aid, distributed food packages to the poor, destitute, disabled, widowed, destitute, and deserving families throughout Azad Kashmir. Started work. In this regard, with the support of the local Zakat Committee, the list of beneficiaries has been completed and referred to the Foundation. Based on which, a total of 258 beneficiaries in Neelum district, including 120 women and 80 men, in Hattian district, a total of 200 beneficiaries, including 95 men and 105 women, in Muzaffarabad district, a total of 400 families, including 300 women and 100 men, in Haveli district, 120



women and 80 men out of 200 families are eligible. The distribution of the food package has been completed and the goods include 20 kg of flour, 15 kg of basmati rice, 5 kg of sugar, 5 kg of green leafy vegetables, 5 kg of dal, 5 kg of turmeric, chili and kulcha. Till this time, the work of distribution of food package in 1055 families has been

families across Azad Kashmir. Due to drought in Azad Kashmir, the people, especially the poor, are suffering from severe financial problems. Because the has ended due to climate change and it has become impossible for poor people

completed and efforts are going on to to live. Due to this, the Zakat Departget food package in more deserving ment is trying to reduce their difficulties by providing financial assistance and food packages to the poor at this time with the cooperation of NGOs. Taking all possible steps for The poor production of agricultural commodities and needy are an important part of our society. Service to suffering humanity

Federal Govt returned 1-5 billion rupees fund issued for compensation of SW demolished houses

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Revealed in official documents that the federal government has returned the one and a half billion fund released for the compensation of the houses destroyed as a result of the operation Rah-e-Nijat in Upper South Waziristan.

On June 8, 2023, the federal government released 3 billion rupees for the compensation of the houses destroyed by Operation Rah-e-Nijat in Upper South Waziristan, and to distribute among the merchants/traders of Miranshah Bazar, which were destroyed as a result of Oper-



In North Waziristan, one and a half billion rupees have reached the Deputy Commissioner's account in October 2023 and the process of distriation Zarb-e-Azab in North bution is going on.

Sources said, while the South Waziristan Upper fund was transferred to the development account instead of the current account due to the negligence

Jamaluddin, Maulana

of the authorities and officials.

account, so the funds were

National Assembly of South Waziristan, also met caretaker Prime Minister Anwar Ul Haq tribal districts during the last Kakar to transfer the funds to the current account and the Prime Minister had also issued instructions for immediate transfer of funds. The decision was taken by

the Ministry of Planning and Development on December 18 that since the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government did not use the said funds on time and there are no rules for transferis 17 billion. ring funds from the development account to the current

withdrawn. The Ministry of Planning and Development has decided

the former member of the that until the 107 billion rupees issued for the rehabilitation of the victims and affectess in the 6 years, losses of operations and improvement of security is not audited and till then funds will not be released for the compensation of houses in South Waziristan.

According to the official data, 53 thousand families of South Waziristan have not been given compensation for the damaged houses, the total cost of which

It should be noted that 100% of the people of Upper South Waziristan had become IDPs/TDPs due to the Operation Rah-e-Nijat conducted

Alibaba.com Brings E-commerce Expertise to 9th Pakistan Mega Leather Show

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce, today announced its participation in the 9th Pakistan Mega Leather Show, 2024, taking place in Lahore from January 26 to 28. This three-day event is an opportunity for local exporters, suppliers, manufacturers and small businesses to broaden their reach in the international market.

Pakistan's leather industry holds significant importance to the country, being the second-largest export-oriented manufacturing sector and ranking third in terms of the country's overall exports. Alibaba.com has been at the forefront of bringing its experience and expertise to the Pakistani market with the goal of unlocking new avenues of growth for local businesses. The platform is committed to providing Pakistani businesses in the leather industry with essential knowledge and tools with which they can effectively initiate their journey in global e-commerce export.

Acquitted man thrashed by police outside court in Sujawal

腾 Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: Few officials of Sujawal police mercilessly thrashed a person identified as Naeem Lontgiyo outside the session court after he was acquitted in a case by a local judicial Magistrates Court on Friday. Assistant Sub Inspector Zaffar Zaur, ASI Allah Rakhiyo, ASI Qadir Phnwar, Police Constable and police Constable Sarfaraz attempted to pick him up again with the intention of lodging another false FIR but he resisted following which the unruly police personals started thrashing him. They kept beating him until some local lawyers intercepted non the of the passers by dared to intervene following the fear of police. Rather they filmed a video of the episode and put it on social media. The victim was brought back to the court premises where he received medical treatment. Source revealed that later he filed a petition before the Sessions Court for lodgment of the FIR against police officials involved in the episode.

Blue Fair will be held in February: Mehnaz Amir Sheikh

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: President of Multan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mehnaz Amir sheikh has said that the annual event of Women Chamber of Commerce Blue Fair will be held in February which is an important opportunity for women entrepreneurs of Pakistan to promote their products through this platform. In a statement released to the media, he will be able to introduceSaid that we also hope that the annual Blue Fair



will be held on February 11.12. They will pray or see, he said, coming from the two-day Blue FairIt will be the best shopping opportunity for Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr as big brands and companies will also have their stalls and products made by women entrepreneurs will

Punjab government to support Sindh non-profit in its quest to educate Pujnab children

№ PPA

LAHORE: The Punjab government will extend its fullest support to a Sindh-based leading education sector non-profit whenever it decides to extend its schooling service to Pujnab for educating children from the deprived and rural areas.

The solemn assurance to this effect was extended by Punjab Health Minister, Prof Dr Javed Akram, as he spoke as the chief guest at a ceremony organised by the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) on the eve of International Day of Education.

On the occasion, leading Lahore-based businessmen and industrialists lent support to the GCT's charitable drive to enrol a total of 100,000 out-of-school children in Sindh by constructing 250 schools in backward and remote areas of the province.

Dr Akram invited the GCT to extend its charitable work in the education sector to Punjab to enrol out-of-school children in the province. "Punjab government is fully available and will provide whatever support the GCT needs to establish its schools in rural and deprived areas of the province whether in the form of land, funding, or availability of trained teachers," he said.

Dr Shehla Javed Akram, the wife of the Punjab Health Minister who herself excelled as a woman entrepreneur, urged the charities in the education sector to strive hard to educate girls from deserving families

to promote the cause of woman empowerment. GCT CEO, Zahid Saeed, expressed gratitude to the business community for extending uninterrupted support to the campaign of his non-profit to enrol out-of-school children in Sindh





15º – 23º Clear

Namaz	Timings
Fajr	5:42 am
Zohr	12:20 pm
Asr	3:54 pm
Maghrib	5:32 pm
Isha	6:58 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police

Station	15	
Islamabad		922259
Rawalpindi	92	70601-20

ENOUIRY

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

HOCDITALC

позен	IALS
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Chifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	 9208301-04
Met Office	 . 9250360-6

IEEE COMSOC honors outstanding volunteers in Lahore Chapter for 2023

Tahir Amin Malik

In a commendable gesture of recognition and appreciation, the IEEE Communications Society (COMSOC) Lahore Chapter Chair Mr. Kashif Bashir presented prestigious appreciation awards to its outstanding volunteers of 2023. This notable event took place during the IEEE Lahore Section annual general meeting, held at the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST NU) Lahore, or January 20, 2024. These awards, a testament to the dedication and contributions of these volunteers, were personally signed by the President of IEEE COMSOC USA, Prof. Dr.

Sherman. Among the esteemed awardees were individuals who have shown exceptional commitment to the growth and success of COMSOC Lahore Chapter. These included Prof. Dr. Wagar Mahmood, Mr. Kashif Bashir, Dr. Yasir Saleem, Dr. Sajid Mahmood, Dr. Majid Hussain, Muhammad Hamza Ihtisham, Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Shahid Zulfigar and Muhammad Rizwan. Each of these individuals has played a pivotal role in advancing the chapter's objectives and has been instrumental in fostering a culture of innovation and technical excellence within the community.

The ceremony, marked by its prestigious significance, highlighted the vital role volunteers play in the success of organizations like IEEE COMSOC.

COMSTECH Organizes OIC SESAME **Users Meeting**

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH inaugurated OIC SESAME Users 2-day Meeting on Friday. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH welcomed the participants of the meeting. Prof. Choudhary said that the SESA-ME (Synchrotron Light for Experimental Science in Middle East) is the most important and most expensive scientific facility available in the entire developing region. He said that SESAME is an elaborate, expensive and impactful facility in the OIC region. He expressed thanks to the government of Jordan hosting this facility. He said that SESAME has the potential to transform the entire scientific landscape of the Middle East and OIC region for good.

Prof. Choudhary said that by using this huge infrastructure, researchers can perform experiments not only in a much better, precise and efficient manner but they can conduct scientific studies which are not possible without such facility. He said that OIC-COMSTECH is pleased to work with SESAME and its users to facilitate its use in the least developed member states. Prof. Choudhary mentioned that we are discussing the possibility of hold-



ing three SESAME users meetings in Nigeria for Anglophone Africa, Senegal for Francophone Africa, and Kazakhstan for Central Asia. Prof. Choudhary mentioned that the COMSTECH offered 25 travel grants annually to SESAME

users from LDC OIC countries. The Ambassador of Jordan, H. E. Dr. Maen Khreasat was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session. He said that our collective focus is on the future on

advancing our understanding of the scientific and technical marvels within the domain of synchrotron beamlines and their diverse applications. He said that SESAME stands as a beacon for collaboration, bringing together minds from across the OIC member states to push the boundaries of knowledge and

Dr. Abdur Noor Sekendi, Director General of Science and Technology of the economic impact of the SESAME.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation Saudi Arabia was the guest of honor. He appreciated the organization of the SESAME Users Meeting by COMS-

Prof. Dr. Samar Hasnain, UK's representative on the SESAME Council, said in his lecture that SESAME has brought scientific development, economic prosperity and people together. He shared

FFC announces financial results for 2023; Sets healthy growth trend over last year

RAWALPINDI: The Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has

announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2023

Rupee also continued its downward trajectory against US dollar, result-

ing in higher operating and financing costs of the company. The retro-

spective increase in Super Tax levy led to higher effective tax rate of 45%

compared to 40% last year, further pressurizing company profitability.

by 75%, however, the company only passed on a partial impact in urea

price during 2023, to offer urea at most economical rates to the farmers. The urea selling prices exhibited significant variations within the ferti-

lizer industry, with FFC offering urea at lower selling prices by around Rs 200-500 per bag during most part of the year. Sona urea prices towards

the close of 2023 stood at around Rs 3,400 per bag in contrast to inter-

FFC ensured fertilizer supply across the country through its nationwide

network of warehouses and dealers, and also to avoid unscrupulous prac-

tices by some elements through equitable fertilizer distribution and real

time monitoring fertilizer shipments and dealer stock. Dealerships were

sensitized to market fertilizers at FFC suggested rates, while the farmers

were also made aware to purchase product through registered dealers at

prescribed rates. To further ease out urea availability and pricing issues

for the farmers, the Company along with the Industry has coordinated

a plan with Government to import urea and distribute it during 2024.

higher than last year while maintaining high reliability factors and opti-

build up reserves for the capital-intensive and foreign exchange denom-

inated nodal compression project in addition to essential maintenance

of plants at world class level. The Company is about to kick off phase

II of the critical Nodal Compression Project with capital outlay of over

Urea production stood at an outstanding 2,521 thousand tonnes, 5%

The profitability for 2023 barely covers the Company's requirement to

national prices hovering around Rs 6,200 per bag.

mum standards of Health, Safety and Environment.

The gas prices for the fertilizer sector were also increased significantly

The year 2023 faced high inflation and interest rates while the Pak

in its board of directors (BoDs) meeting held on January 26, 2024.

He lamented that we unfortunately are largely consumers of knowledge rather than the creator of knowledge.

Prof. Dr. Atef Elkadime, Administrative Director, SESAME was keynote speaker. He gave a comprehensive presentation on the establishment, history. achievements and the future plans of the SESAME. He invited all to visit SESAME and get benefit from this facility for their research work.

Republic Day

ISLAMABAD: Charge d'Affaires of Indian Embassy to Pakistan Geetika Srivastava, Dean of Diplomatic Crops CARs Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan N Movlamov and others cutting the cake on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day of India, at a local hotel in Federal Capital



'NAYAB' the Film's Premiere Night Opens with a Bang in Karachi

KARACHI: Prepare to be captivated by the moving tale of 'Navab' - a cinematic experience that revolves around the lives of Nayab and Akber, a brother-sister duo faced with societal restraints while pursuing their dreams. 'Nayab' the film starring Yumna Zaidi, Usama Khan and M. Fawad Khan, Noreen Gulwani for the first time in a film is a touching coming-of-age story set in the heart of Karachi, premiered at an exclusive screening held

"Nayab is a project very close to my heart and we have poured our best efforts into making this film. I'm looking forward to bringing it before the world and hope my fans and all of you



the 'Nayab' star Yumna Zaidi while speaking to the media.

"I believe that the key to the fall in love with their authenticaudiences' hearts lies in making them believe that what unfolds on the screen is a reflection of their own lives. So, our characlove it as much as I do", stated ters come to life in a way that ly worked to bring a cinemat- Ali, and the 'Nayab' team.

audiences will not only feel they

Ali, the director of 'Nayab'. "This film is very close to my heart as we have tireless-

know them intimately but also

ity", commented Umair Nasir

ic masterpiece to you, which we hope will bring about the revival of Pakistani cinema and push the industry towards new heights", said Agnes Kenney, the CEO of Kenneyz Group while speaking on the occasion.

The stellar premiere was attended by a string of notable names including directors Asim Raza, Nadeem Baig, Saqib Malik, Nabeel Qureshi, Fizza Ali Meerza, Wajahat Rauf & Shazia Wajahat, actors Humavun Saeed, Azaan Sami Khan, Asif Raza Mir, Umer Alam, Komal Meer, Ayaz Khan, and many more, along with the stellar cast: Yumna Zaidi, Usama Khan, M. Fawad Khan, Adnan Siddiqui, Ehteshamuddin, Noreen Gulwani, Faryal Mehmood, Shaheera Albasit, renowned director Umair Nasir

USD 100 million Stephanie Urchick lauds humanitarian efforts of Rotary Pakistan in multiple areas of service

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: A press conference was hosted by the Rotary International leadership at a local hotel in Islamabad. The distinguished dignitaries included Rotary International President Elect 2024-25 Ms. Stephanie Urchick and her Aide Mr. Thomas Gump. They were accompanied by senior Rotary Pakistan leaders, Mr. Faiz Kidwai (Rotary International Director), Mr. Masrur Scheik (District Governor of Rotary District 3272) and Mr. Imran Ghaznavi (AR PIC).

Mr. Faiz Kidwai spoke about the humanitarian aims of Rotary International, and how the groundbreaking Rotary Pakistan Smart Villages project is engaged at the grassroots level in Pakistan to transform the poorest of communities, bring development to small towns and villages, and empower their residents. The Rotary Pakistan Smart Villages project is not only providing essentials such as homes and shelters, but has longterm and far-reaching goals, such as infrastructure, education and health. Water treatment plants, kitchen gardens, and solar-generated electricity has already been brought to these villages. Trainings to provide vocational and financial management skills are also provided at the Smart Villages in order to foster entrepreneurship and move towards de-urbanization in Pakistan. 20 of these Rotary Pakistan Smart Villages are to be completed by June 2024, after which this project will be expanded all over Pakistan based on the needs of the most deserving communities.

Rotary International President Elect Stephanie Urchick lauded Rotary Pakistan's humanitarian projects, particularly Smart Villages, and how it encompasses all 7 areas of humanitarian focus of Rotary International. She expressed particular admiration for the efforts of frontline polio workers in Pakistan. "Polio will be gone in Pakistan because of the commitment of polio workers," she commented. She spoke about how Rotary International has changed and adapted to the changing times, and how there is a place in Rotary for those with the heart and hands for service. Mr. Tom Gump similarly spoke about his admiration for service efforts by Rotary Pakistan, especially regarding sanitation, water treatment plants, and mobile libraries.

Bank of Khyber expands its footprint in the Capital with the Inauguration of New Branch

ISLAMABAD: Bank of Khyber, is proud to announce the inauguration of its premier Islamic banking branch at Blue Area Islamabad. With this latest addition, the bank has expanded its presence in the Capital Territory, now boasting a total of 15 branches. This expansion aims to offer customers in the region enhanced accessibility to a wide range of Islamic banking products & services.

Mr. SardarYasirIlyas Khan CEO Centaurus/President Islamabad Developers Association and Mr. Irfan Saleem Awan, Managing Director (A)/ CFO BoK, inaugurated the branch, Mr. Ali Khan Arbab, Group Head Islamic banking (A), Ms. Fauziah Mahmood, Head Marketing Divi-



sion, Mr. Shaharyar Zafar, Head Digital, Media, Analytics Deptt, Mr. Khalid Masood, Head Institutional Liability Deptt, Mr. Muhammad Zahid Khan Area Manager Islamabad, along with

other senior executives, also attended the branch inauguration.

The newly inaugurated branch brings the Bank of Khyber's compre-

hensive range of financial solutions

closer to the business community, residents&organizations in the area. The opening of this branch is a testament to the Bank's commitment in enhancing accessibility to shariah compliant bankingin the capital.

Customers visiting the branch can avail of a wide array of services, including personal banking, business banking, trade finance, and digital banking solutions. The Bank's well-trained and professional staff will be readily available to assist customers in managing their finances effectively and efficiently. As the bank continues to expand, it remains resolute in delivering stateof-the-art financial solutions while actively contributing to the advancement and prosperity of individuals, businesses, and communities across

the country.

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz. Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.

Gulshan-e-Igbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road. Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

UN slams 'chaotic' Israeli mass evacuation orders in Gaza

ass evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military to the people of Gaza continue to push them "into ever smaller areas" amid "ever-intensifying violence" violate international humanitarian law, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said Friday. The OHCHR warning came nearly four months into the war which has seen widespread Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7.

"Attacks on hospitals, schools, and other places of refuge have repeatedly displaced Palestinians into ever smaller areas, with ever-decreasing access to the essentials needed to sustain life," said Ajith Sunghay, Head of the UN Human Rights Office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. "Such a failure violates Israel's obligations under international law." Sunghay told journalists in Geneva that Israeli military's shelling had continued in areas "unilaterally designated" as "safe" including Al Mawasi in western Khan Younis. "Even after explosions were reported in Al Mawasi on 22 and 23 January, the IDF continued to order residents of western Khan Younis to move there," he maintained. That order was reissued "repeatedly" on 23, 24 and 25 January and reportedly impacted more than half a million people as well as three hospitals which have been under heavy attacks and siege - Nasser Hospital, Al Amal Hospital and the Jordanian Field Hospital – Sunghay continued. "I have very grave concerns that these chaotic and mass evacuation orders are ineffective in ensuring the safety of Palestinian civilians, instead placing them in increasingly vulnerable, dangerous, situations." Amid Israeli airstrikes and street-to-street fighting between IDF soldiers and Palestinian armed groups, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) also reiterated serious concerns for healthcare workers and patients caught up in the violence. Since war erupted in Gaza there have been 318 attacks on healthcare in the enclave causing 615 fatalities and 778 injuries, latest WHO data indicates. The violence has impacted 95 healthcare facilities and only 14 hospitals out of 36 still function – seven in the south and seven in the north. Latest data from Gaza's health authorities cited by WHO reports that more than 26,000 people have been killed, a full 75 per cent of children and women. There have been at least 60,000 registered injuries, but over 8,000 people are missing presumed dead under the rubble, said WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier. "The few functioning hospitals in Gaza are in absolutely dire circumstances," he added, noting that the hostilities had prevented access for patients and supplies many times.

Rogue India and Benevolent China - I

Qamar Bashir

Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, is a highly abhorrent and agonizing event, particularly for the Muslim community in India and globally. The event was a symbol of the neglect of secular principles in the Indian Constitution and a disregard for the religious and communal sentiments of Muslims The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the subsequent legal and political developments leading up to the temple's inauguration are a painful and humiliating chapter in the Muslim history. The Ram Temple, for many, will remain a symbol of ongoing agony and a deep sense of injustice, reflecting broader tensions and challenges in the multicultural and multi-religious fabric of Indi-

Pakistan has raised concerns in international forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations about the agonizing crime of building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, describing the event as a symbol of growing majoritarianism in India. It highlighted the event as an affront to the Muslim community and expressed apprehensions about the safety of mosques, churches and worship places of other religious minorities in India. It called upon international organizations to ensure the protection of Islamic heritage sites and uphold the rights of minorities in India.

But the list of Indian state sponsored crimes are countless not only within India, in the region and globally. It without judicial review, coupled with

Jammu & Kashmir (IIO J&K) into a large prison. It persecutes religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities with impunity. It intimidates neighboring countries, foments border disputes with almost all neighbors. It is suppressing genuine and bonafide separatist movements by use of brute force and has resorted to a global killing spree with total

India's actions in IIOJ&K particularly following the revocation of the region's special status, have drawn international scrutiny and criticism. Human rights organizations including Human Rights Watch

impunity.

(HRW) and Amnesty International (AI) have documented a range of serious rights violations in the region. These include arbitrary detentions, a communications blackout, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, alongside the suspension of internet and telecommunication services.

The reports from AI and HRW also highlight a crackdown on media and civil society, with cases of relentless interrogation of journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders, as well as arbitrary travel bans and detentions. The rampant and arbitrary use of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Public Safety Act (PSA), and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has led to pre-trial detentions and arrests

inauguration of the has reduced Indian Illegally Occupied unlawful killings lacking accountability. These developments have damaged India's reputation as a state committed to ethical practices and human rights, drawing parallels to historical instances of oppression and leading to significant international outcry.

The story does not end here, HRW and other international HR organiza-

tions have recorded mistreatment of religious minorities under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s government. They have documented horrendous Incidents of communal violence, such as the outbreak in Nuh district in Haryana,

where state retaliation against Muslim residents, including illegal property demolitions and detentions, lynching, raping and mob killing. In Manipur, inter-community violence led to deaths, displacement, and destruction of property. There are countless incidents of violence and discrimination against religious minorities, including Muslims and Christians, with some states implementing "anti-conversion" laws and others engaging in actions like property demolitions without legal authorization. The Universal Periodic Review process by the United Nations Human Rights Council has raised serious concerns over regression in human rights under the Modi government, with increased attacks and discrimination against religious minorities and marginalized communities like

The state sponsored majoritarianism in India has created wide spread discontentment amongst the populace belonging to minority groups which has given rise to over twenty five separatists and insurgency movements including the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF), Mizo National Front (MNF), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Hizbul Mujahideen, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO), Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).

Belligerent and hegemonic India does not enjoy good relations with any country of the region. It has border disputes with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which resulted in increased tensions and military buildups from both sides. The India-Nepal dispute, reignited by India's road construction in a region has become politically charged, fueling nationalist sentiments in Nepal. During Doklam Standoff (2017) Bhutan and India armies came face to face when India started building hydro electric projects to divert water which was a lifeline for Bhutan. India was ward off only when China sided Bhutan. Maldives has been wary of India involvement in its internal affairs specially India's effort to change the Islamic character of Maldives has resulted in downgrading the relations.

To be continued



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Inauguration of Ram Temple & Deceptive Election Tactics in India - II

of the Ram Mandir in place of the Babri Masjid has widened the gap between Muslims and Hindus. He remarked, "Not only are Muslim mosques at risk, but Christian churches and Sikh gurdwaras also feel insecure in the hands of extremist Hindus and Modi government officials. Modi's timing of the temple inauguration, just weeks before the elections, is seen as an attempt to secure the support of the majority Hindus, showcasing his Hindutva and extremist approach to garner

sympathy from the masses. Modi and the BJP are engaging in misinformation by crafting a self-fabricated narrative about the post-Pulwama attack. The former High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ajay Bisaria, has disclosed many secrets in his latest book, 'Anger Management.' According to the revela-

tions, India had informed Pakistan about the readiness of its missiles. In fear of an imminent Indian missile attack, the Prime Minister of Pakistan urgently sought communication with PM Modi to prevent a full-blown military crisis. The call was facilitated by then-Pakistani High Commissioner Sohail Mehmood, who contacted his counterpart in Delhi. These events unfolded a day after the Balakot airstrikes carried out by the IAF on terror hideouts in Pakistan on February 26, 2019. in retaliation for a terrorist attack on Indian forces in Pulwama on February 14, 2019. Envoys from the US and UK in Delhi relayed that Pakistan was prepared to de-escalate the situation and address India's concerns about terrorism based on the information provided in India's dossier. PM Modi, during a campaign speech, confirmed that it would have been a 'Qatal ki Raat' if Abhinandan had not been returned. The revelation of this book during India's election period raises concerns about the fabricated and misleading nature of this story, highlighting the potentially malicious intentions of Modi and the BJP in seeking support from

hahid lamented that the construction falsehoods, and numerous instances support this limits the scope for internal democracy, potenclaim. In an attempt to garner the sympathies of the Hindu majority, they have consistently lied about Pakistan, using threats against our country. After the Pulwama attack in 2019, Modi stated, "The security forces have been given complete freedom, and the blood of the people is boiling. Our neighboring country, isolated internationally, believes such terror attacks can destabilize us, but their plans will not materialize." Amit Shah asserted after the Balakot airstrikes in 2019, "The prime minis-

ter has made it clear that from now on, we will not let terrorists and their sponsors sleep in peace. We will take the strictest possible action against them." On the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, he declared, "The decision to revoke Article 370 was a historic move that would integrate Jammu and Kashmir completely into India.

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin are both integral parts of India." Rahul Gandhi, commenting on the Balakot airstrikes, stated, "I have a clear message for Pakistan that terror attacks like Pulwama are not going to weaken India's resolve but strengthen it. Our Prime Minister is not going to be shaken by your threats." On the abrogation of Article 370, he remarked, "National integration isn't furthered by unilaterally tearing apart J&K, imprisoning elected representatives, and violating our Constitution. This nation is made by its people, not plots of land." Sushma Swaraj, during the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, asserted, "We do not need lessons on democracy and human rights from a country whose own situation is charitably described as a failed state." On another occasion, she stated, "India does not need to fight against Pakistan. Pakistan is a terrorist state, and it should fight against terrorism. This is not India's battle but Pakistan's.

The BJP exhibits several weaknesses, one of which is the concentration of power within the central leadership, particularly around Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party's national Indian politicians have a knack for spreading president. This overemphasis on centralization

tially stifling dissent and sidelining emerging leaders. Despite traditionally criticizing other parties for dynastic politics, the BJP has not been entirely immune to familial political legacies, raising concerns about the party's commitment to promoting meritocracy over dynastic considerations. Factionalism within the BJP has become apparent, with differences in ideological interpretation, leadership preferences, and regional interests leading to internal divisions. Effectively managing these factions and ensuring a united front has proven challenging for the party's leadership.

The BJP has faced criticism for its economic management, particularly in relation to issues such as unemployment, economic slowdowns, and the impact of certain policy decisions. While the party claims to have undertaken economic reforms, weaknesses in effective communication and implementation have been evident. The RJP's emphasis on identity politics, especially along religious lines, can contribute to social polarization, with accusations of favoritism toward certain religious or social groups hindering the creation of an inclusive national narrative.

Handling farmer protests, particularly in the context of contentious agricultural reforms, exposed vulnerabilities in the BJP's approach to addressing widespread concerns. The perceived disconnect between the party's leadership and the concerns of the farming community highlighted the need for more inclusive decision-making processes. Challenges in effectively communicating policies and initiatives to the public have also been evident, with clear and transparent communication essential for garnering public support and countering opposition narratives. Despite some electoral successes, critiques of the BJP's election strategies have emerged, with a focus on polarizing issues overshadowing substantive policy discussions and contributing to a divisive political climate. The party and Modi have been accused of hiding their weaknesses by promoting misleading narratives and running anti-Muslim and anti-minorities campaigns.

To be continued

'Neither snow nor rain, January wears a cloak of sadness'

Sher Maiam

he impacts of climate change have again given the birth to a variety of environmental hit in both this neighbor countries India and Pakistan. Due to Climate change this time both Pakistan and India are experiencing dry winters which causes many disease. The impacts of the climate change has not only effected the health but also the economy, tourism and environment of the both countries. According to the Pakistan Climate change Director Gernal Gulam Rasul climate change is reason of El Niño causes. Because of this El Niño cause the sea water temperature effects There, due to this, there is a dry winter and a decrease in rain in the plains and there is no snowfall in the winter season in the hilly areas.

Pakistan is rich in its tourist destinations offering a diverse range of choices for different types of tourists. The country is home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world, has innumerable locations of scenic beauty, world's highest mountains, many religious and historic places, unique arts and crafts and a rich culture and heritage. In 2018, the British Backer society ranked Pakistan as the world's top adventure destination and again in 2023 Pakistan has been declared as the best tourist destination for the outgoing year 2023.

Pakistan and India, where these tourist places that seem to be populated these days are lying deserted. Previous January almost one lakh tourists had visited the Administered Kashmir but this year, this number has reduced by half. The northern areas of Pakistan especially the disputed region Gilgit -Baltistan which is famous for its beautiful mountains and glacier's are drastically melting due to Climate change. In this January in Gilgit-Baltistan locals are very disappointed because of neither rain nor snow.

The impacts of climate change on economy is unprecedented. The economic impact of climate change has consistently demonstrated the vulnerability of market sectors such as sity and he can be reached at shermajam00@ agriculture, coastal resources, energy, forestry, gmail.com

tourism, and water. Between 1992 and 2021, according to the World Bank Group, climateand weather-related disasters in Pakistan resulted in a total of US\$29.3 billion of economic losses (inflation-adjusted to 2021 US dollars) from damage to property, crops, and livestock, equivalent to 11.1% of 2020 GDP. The northern regions of Pakistan economic sources are tourism and in this year there's mo single rain and snow in these areas and it's very alarming for Pakistan.

Pakistan is a low-middle-income country with a primarily agrarian economy. For food and nutrition security, the country significantly relies on its climate-sensitive land, summary, and forest resources. Irrigation from the glacier-fed River Indus and its tributaries supports about 90 percent of farmland. Glacier melt has accelerated due to climate change, increasing the likelihood of glacier lake outpouring floods. Rapid glacier melt, temperature rise, and erratic weather patterns threaten the River Indus, impacting agriculture and livelihoods. With 39% in poverty, this jeopardizes health and access to healthcare. Smog is another major issue in Pakistan's industrialized eastern Punjab region, where the provincial capital, Lahore, is clogged with smoke throughout the winter months. Authorities said they are working to solve the problem, which involves thousands of brick kilns.

Conclusion:

In summary, the dry winter and environmental impacts of climate change have adversely affected both India and Pakistan. The absence of traditional winter elements like snow and rain has not only taken a toll on health economy, and tourism to the environment, but the consequences are far-reaching. Urgent collaboration is needed to address the challenges, emphasizing sustainable practices, resilient infrastructure, and global cooperation. The decline in tourism and economic losses underscore the critical need for immediate action to preserve the cultural and natural heritage of these nations and build a more resilient future.

Writer is Studying at Quiad e Azam Univer-

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ACCA Pakistan Leadership Conference 2024: Shaping a bold future for Pakistan

№ PPA

LAHORE: The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), successfully hosted its Pakistan Leadership Conference 2024 in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad. Themed "Being Bold: Managing Multiple Priorities - Climate, Talent, and Tech," the conference gathered industry leaders, government officials, and finance professionals to address today's dynamic business world.

ACCA Director-Asia Pacific, Mr. Pulkit Abrol, graced all the event as a keynote speaker Addressing the attendees, Mr Abrol highlighted the critical role of accountants in today's dynamic and transformative world, as they are more than fiscal guardians; they are economic innovators. He

heading initiatives in Pakistan to for the Government of Pakistan nurture accounting professionals who are tech-savvy, environmentally conscious, and adept at navigating the global business landscape.

The conference addressed key topics like integrative CFO thinking, generative AI's impact on finance, and strategies for a low-carbon economy. These discussions reflect ACCA Pakistan's strategy to bolster the accountancy profession amidst changing economic and technological landscapes

Chief guest at the conference in Islamabad was Akif Saeed, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, while in Lahore, Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder and Chairman of Akhuwat, also Chairperson of Benaalso said "At ACCA, we're spear- zir Income Support Programme

graced the conference as Guest

Among speakers & Panelist were Pulkit Abrol, Regional Director, Asia Pacific, ACCA, Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, Muhammad Awais, Partner, EY Ford Rhodes, Sajjad Syed, Chairman, Excellence Delivered (ExD) Group, Fatima Asad-Said, CEO and Board Member, Abacus Consulting, Toima Asghar, Group CHRO, Systems Ltd., Muhammad Aurangzeb, President & CEO, Habib Bank Limited, Nasim Beg, Chief Executive, Arif Habib, Ehsan Malik, CEO, Pakistan Business Council, Aisha Humera Moriani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of IT & Telecom, Kabeer Naqvi, FCCA, Chairman, Pakistan Microfinance Network, Haaris M. Chaudhary,



Chief Operating Officer, Mobilink Bank, Ayesha Javed, Deputy Secretary Budget, Ministry of

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Supporting Partners: ICMA Pakistan, Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), P@SHA, Punjab Information Technolo-Pakistan Business Council (PBC), Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (CERB), Pakistan Industry (LCCI), Punjab Revenue Textile Mills Limited, TSA. Our Institute of Corporate Govern- ners: Nutshell Group and KPMG.

Investment & Trade (PBIT), gy Board (PITB), CFA Society, Lahore Chamber of Commerce &

Namaz-e-Istasqa

Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries and chairman Pakistan Ullema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi offering special Dua for rain after Namaz-e-Istasqa prayer at Lahore on Friday. On the special directions of caretaker Prime Minister, today's Friday observed to offer Namaz e Istasqa.



Big tobacco caught in multibillion tax evasion

ISLAMABAD: The recent discovery of a fake cigarette manufacturing facility in the Jhangi Syedan area of Rawalpindi has raised significant concerns regarding the illicit activities of the tobacco industry. The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) addressed the broader implications of this disturbing revelation.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Countryhead of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), stated that the existence of such clandestine operations underscored the insidious tactics employed by the tobacco industry to evade regulations and profit at the expense of public health and economic stability. The production and distribution of counterfeit cigarettes represented a tactic by the tobacco industry to confuse the government and compel them to lower taxation on tobacco products. Whether taxation was lowered or not, the indus- ment measures to thwart the tobac-



try benefited, leaving the people of Paki-

Malik Imran emphasized the detrimental impact of counterfeit tobacco products on public health and the economy. He stressed the urgent need for heightened vigilance and enforce-

co industry's deceptive practices and protect the well-being of communities across Pakistan.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager at SPARC, condemned the tobacco industry for its relentless pursuit of profits at the expense of public health. He added that the discovery of the fake cigarette manufacturing facility served as a stark reminder of the urgent need for comprehensive regulatory measures and enforcement mechanisms to curb illicit activities within the tobacco industry. Dr. Dogar emphasized that this incident should not serve as an excuse to advocate for lowering tobacco taxation. Increased tobacco taxation was necessary for Pakistan. as highlighted by the World Health Organization and the World Bank. It was the government's duty to ensure that tax revenue was collected from the tobacco industry and that they were not granted any relaxation under the guise of illicit trade.

Intensive seminar on countering disinformation

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at a seminar emphasized the need for a comprehensive understanding of the global information landscape and its implications and highlighted that India had been identified as the epicenter of disinformation in 2024.

The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted a seminar titled 'Mastering Narratives: Navigating Disinformation and Shaping Perceptions for Pakistan's Future'.

The event discussed the challenges that Pakistan faces in the context of 5th countering disinformation and guard-Generation Warfare, which is characterized by the strategic use of deception and disinformation, a news release said.

The seminar commenced with opening remarks by Nida Shahid, Senior Researcher at CASS Lahore. This was followed by a keynote address by Amir Jahangir, Founder and CEO of Mishal Pakistan, who spoke about disinformation and its implications in the media

The New Paradigms of Reality in the Age of AI and Data-Amir Jahangir

University, shed light on the hostile narratives and perception-building tactics being used against Pakistan.

Amber Shamsi, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Journalism ation War. (CEJ), provided valuable insights for



ing narratives.

In his concluding remarks, CASS President Air Marshal (R) Asim Suleiman acknowledged the dangers posed by disinformation and false narratives to Pakistan's international image and security.

He emphasized the crucial role of media literacy, digital resilience, and ethical journalism in countering disinformation.

He mentioned the World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Risks Report, Dr Zeeshan Zaigham, an Assistant which positions AI-generated misinfor-Professor at Beaconhouse National mation and disinformation as the top global risk at a staggering 53 percent, and stressed the need for countermeasures. He hoped for Pakistan to not only endure but triumph in the 5th Gener-

The seminar highlighted various

crucial points. It was also emphasized that in the technologically-driven era, nations that empower their citizens with a robust digital presence wield the transformative power to influence the global landscape. Moreover, the need for Pakistan to comprehensively reassess its national security priorities in light of identified challenges was

The emphasis was on creating a tailored strategy, leveraging Pakistan's strengths while effectively addressing vulnerabilities posed by disinformation tactics by adversaries.

The seminar concluded with a unanimous call for proactive policy decisions in the face of the changing digital landscape. "This merits media mastery and adaptability as Pakistan charts its course in this challenging era," the news

Customs unite against illicit trade with International Customs Day highlight at Wagah Border



Bureau Report

LAHORE: In a significant initiative, the World Customs Organization (WCO) has declared 2024 as a dedicated year for "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose." This global effort aims to spotlight the collaborative endeavors of WCO Members in this domain. The International Customs Day celebration at Wagah Border marked a pivotal moment, featuring Akhuwat CEO Amjad Saqib as the Chief Guest.

The ceremony held at the Wagah Border was not merely a symbolic event; it saw the combustion of confis-

Among the incinerated items were bottles of alcohol, cigarettes, blister drugs, and makeup products. Chief Collector Mubasher Baig emphasized the collective commitment of various agencies to thwart smuggling activities. The act of sacrificing prohibited goods underlines the dedication to upholding customs regulations and preventing illicit trade.

several key figures, including Collector Customs Enforcement Lahore Mateen Alam, Collector Faislabad Saeed Watto, and Collector Customs Appraisement Munib Serwar. Additional Collector Ali Akbar Zaidi, Addicated goods worth crores of rupees. tional Collector Customs Usman Tariq,

Deputy Collector Ali Asad, Assistant Collector Hameer, and other officials added to the gravity of the occasion.

The participation of such esteemed individuals underscores the collaborative spirit among customs authorities, emphasizing the shared responsibility of ensuring the integrity of international trade. As WCO Members gear up to showcase their initiatives The event witnessed the presence of throughout the year, the International Customs Day at Wagah Border serves as a poignant example of the global commitment to fostering partnerships, both traditional and new, with a shared purpose of upholding customs standards and preventing

NAB introduces First Phase of internal reforms: New guidelines have been issued for fair handling of complaints

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau has introduced revolutionary reforms within its hierarchy to inject greater efficiency and transparency in NAB operations and to dispel public perception of NAB. Under these guidelines malafide /frivolous complaints will be considered as cognizable offence and liable to legal action against such applicants in the Courts of

According to the details, parameters have been defined in the new guidelines for submis-

applicant with affidavit, in which admitting that the information provided in the complaint is correct and without any malafide intentions. Further, the applicant will be liable to legal action under the law, if allegations are not proved.

Considering damage of the self-respect and self-esteem of persons against the moral code of ethics, the persons complained against, shall be addressed as Defendants" in the new guidelines. The new guidelines have been framed to ensure human rights as enshrined in the Constision of complaints, providing tution of Pakistan. Further, iden-

complete personal details of tity of the defendant will be kept Chairman NAB to initiate inves- be authorized by Regional DGs, ciations are being established for pending complaints, whereas confidential until guilt is proven.

Similarly, the priority of complainants has also been outlined in the new guidelines. Incomplete and anonymous complaints will be discarded at the initial level.

The new guidelines will be available on NAB website and disseminated through SMS and other modes of communications, for general public awareness and

Dedicated Complaint Cells (CC) have been established at NAB (HQ) and Regional Bureaus under the direct supervision of Chairman NAB and Deputy

tigation into complaints at initial

Initially, the process of complaint verification will be ensured completed within a prescribed period of 7 to 15 days. The defendant will not be called during this period.

The specific guidelines have been issued for processing the complaints against elected representatives, bureaucracy and businessmen. Identity of defendants/ Government officials, etc will be kept strictly confidential during complaint verification process. It is mentioned that complaints against officials upto BPS-19 shall

whereas approval of process on complaints against BS-20 and above officers will be authorized by Chairman NAB. Government officials will not be called in person in NAB premises during verification and inquiry stage.

Accountability Facilitation Cells are being established in respective Civil Secretariats for verification of requisite information of Government officials considering their self-respect and dignity. Likewise, separate Business Facilitation Cells comprising representation of respective Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Realtors and Business Asso-

processing complaints against businessmen keeping dignified code of probe.

A feedback mechanism of the visitors shall be adopted by all Regional Bureaus, whereas a proforma both in English and Urdu will be issued to all visitors for providing their feedback in writing regarding duration he was burdened to wait & interaction with investigation officer and conduct of investigating officer etc. His feedback will be given due importance and will be presented

to the chain of command. Measures have been described in the new guidelines regarding

complaints which don't meet the criteria, shall be disposed-off by respective Regional Bureaus after taking appropriate measures.

No NAB officer has been allowed to contact the defendants during the initial complaint verification process. If a complaint is received against a woman, she will be called for investigation alongwith her blood relative and in case of relative is not available, a female officer of NAB will conduct the inquiry.

Further, it was decided that in future, main focus of NAB will be on mega corruption and money laundering cases.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

	Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
63,813.06	64,298.00		
Day's High	Day's Low		
64,534.29	63,743.40		
Index Value	Change		
13,416,900,075	-484.94		
Percentage	Time		
-0.75%	26 Jan, 2024 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
7 625 00	105.00		
7,635.09	+105.36		
Percentage	+105.36 Time		
•			
Percentage +1.40%	Time 26 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT		
Percentage +1.40%	Time 26 Jan, 4:35 pm		
Percentage +1.40% USA: Dow Jones	Time 26 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average		
Percentage +1.40% USA: Dow Jones I	Time 26 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change		
Percentage +1.40% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 38,174.45	Time 26 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change +125.32		

Onen Market	Famous Badasa
Cinen Market	

Change

-485.40

Time 26 Jan, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

35.751.07

Percentage

-1.34%

Open Market	. I OICX	
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	183.8
Bahrain Dinar	744.55	752.55
Canadian Dollar	205	207
China Yuan	39.32	39.72
Danish Krone	40.7	41.1
Euro	303	306
Hong Kong Dollar	35.81	36.16
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	909.71	918.71
Malaysian Ringgit	59.36	59.96
NewZealand \$	170.83	172.83
Norwegians Krone	26.54	26.84
Omani Riyal	727.19	735.19
Qatari Riyal	76.91	77.61
Saudi Riyal	74.6	75.6
Singapore Dollar	207	209
Swedish Korona	26.75	27.05
Swiss Franc	322.7	325.2
Thai Bhat	7.83	7.98
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.4
UK Pound Sterling	356.5	359.5
US Dollar	279.1	281.3

Three days 9th Mega Leather Show kicks off at Expo Centre



LAHORE: The 9th Mega Leather 2024 show commenced at the Expo Centre, promising three days of unparalleled insight into the dynamic leather industry. Scheduled to culminate on the 28th of January, the event gathered luminaries such as Mr. Mansoor Ehsan Sheikh, Chairman of the Pakistan Footwear Manufacturers Association, Muhammad Mehr Ali, Chairman of Pakistan Tanners Association Mr. Liusuilong, the distinguished Chairman of the Gaundang Footwear Association.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by the convergence of these industry leaders, symbolizing unity and collaboration within the leather sector. Their shared vision for innovation and sustainability resonated through the halls of the Expo Centre as they officially declared the event open. As patrons and participants gathered, an atmosphere of anticipation and excitement enveloped the venue.

Also, Pakistan Footwear Manufacturers Association has announced to hold the First Pakistan Footwear and Material Show on April 11-13, 2025.

This premier exhibition promises to be a confluence of industry leaders, footwear manufacturers, chemical suppliers, machinery experts, and top-quality gloves and garments producers. With participants from various segments of the leather sector, the event is poised to be the largest of its kind in the country.

Distinguished guests from business and trade departments, policy makers, and representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment, and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) will grace the occasion. The Mega Leather Show 2024 aims to bring together manufacturers and decision-makers under one roof, creating an ideal platform for networking and collaboration.

Western countries are showing irresponsibility: Mian Zahid Hussain

№ Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the planet faces a severe threat from climate change.

He said that Inflation and conflicts keep many nations too busy to address this issue, while Western nations responsible for the problem act carelessly.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the effects of climate change are pushing the world into poverty, while pandemics and diseases have also increased.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the global

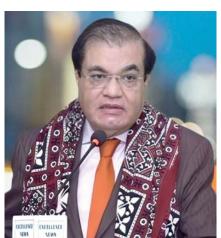
temperature is constantly rising and serious efforts are needed to solve the problem.

The world is witnessing more floods, storms, famine, hunger, fires, and other problems, and according to the World Bank, climate change can displace 216 million people by 2050.

The business leader said that climate change is affecting the land system and crop patterns, pollution is increasing, and the shortage of natural resources is increasing. However, many policymakers are still not bothered to think about this important subject.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that a report by the World Economic Forum states that climate change could result in a loss of \$ 12.5 trillion by 2050 and result in 150 million deaths.

The report states that floods could result in 85 million deaths, droughts could claim 3.2 million lives, and heat waves could cost the



global economy \$ 7 trillion.

He added that Pakistan has lost \$ 30 billion as a result of floods in 2022, which were the result of climate change; more than 300 million people have been displaced, and 1839 killed.

The international community still needs to fulfill its promises to provide the necessary support to Pakistan after the floods.

According to global organizations, more losses are likely, as many developing nations in Asia and Africa need to prepare to tackle the problem or lack resources.

Poor nations need hundreds of billions of dollars to finance projects that will reduce damage caused by climate change. Developed countries are not interested in solving this problem, which has affected the confidence of developing countries and increased the risk for billions of people.

Illegal alcohol

LAHORE: Customs official uses a steamroller to crush bottles of liquor in the outskirts of Provincial Capital, on the eve of International Customs Day.



Photo: Online

WCCI Malir and Iqra University ioin hands to foster entrepreneurship among youth

KARCHI: Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir (KWCCI) and Iqra University Airport Campus have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at providing technical training to the youth, guidance in employment seeking, and fostering entrepreneurship among student's post-education. The MoU was signed by KWCCI Malir Founder President Nazli Abid Nisar and Director Iqra University Airport Campus Athar İqbal. Afzala Shaheen, SVP KWCCI Malir, VP Yasmin Arif and Dr. Touba were also present on

In conjunction with Iqra University Airport Campus, the "Creative Cultural Fair 2024" was organized under the auspices of KWCCI Malir, witnessing substantial student participation. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), along with Vice Presidents Amanullah Paracha and Asif Sakhi, Former VP Khurram Ejaz, Chairman of Pakistan Indonesia Business Council Abid Nisar, and Shakila Niaz from First Women Bank attended the event. Chief Guest Saqib Fayyaz Magoon visitwinning students of diverse competitions.



Nazli Abid Nisar, former VP FPCCI and Founder President of KWCCI Malir, expressed her appreciation for the students' enthusiasm, emphasizing the youth's pivotal role in shaping Pakistan.

Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, hailed students as the future of Pakistan and invited Igra University Airport Campus students to visit the federed various stalls, distributing prizes to the ation. Chairman Pakistan Indonesia Business Council (PIBC) Abid Nisar stressed

the importance of providing opportunities to the youth and commended the role of Iqra University in contributing to the country's economy. He emphasized the significance of product branding.

Shakila Niaz of First Women Bank encouraged women entrepreneurs to approach the bank for loans on favorable terms to expand their businesses, assuring comprehensive support in every possi-

RCCI President calls on Dr. Mohammad Faisal, HC to the **United Kingdom**



ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) president Saqib Rafiq had a meeting with H. E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal, High Commissioner for Pakistan to the United Kingdom who called on during his visit to the High Commission in London on the sidelines of 6th Pak-UK business opportunities Conference held at a local hotel in Leeds, West Yorkshire, England.

briefed HC Dr. Faisal on

RCCI current and upcoming events and also shared a brief summary of 6th Pak-UK business opportunities Conference aiming to promote trade relations. networking and B2B meetings. He also informed about business facilitation centers in Punjab and particularly in Rawalpindi and termed it a key initiative towards ease of doing business.

Matters related to the bilateral trade, facilitation under SIFC for Pakistani exporters During the meeting and trade and investment RCCI President Saqib Rafiq opportunities came under

easypaisa Empowers Women with First-Ever Audio Nikahnama in **Pakistan**

KARACHI: easypaisa has just created ripples across the financial services industry. In a historic move that shatters taboos and empowers women, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform has unveiled the easypaisa Audio Nikahnama", a groundbreaking initiative that provides women unprecedented access to their crucial matrimonial rights. This first-of-its-kind innovation in Pakistan leverages the power of technology to overcome literacy barriers and ensure education of the most important contract of life's most significant moments.

According to the Pakistan Commission on the Status Pakistani women cannot marriage contract.

comprehend their Nikahnama due to literacy limitations, and the remaining 1/3 do not get timely access to the document. easypaisa Audio Nikahnama tackles this head-on by offering a free, simple, and accessible solution. Women can access this audio tool through a free helpline by giving a missed call on the dedicated number (0341-1171222) or download the easypaisa App and listen to the Nikahnama in 7 different languages. In addition to this, there is a sign language option available in the app to ensure accessibility by all. This empowers women, regardless of their socio-economic class or digital divide to access this information, to understand their rights of Women, two-thirds of and obligations within the

ICCI for enhancing education budget to promote knowledge economy

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the youth are the future of Pakistan. Still, less than 2% of the GDP is allocated for education, due to which millions of children are deprived of education. He stressed that the government should substantially increase the and other negative elements can be budget for education so that the eradicated from society. He stressed educated youth can play an active for close academia-industry linkagrole in the economic development of Pakistan and promote knowledge economy.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Director General, Nation- He urged that the budget for educaal Language Promotion Depart- tion should be increased to at least

ment and former Vice Chancellor of Punjab University said that Pakistan cannot progress without educating its children. He said that Pakistani universities do not have the budget and they are doing a jehad to educate the students.

Imtiaz Haider, Director General, Hamdard University said that by providing better education to children, prejudice, hatred, inequality, es to improve the economy.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI, said that Pakistan needs to improve the literacy rate.



10% of the GDP. He said that the with the government in promotprivate sector should cooperate ing education.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan stressed for paying special attention to the education and better training of children.

He said that the government should work on an emergency plan to bring out-of-school children to schools.

He said that a model school in Islamabad should be handed over to the ICCI and the business community will bear its expenses along with running the school in a better way. Double shift and evening classes should be started in all educational institutions.

Adnan Mukhtar, Ms. Afraz Sial, Ms. Fatima Hassan also spoke on the occasion.

Ayesha hits ton as Lahore crush Multan in National Women's **T20 Tournament**

RAWALPINDI: Ayesha Zafar's quickfire century, followed by a three-wicket haul by Ghulam Fatima powered Lahore to a comfortable 119-run victory over Multan in the eighth round of the National Women's T20 Tournament.

Lahore put up a mammoth total of 200-2 in the first innings after being put to bat first by Multan.

Opening batters Ayesha Zafar and Sidra Amin put up a dominating 183-run stand as pressure mounted on the opposition.

Ayesha Zafar became the third centurion from Lahore in the National Women's T20 Tournament as she hit a 65-ball 113, showcasing 18 boundaries and two maximums, until she was stumped off Gul-e-Uswa's bowling.

Iram Javed, who replaced Ayesha on the crease, could only score a run before Gull Rukh removed her. Kaynat Hafeez also chipped in with an unbeaten four-



bat, Sidra smashed an unbeaten 71 from run out for 10 off 12, with two fours, by 51, including eight fours.

Gull Rukh and Gull-e-Uswa were the only two wicket-takers for Multan.

In reply, Lahore captain Nida Dar ran out opening batter Aleena Masood Continuing her red-hot form with the for just three runs. Gull Rukh too was

Bismah Maroof with Multan's scorecard reading 43-2 in 6.1 overs.

The fourth batter in, Wajeeha Muneer (9, 20b), was stumped off Ghulam Fatima's bowling on the first ball of the 12th over. The next batter in, Warda Yousaf.

fell in the same manner on the last ball of the same over.

In the next over, Multan captain Gull Feroza (36, 29b, 5x4s) was run out by Noreen Yaqoob. On the very next ball, Saiqa Riaz (10, 7b, 2x4s) was pinned leg-before by Ghulam Fatima as Lahore cemented their dominance in the game.

Amber Kainat removed Gull-e-Uswa for two runs while Bismah dismissed Samina Aftab and Tasmia Rubab cheap-

Noor-ul-Iman retired herself out for a duck as Multan ended the innings at 81 in 16.1 overs, losing the game by 119

Ghulam Fatima registered a three-wicket haul and Bismah picked up two wickets. Amber Kainat also

dismissed a batter. For her performance with the bat,

yesha was awarded player of the match. In other eighth-round National Women's T20 Tournament fixtures, Karachi thumped Quetta by six wickets while Rawalpindi claimed a five-wicket victory over Peshawar.

Karachi will host an internationally certified marathon for the first time

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The city of lights, Karachi, will host the internationally certified marathon for the first time in Pakistan on June 28, which is expected to be attended by hundreds of runners, including national and international athletes.

The marathon is being held by Sports in Pakistan in collaboration with the caretaker provincial government of

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Syed Junaid Ali Shah, Caretaker Minister Sindh for Culture, Antiquities & Archives, Sports, and Youth Affairs. said Pakistan as a state is going to record a historical achievement by organizing an internationally accredited marathon for the first time on Sunday.

The marathon is being organized following the deployment of international-level benchmarking, technology, and proper routes, similar to what can be witnessed in marathons held in London and Paris.

The marathon is this marathon is being held around the held for the first time in Pakistan at an great achievements in many sports, same medal as the elite runners.



coastal routes without disturbing the hustle and bustle of the city.

CEO Sports in Pakistan Shoaib Nizam said Pakistani athletes had been participating in international standards marathons in different countries for the last few years, but runners in Pakistan could across the world, with major roads and qualify for international running events sions, and more importantly, it unites fun-filled 5 km for family and children, arteries blocked to facilitate runners, but through the Karachi Marathon being the nation. While we have accomplished and every participant will receive the

international level.

The dream came true after 15 years of community development in this game. a special app developed for this event. Finally, the world will see Karachi on the map, he remarked.

roud internationally on many occa-

running was not one to acquire attention and recognition. Over the years, Sports in Pakistan, which was founded by Mr. Shoaib Nizami, has revolutionized both

running and cycling across Pakistan, including never-before-seen female

We are proud to be gathered here today to witness history being made at the inauguration of the 1st Karachi Marathon on Sunday, January 28, 2024. This is the first full-distance (42.2 km) marathon, which is measured and accredited by World Athletics, the international governing body for athletic sports.

It is important to mention that all full-distance marathon runners in this event will have their running time recognized globally by all major marathon events around the world. Not only this, but every runner can be tracked using

Lastly, a participant doesn't have to be an elite runner to be a part of this Sports in Pakistan has made Pakistan momentous event; anyone can register for a half marathon (21.1km) or a

Islamabad United renews association with Bismah, Aliyah, Diana

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad United has renewed its association with three leading Pakistan's female players Bismah Maroof, Aliyah Riaz and Diana Baig, as the team's Women Empowerment Champions.

A continuation of the empowerment programme, Islamabad United recognises the immense talent, dedication, and contribution our cricket stars make on and off the pitch, and was delighted to partner once again with these inspirational leaders, said a press release.

Bismah Maroof, renowned for her



performances, joins forces with Aliya bad United. Their prowess on the crick-Riaz, a formidable all-rounder, and et field is matched only by their dedica-

the boundary, aiming to inspire and empower women both within and boundaries." outside the cricketing arena. Islamabad United's commitment to gender equality and inclusivity was exemplified by their sport but also serve as role models for aspiring professionals. Speaking on the occasion, Amna Naqvi said, "We are thrilled to welcome Bismah Maroof, athletes.

strategic captaincy and stellar batting Aliya Riaz, and Diana Baig to Islama-Diana Baig, known for her pace and tion to promoting women's empowerment. This collaboration underscores This strategic alliance goes beyond our commitment to fostering an environment where talent knows no gender

The Women Empowerment Champions initiative aligns with Islamabad United's broader vision of creating this powerful trio, who not only excel in positive societal impact through sports. The franchise believes in harnessing the potential of cricket to break barriers and inspire the next generation of female

Nepal stun Afghanistan to reach U19 World Cup Super 6s

A Sports

LAHORE: Aakash Chand's five-wicket haul, followed by Dev Khanal's anchoring half-century powered Nepal to edge Afghanistan by one wicket in the 19th match of the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup on Friday.

The historic victory took Nepal into the U19 World Cup Super 6s stage alongside Pakistan and Nepal.

The top three teams of Group D will join the top three teams of Group A.

Opting to bat first, Aakash Chand-led Nepal bowling attack ripped through Afghanistan's batting lineup and booked them on a measly total of 145 in 40.1 overs despite AM Ghazanfar's 21-ball 37. Ghazanfar's quickfire cameo featured

four boundaries and three sixes. The Atalans, after a shaky start to their innings, lost wickets at an alarming rate and eventually slipped to 88/8 in 20.3

Faridoon Dawoodzai then joined Naseer Khan Maroofkhil in the middle and added valuable runs at the backend to bolster Afghanistan's total.



wicket before skipper Maroofkhil perished after a gutsy 31. His 83-ball

featured three boundaries. Dawoodzai soon followed his skip-

The duo added 55 runs for the ninth per back to the dugout as their batting expedition concluded in the 41st over. He remained a notable run-getter for the side with a 65-ball 29.

Chand led the bowling attack for

Nepal with 5/34 in his eight overs, followed by Dipesh Kandal, who bagged two wickets.

In pursuit of the 146-run target, Nepal accumulated 149/9 with 32 balls to spare. Nepal too, had a dismal start to their

innings as they lost three wickets for 24 runs on the board in 8.1 overs. But, skipper Dev Khanal stood up for

his team and kept the scoreboard ticking. He was also involved in an important 49-run partnership with Aakash Tripathi, who scored 16 off 39.

Khanal fell in the 37th over after a well-crafted half-century when his side needed a further 19 runs with just three wickets in hand. He remained the top scorer for Nepal with an 89-ball 58 which featured seven boundaries.

Later, Dipak Bohara (27) and Subash Bhandari (9) played pivotal roles in steering their side to a historic victory.

The narrow one-wicket victory lifted Nepal to the third in Group D of the ongoing U19 Men's Cricket World Cup while Afghanistan, who remained winless, crashed out of the tournament.

Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament begins.



Karachi: Tabish Jawed Senior Vice President Regional Cricket Association Karachi Inaugurate the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament after hitting the Ball at Aga Khan Gymkhana Ground.

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Landhi Gymkhana off to a flying start when they beat Sir Syed Cricket Club by 6 Wickets in the opening match of Master Oil

Inter Club Cricket Tournament on Thursday at Aga Khan Gymkhana Ground.

Earlier Tabish Jawed Senior Vice President Regional Cricket Association Karachi inaugurated the Tournament in simple but impressing Ceremony after hitting the Ball. Speaking on the occasion he announced full Cooperate to RCAK and Sponsor the Tournament for Promotion of Club Cricket in Karachi.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi after a gap of 6 years. In Which 214 affiliated Clubs of Seven Zones Karachi Participating in the Tournament. The Ceremony was largely attended by the Regional, Zonal Officials, Guest Distinguished Guests and Cricketers.

Summarized Scores of the opening match.

Sir Syed Cricket Club 178/9 in 40 overs. Muzaim Ahmed 49, Farooq Hasan 35, Wajid Ali 33. Noman Ali 3/38, Wajid Ali 2/19, Abdul Hadi 2/40.

Landhi Gymkhana 181/6 in 31.1 overs. Hasan Khan 109 12x4. 1x6 not out, Sufyan Ansari 31, Faizan Khan 25. Tariq Bakhat

42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship fully backed by Punjab Golf Association

Sports Desk

The 42nd Punjab Open Golf Championship fully backed by Punjab Golf Association is filled with quality golfing action at the alluring Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Course in Lahore. Golfing round on Friday carried the spotlight on the champion professional golf players of Pakistan and though one saw ample sunlight during the course of the 18 holes round, the severity of the chill did affect scores and although the star players were hitting perfectly timed shots, the putting effort lacked the classy touch and hence quite a few high toned players could not manage

Yet the highly rated players like Matloob Ahmed (Lahore Garrison), Ahmed Baig (Royal Palm), Minhaj Maqsood and Muhammed Munir (Rawalpindi Golf Club)attracted attention by coming up with under par rounds. One sturdy competitor, Muhammed Sajjad of Airmen Golf Club showed brilliance by compiling a score of par 72. And those who finished the Fridays round with a gross score of 73 add upto five in number. They are Kashif Masih (Lahore Garrison), Syed Raza Ali (Rumanza), Zohaib Asif (DHA, Karachi), Waheed Baloch (Karachi Golf Club) and Tahir Bashir (Lahore Garrison Greens).

Placed at a score of gross 74 are nine contenders. These competing golf professionals are Muhammed Safdar (Gujranwala), Talat Ijaz (Lahore Gymkhana), Ashir Masih (Gymkhana), Muhammed Alam (Lahore Garrison), Ansar Mehmood (Margalla Greens), Hamza Amin (islamabad), Muhammed Imran Defence Raya), Salman Akhtar (Gymkhana) and Muhammed Shahazad(Lahore Garrison).

The round on Saturday is going to be enthusiasm loaded and the front runners of Friday will seek to excel and come up with more brilliance in application of golfing skills.

In the race for honors in amateur section the leader is Nouman Ilyas of Lahore Garrison with a gross score of 73. Two strokes behind him is Saim Tahir of Garrison and at gross 77 is Salman Jehangir (Lahore Gymkhana).

Lahore girls, Pindi boys bag badminton team event titles

Sports Desk

Lahore division trounced Faisalabad by 2-1 in a closely fought Rising Punjab Games Badminton Championship Women's Team Event final while the title of Men's Team Event went to Rawalpindi boys, who outplayed Faisalabad in straight sets at the Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) Gymnasium Hall on Friday.

DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail congratulated Lahore and Rawalpindi teams for winning Women's and Men's Team Event final matches.

In Women's Team Event final, the first single match was won by Laiba Masoud of Lahore against Faisalabad's Zubaira Islam by 21-18, 24-26, 21-16 but Faisalabad bounced back and leveled the score by winning first doubles match through Zubaira & Huma who downed Lahore's high flying Laiba & Saima by 18-21, 21-14, 21-15. However, Lahore's Amal Muneeb wrapped up the title clash by winning the second single match against Bushra of Faisalabad by 15-21, 21-14 and 21-19.

In the Rising Punjab Games Football Championship, Lahore and Faisalabad division football teams set up a title clash after winning their respective semi-final matches at Punjab Stadi-

In the first semifinal, Faisalabad displayed wonderful playing technique and defeated their opponent with a margin of 3-0 and booked a place in the final match. Adeel Younas, Hassan Ali and Amir Aslam were the goal scorers of Faisalabad team.

In the second semifinal encounter, Lahore division team defeated Sargodha by 2-0 on penalty shootouts at Punjab Stadium. Before the penalty shootout, both the teams had failed to score a goal in the stipulated time.

Following are results:

Women's Team Event Badminton final

Lahore beat Faisalabad 2-1

1st Single: Laiba Masoud (Lahore) beat Zubaira Islam (Faisalabad) by 21-18, 24-26, 21-16

1st Double: Zubaira & Huma (Faisalabad) beat Laiba & Saima (Lahore) by 18-21, 21-14, 21-15

2nd Single: Amal Muneeb (Lahore) beat Bushra (Faisalabad) by 15-21, 21-14, 21-19

Men's Team Event Badminton final

Rawalpindi beat Faisalabad 2-0

1st Single: Raja Zulqarnain (Rawalpindi) beat Muqeet Tahir

(Faisalabad) by 27-25, 21-16 1st Double: Raja Zulqarnain & Raja Hasnanin (Rawalpindi)

beat Awais Zahid & Zunain Javed (Faisalabad) by 21-19, 22-20.

The Spokesman

Called on ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rotary International calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday.

President advises people to must use their votes on Feb 8

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday said that all eligible voters must exercise their right to vote in favor of the party of their choice. The people should not enjoy the polling day as a holiday and come out of their homes to cast their vote, he said while addressing a ceremony hosted by the Publican Alumni Trust (PAT).

He said illiteracy was a major chal-



could not develop progress in education and science. He was proud to be a Publican. he was in love with his school in his life, he added. The President said that there was great potential in our country and he was hopeful about its bright future

He recalled that during the COVID-19 pandemic, "we performed very well as a nation by taking targeted and planned actions. We were the 5th best nation that performed excellently during the COVID-19 crisis." He highly appreciated the efforts of lenge confronted by the country which because whatever he learnt from his PAT for running a school in Korangi in the school, he added.

school teachers played a significant role for under-privileged children. Earlier, in his welcome address, he met PAT Chairman Shaid Kareemullah briefed the audience about the Publican Alumni Trust.

> He said the trust was established in 2009 which built a school on August 11, 2015, at Zaman Town Korangi to impart standard education to the children of under-privileged class. At present around 450 students including boys and girls were getting education

FIA gets new director general



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker federal government on Friday appointed Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir as Director General (DG)m Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

A notification in this regard has been issued by the Establishment Division.

Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir is a Grade-21 officer in the Police Service of Pakistan and is also the head of the recently formed Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing into the alleged anti-judiciary campaign.

Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir has also served as Deputy Director FIA cybercrime wing.

The DG FIA's post had been lying vacant since retirement of Mohsin Hassan Butt on 31st December.

SC allows incarcerated Parvez Elahi to contest Feb 8 polls in stronghold for three days

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday allowed former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) president Parvez Elahi to contest election scheduled to be held

The PTI leader, who was facing incarceration for his alleged involvement in multiple cases, had earlier approached the apex court to allow him to contest the upcoming polls while challenging the verdict of the Lahore High Court (LHC). The LHC had upheld the Election Tribunal's decision of rejecting his nomination

papers. Elahi-the veteran politician-has been allowed to contest for the provincial assembly seat in his home the hearing that the voters constituency of Gujrat

The Supreme Court (SC)



void the decision of election tribunal which rejected his nomination papers.

A three-member bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Athar Minallah heard Elahi's plea against the rejection of his nomination papers.

Elahi's counsel Ihsan Khokhar said that they don't want to delay the elections and sought permission for his client to contest from PP-32 Gujrat.

Also Read: Parvez Elahi to contest elections on six seats The court ruled during

not to create hindrances in the elections. The election is all about the involvement of people and not their exclusion," the court remarked.

The court allowed his appeal and directed the concerned authorities to print his name and election symbol on the ballot paper.

However, the veteran politician, who is currently detained in Adiala Jail, has withdrawn from all other constituencies and now he would only go for PP-32.

Read More: Islamabad police arrest Parvez Elahi soon after release by LHC

It merits mention here that Elahi was earlier a candidate from six National Assembly and Punjab Assembly seats from Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, and Tala-

constituencies cannot be deprived of their include NA-59, NA-64, and NA-69 of National Assem-"The job of Returning bly and PP-23, PP-32, and on Friday declared null and Officer is to facilitate and PP-34 of Punjab Assembly.

MOFA Liaison Office Lahore to remain close



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liaison Office, Lahore (Camp Office Lahore) will be temporarily closed from Monday, 29 January 2024 to Wednesday, 31 January 2024 for administrative reasons.

As a result of this temporary closure, consular services including attestation of documents, will not be available during this period. These services will resume on 1st February 2024.

With effect from 1st February 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liaison Office, Lahore will operate from its new premises (43- N Block, Gulberg III, Lahore).

PM lauds role of Rotary int'l, world community for polio eradication in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday lauded the Rotary International, world community and development partners for their role in the eradication of polio in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Rotary International led by Stephanie A. Urchik, also appreciated the organization's services for the promotion of education and other sectors. The delegation briefed the prime

minister about the Pakistan Smart Village Programme and performance of the Rotary International for polio eradication. The prime minister congratulat-

ed Stephanie for becoming the first female president of Rotary International and expressed good wishes.

He also reiterated his government's resolve to make every Pakistani children safe from polio.

He assured the Rotary International for his government's all-out Nadeem Jan and relevant senior cooperation in the execution of its officers attended the meeting.

programmes, and expressed the hope that the organization would expand the accessibility to their programmes.

The prime minister was told that Rotary would help uplift the living standards of the people while taking advantage of innovation and tech-

It was told that the Smart Villages would help promote the agriculture sector, take advantage of alternative energy, improve irrigation, provide drinking water, and mitigate the impacts of climate change

The meeting was told that the Rotary International had donated around 800,000 books across Pakistan, with 200,000 distributed in Balochistan.

The delegation also gifted another 10,000 books to the prime minister which would be distributed in different parts of the country.

It was told that the mobile library of Rotary International was helping to promote book reading and literacy.

Caretaker Health Minister Dr

UN welcomes restoration of friendly ties between Pakistan & Iran following recent tensions

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Friday welcomed as "positive development" that Pakistan and Iran have formally resumed their friendly relations following the recent tensions between the two neighbouring countries. Earlier in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the envoys of Pakistan and Iran had arrived at their respective embassies in Islamabad and Tehran "as per understanding between the two countries".

"It is a positive development... good Sistan-Baluchestan province.

relations between Iran and Pakistan are important for the stability in the regions," UN Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric said in response to a question from APP correspondent. The return of the two countries's envoys to their respective positions will be followed by Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's visit to Pakistan on Jan 29. The developments come days after tensions escalated between the neighbours following an Iranian air strike in Pakistan, leading Islamabad to strike terrorist hideouts in the neighbouring country's

Kashmiris expressed strong disapproval, resentment towards India; Mushaal



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Mushaal Hussain Mulick stated that Kashmiris across the Line of Control (LoC) marked Indian Republic Day on Friday as a Black Day, expressing their strong disapproval and resentment towards India.

In her special message on Black Day here Friday, she stated that the people in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) along with the rest of the world, marked Indian Republic Day as a Black Day. She criticized the RSS-led Indian government for celebrating the abrogation of the constitution, targeting minorities and undermining the so-called scholarly democracy.

Mushaal further commented that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the idol of Lord Ram at the new temple constructed on the site where the Babri Masjid stood for centuries before being demolished by a Hindutva mob. She also predicted that India would eventually disintegrate due to divisive RSS policies.

Chairman FBR Meets Delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Peshawar



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana held a meeting with a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) during his visit to Peshawar. The delegation was headed by SCCI President Fuad Ishaq which also comprised senior Vice President Sanaullah Khan, Vice President Ijaz Khan Afridi and other members.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Chairman about issues being faced by traders and industrialists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Chairman assured the delegation that all efforts will be made for resolution of their issues.

Envoy outlines Pakistan's foreign policy at Indonesia's Defence University



Spokesman Report

JAKARTA: Pakistan's Ambassador to Indonesia Ameer Khurram Rathore on Friday delivered an insightful lecture at the Indonesia Defence University on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy & Regional Environment." The envoy, in his lecture, highlighted the importance of ties between Pakistan and Indonesia, and the need to strengthen them, especially in the economic domain. Pakistan's Embassy in Indonesia posted on the social media platform X. Ambassador Rathore explained the contours of Pakistan's foreign policy and its position on Kashmir, Palestine, and other regional and global issues. He also had a meeting with the rector and faculty of the

Gaza's Health Ministry blames Israeli troops for deadly shooting as crowd waited for aid

Spokesman Report

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP: Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire as a crowd of Palestinians gathered for humanitarian aid in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding dozens.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. The Associated Press could not independently confirm the details of what happened.

Witnesses and health officials said the shooting took place at a roundabout on Gaza City's southern edge, where a large crowd had gathered for distribution of food. Footage posted online and confirmed to have been taken on the main road near the roundabout showed hundreds of people fleeing, some carrying boxes of aid, as fire rang out in the background. Men loaded wounded Palestinians onto horse and donkey carts that took off charging down the avenue.

were treated, Mohammad al-Reafi lay on the floor, his bloodied leg bandaged, as medics worked on other wounded around them. He said Israeli troops fired into the crowd.

"We were going to get flour... young people were martyred and other young people were injured," he said. Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra said 20 people were killed and 150 others wounded by the shooting.

A number of aid agencies distribute food and other supplies in Gaza. It was not immediately known which one was operating in the area at the time of the incident. The UN refugee agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, and the UN World Food Program both said they were not involved.

Israeli troops and tanks pushed into Gaza City shortly after the ground invasion began in October and have been battling Palestinian militants there for nearly two months. The military says

northern Gaza but is still facing pockets of resistance, and large swaths of Gaza toll is higher because many casualties City and surrounding areas have been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombard-

The UN has said it has been struggling to deliver aid to the north amid Israeli restrictions and continued fighting. Several hundred thousand people are believed to remain in the north after most of the population fled south. UN officials say a quarter of Gaza's population of 2.3 million are facing starvation.

Israel launched its offensive in Gaza vowing to destroy Hamas after the Oct. 7 cross-border attack in which the militants killed around 1,200 people and abducted around 250 others. One of the largest air and ground campaigns in recent history, the assault has killed over 25,900 Palestinians, according to

Gaza's Health Ministry. between civilians and combatants, as White, a senior official with the UN

At Shifa Hospital, where casualties it has largely dismantled Hamas in but the ministry says most of the dead are women and minors. It says the real were buried under the rubble or are in areas where medics can't reach them.

Israel blames the high civilian toll on Hamas because the militant group positions fighters, rocket launchers and tunnels in dense, residential neighborhoods. The military says it has killed thousands of militants, without providing the basis for its count, and that 219 of its soldiers have been killed in the Gaza offensive.

For weeks, heavy fighting has raged as Israeli troops push into the southern city of Khan Younis and in a cluster of built-up refugee camps in central Gaza that date back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

The death toll from a strike on a crowded UN shelter in Khan Younis on Wednesday has risen to 12, with Its count does not differentiate over 75 wounded, according to Thom-

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