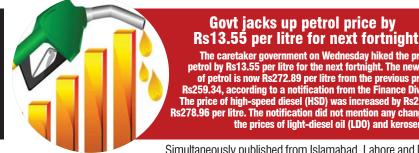
(مصيح بناري: حديث نمبر 6717) **Barkat Rice Mills**

(Pvt) Limited



In a bid to further strengthen cultural relations, PNCA and the Embassy of Kazakhstan organized screening of a movie titled "Kazakh Khanate –Diamond Sword" here at PNCA, auditorium. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H. E Yerzhan Kistafin... (Details on Page 3)



s278.96 per litre. The notification did not mention any changes in the prices of light-diesel oil (LDO) and kerosene oil.

Govt jacks up petrol price by

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rajab-ul-Murajjab 20, Thursday, February 1, 2024

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 17, Issue: 293 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

262nd CCC

Rawalpindi: General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 262nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC)



COAS stated that Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacrosanct and inviolable

Conference (CCC) held at GHQ,

supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas aspirations of Pakistani people. including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and the citizens who have laid their lives for ensuring

peace and stability in the country.

Forum resolved that terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on behest of hostile forc-

FBR

collects

Rs 5,150

billion in

7 months

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Feder-

(FBR) has collected Rs

al Board of Revenue

5,150 billion during

of the current fiscal

the first seven months

year 2023-24 against

the target of Rs 5,115

According to the

ter handle, the board

has collected Rs 3,973

corresponding months

FBR official Twit-

billion during the

of the previous year.

During January

2024, FBR collected

Rs 681 billion against

Rs 545 billion collected

during January 2023.

billion.

dealt with full might of the state. The international community has was reiterated. Pakistan would free and fair elections.

RAWALPINDI: General Syed sovereignty and territorial integ- over the criminal behaviour of and diplomatically support Kash-Army Staff (COAS) presided over ble. Pakistan believes in peacetus for killing spree around the is served in accordance with relethe 969nd Corps Commanders' ful co-existence with all states world however, there would never be any compromise over country's Forum paid rich tribute to the sovereignty, national honour and

The forum was briefed on the callous Indian campaign of extra-territorial and extra-judicial killings, perpetuating state-sponsored terrorism and targeting Pakistani citizens. The forum agreed that blatant violation of international laws by India and its es to destabilise Pakistan, will be real face be exposed to the world.

COAS stated that Pakistan's already shown serious concerns continue to morally, politically

The forum reiterated unequivocal support for Palestine and the people of Gaza while noting the extremely negative fallout of the conflict and the potential to spill over in the wider region. The immediate need for a permanent ceasefire and enduring solution to the Palestinian question was unanimously recognised. In the same vein. Pakistan's resolve to support the people of IIOJK for

their right of self-determination

vant UNSC resolutions

The forum also discussed deployment of Pakistan Army to assist Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the peaceful conduct of General Elections 2024. Pakistan Army will perform assigned duties as per the Constitutional mandate, under the guidelines of ECP. No one would be allowed to indulge in violence in the name of political activity and sabotage the quintessential democratic exercise of conduct of

The forum acknowledged and appreciated the steps taken Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of rity are sacrosanct and inviola- India and its use of state appara- mir brothers and sisters till justice against spectrum of illegal activities and criminal mafias including smuggling, hoarding, money laundering, power theft and illegal aliens. The participants emphasised that such actions and their positive impact on the economy and wellbeing of the people need to continue without any let up.

The forum was briefed on operational preparedness of the formations. COAS asked formation commanders to continue their focus on the training, administration and morale of

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi awarded 14 years imprisonment in Toshakhana case

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: An Accountability Court (AC) on Wednesday awarded 14 years each imprisonment to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on December 19, last year, filed a reference against the PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana The verdict was pronounced

by AC Judge Muhammad Bashir. PTI founder and his wife were also disqualified from holding any public office for 10 years.

The judge also slapped a fine of Rs787 million. In today's hearing, the Pakistan



Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was brought to court, however, Bushra Bibi did not appear.

After being asked about his statement of 342, the former prime minister replied: "The statement is in the room, I was only called to appear before the court."

The judge directed Imran Khan to submit his statement immediately and remarked: "Don't waste court time."

showing them," the PTI founder last year.

and then left the courtroom. Read more: PTI founder, Qureshi handed 10-year jail term in cipher case

Bushra Bibi surrenders Following the verdict of the NAB court, former first lady Bushra Bibi reached Adiala Jail to surrender before the graft-bust-

Bushra Bibi, who did not appear before the court in today's hearing, reached Adiala Jail in her car to surrender.

The former PM's wife was arrested by ladies' police.

The Toshakhana case became a major sticking point in national politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified the "The lawyers have not come yet, PTI chief for making "false state-I will submit the statement after ments and incorrect declaration"

US calls Imran's imprisonment sentence 'matter for Pak courts

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: The United States Tuesday sidestepped comments on the 10-year sentence awarded to ex-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, Imran Khan, for leaking state secrets - known as "cipher case", saying it was a matter for the Pakistani courts. "It is a legal matter ultimately for Pakistan's courts,' State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller told reporters at his daily press briefing while responding to. Series of questions.

"We have been following the cases ... brought against the former prime minister but I don't have any comment on the sentencing," Miller said. "As we have stated consistently, we continue to call for the respect of democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law in Pakistan, as we do around the world,"

Chinese Ambassador calls on Air Chief



₿ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, H. E. Mr Jiang Zaidong, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting matters pertaining to evolving geo-strategic environment and regional developments were discussed. The dignitaries underscored the necessity of revitalizing the framework for operational training across all domains, emphasizing the paramount importance of preparedness and seamless coordination in the face of evolving security challenges.

Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of PAF's modernization drive in order to transform Pakistan Air Air Force through induction of niche technologies with a special focus on indigenization and revamping of training. Highlighting the significance of the longstanding strategic partnership between the tion and exchanges with China and military collaboration.

in the fields of human resource and technology so as to jointly address shared security challenges. He further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, defence relationship and time-tested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability".

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace and lauded the steadfast determination of PAF leadership to ensure balance of power in the region. Both the dignitaries emphasized the need for enhanced Air Force to Air Force collaboration, with a particular emphasis on cutting-edge niche technologies in Cyber, Space and Electronic Warfare domains. They also expressed a firm commit-Force into a Next Generation ment to fostering bilateral and multilateral operational exercises, aimed at fortifying collective response to emerging threats in the region.

The meeting between the Chinese envoy and Chief of the Air Staff is a testament two countries, the Air Chief to the strong commitment of emphasized that PAF leader- both nations to further consoliship wishes to further deepen date their strategic partnership the existing aviation coopera- through continued dialogue

Omar strongly condemns sealing PTI's Central Office Islamabad, Quetta



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan lashed out at police for denying PTI the right to hold its General Body Meeting convened in Islamabad and in the provincial capitals as part of the Intra Party Elections, calling upon the top court to take immediate notice of clear violation of its orders.

Omar Ayub said that PTI's General Body Meeting had Islamabad and in cities of the

4 Provinces as part of the Intra Party Elections. However, he added that PTI's Central Office Islamabad and Quetta have been encircled by the Police and the party members were denied access to the premises.

PTI Secretary General highlighted that this action by the Police was in direct violation of the Supreme Court orders.

"Every obstacle is being placed in PTI's path to prevent us from functioning as a political party, but we shall endure and persevere with Allah's help, InshahAllah," he said, adding, "The people of Pakistan are with PTI Chairmanfor-life Imran Khan and PTI. This fact alone terrifies our opponents."

'We condemn this action of the Police and call upon the been called for Wednesday in judiciary to take immediate notice," he demanded.

Bushra Bibi moved to Bani Gala 'sub-jail'

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Bushra Bibi, who received 14-year sentence in the Toshakhana reference, has been moved to Bani Gala, the Islamabad residence of his husband Imran Khan, following its designation as a sub-jail, ARY News reported

on Wednesday. The former first lady voluntarily surrendered before the accountability court in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) team, already at the jail, where the hearing was being conducted, took her into custo-

dy as soon as she reached. According to a notification

issued by Islamabad Chief Commissioner, Bushra Bibi has been moved to Bani Gala. following its designation as a "The Chief Commission-

er, Islamabad Capital Territory is pleased to declare the residence of convict Bushra Bibi (Residential Compound, Khan House Banigala, Mohra Noor, Islamabad) as Sub-Jail till further orders," stated the notification.

Sources told that stringent security protocols are in place, with jail staff to station inside Bani Gala. Meanwhile, Islamabad Police personnel will remain outside Imran Khan's residence.

Saudi Investment Minister hails steps by caretaker govt in bringing Pakistan on financial stability

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs had a virtual meeting with H. E Mr. Khalid Al- Falih, the Investment Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

steps taken by caretaker market. government in bringing the financial stability said, that Pakistan has achieved

and discussed matters of and reversed the negativity, mutual interest and coop- by building the confidence tation of projects a success. eration. Dr. Shamshad of bilateral and multilater-Akhtar highlighting the al donors in International

Finance Minister appreciated the efforts of SIFC which has played a positive macro economic stability role in ease of doing busi-

ness and made implemen-While gratifying the efforts of Saudi Sovereign wealth fund which has brought financial boom in Saudi Arabia, emphasized that Pakistan wanted to learn from its best practices for

developing Pakistan Soverhad been tasked with difficulty.

privatization of governeign Wealth Fund, which ment assets in financial

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Sardar Attique demands support of Pakistan Muslim League-N in upcoming election

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the relationship between Pakistan Muslim League-N and Muslim Conference the current situation in Pakistan. Assuris historical. This relationship has to ing the success of the PML-N candibe taken forward. Pakistan Muslim League-N should be supported in the President Muslim Conference. On February 8 election. Workers should not listen to rumours. The propaganda of the opponents should not be taken into account. He expressed these views while talking to the media here At Mujahid Manzil. He said that regarding the recent elections of Pakistan, a Muslim Conference work consultative meeting election cell in the central secretariat was called at the shrine of Rais-ul-Ahrar Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas in which senior workers and In consultation with ful in the general election of Pakistan the officials, it was decided by consensus on February 8. Major (Retd) Sardar that the authority of the alliance regarding the election should be hand over man and Rana Ghulam Hussain to the President Muslim Conference.

me, we met President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore the while on the other side, there were also other senior leaders including Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir In which it was agreed that the Muslim League-N should be supported in the context of date by announcing full support from this occasion, Raja Saqib Majeed, Major Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Sajid Qureshi Advocate, Asim Zahid Abbasi, Sardar Abid Razak, Sardar Akhlaq Abbasi and others were also present.

Meanwhile: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has set up an of the party to make the candidates of Muslim League-Nawaz success-Nasrullah Khan Election Cell Chair-Secretary while Secretary General Ms. And there was a group of workers with Maher Nisa, Muhammad Sajid Qureshi



Advocate, Sardar Abid Razzaq Khan, Sardar Asim Zahid Abbasi, Sardar Ajmal Khan Nakyalvi, Raja Shahid Raza Khan, Sardar Ashfaq Khan., Dr. Muhammad Abid Abbasi, Sved Shahid Hussain Shah and Sardar Yasir Abbasi will be its members. More names will be released soon.

tion cell was taken after the meeting between Muslim Conference President Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan and Muslim League Nawaz President Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif after consultation with the party's senior officials in the central secretariat. Secretary General Ms Mehru Nasa, Sardar Altaf This decision to establish an elec- Hussain Khan, Secretary Finance of

Muslim Conference Sardar Manzoor Chaghtai, Major (R) Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Mushtaq Nayar, Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Sardar Azhar Nazr Khan, Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Sardar Asim Zahid Abbasi. Sardar Abid Razak Khan, Sardar Ajmal Nakyalvi, Pirzada Muhammad Afsar Khan Naqshbandi, Raja Shahid Raza Khan and others League-Nawaz.

were participants.

President of Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has instructed the officials and workers of Muslim Conference based all over Pakistan to use their influence in their respective constituencies and vote for the nominated candidates of Muslim

Awesome Weather

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Faisal Avenue during rainy weather in the Federal Capital.



Delegation of MCCI visits the **Business Facilitation Center**

MULTAN: A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, visited the Business Facilitation Center, inspected the desks of various departments and took information. In this regard, a delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, under the leadership of Mian Rashid Igbal, Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, visited Business Fossilization Center, Abdali Road, Inspected and took infor-Nawan Shahr., Khwaja mation from the represent-Muhammad Younis, Khwaja Muhammad Hussain, on this occasionTalking to hoped that the supervisor Khwaja Muhammad Usman, the media, President Mian the governments that come Bakhtawar TanveerSheikh,



Khawaja Salahuddin, Naveed dent Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh Iqbal Chaghtai, Chaudhry Mohammad Azam, Aurangzeb Alamgir, Sheikh Faheem Sattar, Sheikh Faisal Saeed Secretary General Muhammad Shafiq were included. atives of these departments Rashid Iqbal Sr. Vice Presi-

on the proposal and demand of the Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, for ensuring the establishment of Business Fossilization Center in six major cities of Punjab including Multan. Tried and after the government will also

maintain it and maintain the continuity of this policy. He said that there are business facilitation centers in six cities of Punjab50% of Punjab businessmen and citizens will be benefited by its establishment and it is hoped that the remaining desks of the federal and provincial departments at the fossilization center will also be established soon and the business community will have all under one roof. Facilities will be available and they will be available for visiting the offices of various departments and so on the time and capital will also be saved because this institution will be obliged to provide all the

Allama Anns says on February 8, end of injustice in South Punjab



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Allama Anns Hussain Rizvi the central leader of Tehreeke-Labaik Pakistan, arrived in Multan, where he was warmly welcomed and showered with rose petals by the workers. That the sun of February 8 should rise with the promise of Nizam Mustafa will Now the era of the slaves of Rasool Allah is coming. On February 8, the entire nation will be sealed and the system will be changed. The day of reckoning for those who crushed the nation in lines has

Gillani family to support Tareen in General Election



MULTAN: The Gilani family has announced their support for the chairman of Pakistan Istahkam Party Jahangir Khan Tareen in NA-149. The arrival of the Chairman Pakistan Istahkam Party Jahangir Khan Tareen at the residence of the head of the Gilani family and member of the Central Executive Committee of the Pakistan Muslim League, Quaid-e-Azam Makhdoom Ghulam Yazdani Gilani. Incharge Of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed Makhdoom Wilayat Mustafa Gilani, Makhdoomzada Zainul Abedin Gilani, Candidate PP 215 Shahid Mehmood Khan, Khalid Bhuta and other important personalities were present. Speaking on the occasion, Makhdoom Ghulam Yazdani Gilani said that the Gilani family is an honest servant of Multan region and Pakistan. We stand with sincere leadersvAlways supported those politicians who want to build and develop Pakistan, today we are announcing the support of Jahangir Khan Tareen, which includes our friends, friends and devotees of the constituency. We will make this region a separate province together with Jahangir Khan Tareen and we will work together for the construction and development of the region. We also support Jahangir Khan Tareen in Lodhran NA 154 Lodhran. Makhdoom Tanvir Al Hasan Gilani, Makhdoom Wajahat Mustafa Gilani, Makhdoomzada Zain Al Abidine Gilani and other family members, he said that you people have supported me by trusting me, I will fulfill it and solve the problems and development of the area, Jahangir Khan Tareen said that my past is a witness. That I have served the country apart from myself and would continue to do Soon this occasion, Incharge Of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed Makhdoom Wajahat Mustafa Gilani prayed for the success of Jahangir Khan Tareen

Mullana Qadri demands to extend election date by three to four weeks



KHANEWAL: Dr Mullana Ajmal Qadri Patron-in-Chief of Central Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Addressing to the Press conference at the District Press Club Khanewal, Dr. Ajmal Qadri demanded to extend the date of the election.

Maulana Dr Ajmal Qadri said that the current election should be held in the month of March. He said that considering the current economic climate of the country, the election should be moved forward by three to four weeks and it is inevitable that the election be held in this season. The chief has been sentenced by the courts and decided. He said that he wanted to give him a field in the general election to be held in this country so that the party can participate in the election freely. China can hold elections in UK after six months, Pakistan can have elections. Why can't the election be brought forward by three to four weeks? It was also said that if the election is brought forward by three to four weeks, it will be equal to the election held in India, so that the international community will have to accept this election while the election is held in this season.

Deputy Commissioner says to start work on Multan Gymkhana soon

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Multan Captain (R) Rizwan Qadeer said that the work on the Multan Gymkhana project will be started soon. Serious measures are being taken to eliminate encroachment. The water filtration plants established in the city will be reworked to restart them. Work is also going on for the construction and repair of roads. He expressed these things while addressing a ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, On this occasion, Mian Rashid Iqbal, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan, Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Former President Khawaja Muhammad Yusuf, Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, Mirza Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Sheikh Fazal Elahi, Naveed Ahmed Chughtai, Anwar Saleem Kane, Khawaja Sohail. Tufail, Zafar Iqbal Siddiqui, Ehtishamul Haq, Saleha Hasan and Secretary

Awan Muhammad Shafiq among othersThe members were present. Deputy Commissioner Multan said that providing clean water to the residents of the city is the first priority. The existing water filtration plants in different areas will be reviewed and restarted. Philanthropists should also play their role in this regard. There is a problem of lack of human resources in the government departments due to which the affairs are affected. There are many encroachments in the city which affect the flow of traffic and the citizens also face problems. When the operation was started to eliminate encroachment from Nishtar Road, the doctors became the advocates, which is a sad situation. Many things will improve after the election. The district government is developing an app to follow up on the requests made by the citizens and speed up the work. In response to a question, DC Multan said that the work of rehabilitation of various roads including Nawabpur Road has started, which will

provide relief to the citizens and business in these areas will also accelerate. Work is in progress and efforts have been made to minimize U-turns for the flow of traffic. The road cuts will be removed gradually on Busan Road. Discussing the restoration of parks and recreation centers in the city, Captain (Rtd) Rizwan Qadeer said that the PHA has issued clear instructions in this regard and the condition of the parks will improve soon. will be made. A proposal has been sent to the Chief Minister of Punjab that the District Jail Multan should be shifted outside the city and a race course Lahorestyle park should be built at that place. In response to another question, he said that the work on the Nadarabad flyover project is going on rapidly. A NOC has been sent to the ministry level on behalf of the railway department and the remaining work will be completed soon. Work will soon begin on Multan Gymkhana at 124 Kanal Razi near South Punjab Secretariat, which will

problems. Supply of clean drinking

be a gift to the people of Multan. Earlier, Mian Rashid Iqbal, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, speaking said that the District Coordination Committee The meeting should be convened early so that decisions made earlier as well as current ones are reviewed It can also help to solve the

water in Multan is a major problem. There are many encroachment problems in the city which need to be solved so that roads can be made availableAnd the traffic should not be jammed on the highways and the trees in the bazaars and markets should be easy. He said that the complaint cell should be activated for security issues, sanitation and

other administrative matters in Multan. Many roads in Multan city are in a state of destruction.. Due to sewage and other problems, the rehabilitation of roads has been stalled for a long time, especially on Water Works Road, Nawabpur Road, Vehari Road and Ring Road. DC Multan taking personal interest to build roads as soon as possible.



Namaz Timings

EMEDGENCY

Women Police

Stations				
Islamabad	9222596			
Rawalpindi	9270601-20			

ENQU	IRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489

Intelligent **Transport** System (ITS) needed for ease of travel: Tarar



№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar has said, that Intelligent Transport System (ITS) is the dire need of the hour for better and informed decision making along with creating ease for commuters. National Highway Authority along with National Highways and Motorway Police and Ministry of Communications is collaborating to bring the best of the services and management for ensuring safe and sound traveling on motorways and national highways network. He was speaking during his visit to National Traffic Operations Center today, where a detailed briefing was given to hin on functioning of the center and installation of ITS all along entire network of National Highway Authority. Senior officers of Ministry of Communications, National Highway Authority, NH&MW Police and National Traffic Operations Center were also pres ent. Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar said, NHA is looking forward to use this technology on its road network for improving different functions. NHA is also developing architecture, standards for ITS for having standardization with cooperation of National Highways and Motorway Police and National Transport Research Center.

It was told in the briefing that ITS is a solution consisting of electronics, computers and communication network deployed on road network generating a wide range of engineering data to enhance safety, efficiency, management and other functions with reference to road

Mushaal highlights violations in Palestine, IIOJK at Lahore Chamber of Commerce

LAHORE: In a recent roundtable meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressed as Chief Guest and emphasised the crucial role of human rights implementation in ensuring global peace and stability. She drew attention to the alarming violations in Palestine and Indian Occupied Jammu Kashmir, urging world leaders to address these issues.

The meeting, attended by LCCI officials including Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, highlighted the significance of the 100-day plan initiated

violence and promoting women's empowerment through various initiatives such as capacity building and gender equality measures, SAPM Focal Person Sabien Hussein Mullick spoke about the importance of financial inclusion, start ups for under privilege women and gender based violence campaigns to address and highlight the key issues depriving women upliftnent in society, Prof Zafar Sindhu Advisor SAPM shared details of the 100 day vision in which interfaith consultative committee, transgender consultative committee, Palestine consultative committee and Kashmir Consultative committee.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar echoed Mullick's sentiments, by the Ministry of Human Rights. emphasizing the pivotal role of Mullick elaborated on the plan's human rights in ensuring justice transgender individual.

focus on eradicating gender-based and peace. He condemned the genocide in occupied Kashmir and Palestine and underscored the importance of women's participation in economic activities for national progress. Anwar highlighted the challenges faced by Pakistani women and emphasized the need for their recognition and empowerment.

> Mullick further elaborated on the government's 100-day plan, which includes provisions for women, transgender, and minority rights. She highlighted the formation of consultative committees on Kashmir and Palestine, aimed at addressing these pressing issues with input from experts and stakeholders. Mullick also urged businesses to promote transgender empowerment by employing at least one



Protection

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is cvocvering flowers with plastic sheet outside his shop at flower market at sector F-6 during rainy weather in the Federal Capital.



Movie 'Kazakh Khanate -Diamond Sword' screened at PNCA

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to further strengthen cultural relations, Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and the Embassy of Kazakhstan organized screening of a movie titled "Kazakh Khanate -Diamond Sword" here at PNCA, auditorium on Wednesday.

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H. E Yerzhan Kistafin along with Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayoub Jamali and large number of people attended the movie screening.

Addressing the screening ceremony of a Kazakh movie at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi underlined the need for promoting cinemas in the counby criminalizing things," he Pakistan and Kazakhstan," he



He said, "Nothing impresses, educates and illuminates better than cinema. Probably hundreds of high-pitch, hyperbolic and hyper ventilating speeches cannot educate you like this movie, I am sure, can educate and sensitize you better."

"We have huge challenges in front of us and one of those challenges in the domain of culture and perception is extreme intolerance, and personality cult and cult worship that won't be cured

when it comes to dealing with long term consequences, there is nothing better than culture. In culture, cinema holds special place, so we must promote good cinemas. "He assured the Kazakh envoy of all-out support of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached departments. "Kazakhstan is not a far away land" as it was connected with Pakistan both geographically and culturally, he added. "There is a great future for cooperation between experience and a point of departure to deepen our relationship to new heights."

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said that it was a really educational movie, which specifies that honour, solidarity and dignity are above anything else.

Jamal Shah expressed a keen interest in enhancing collaboration in film and cinema to further fortify bilateral cultur-

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan H. E Yerzhan Kistafin stressed that through the prism of the film, the life of the people of that time, the geopolitical conditions of the formation of the Kazakh Khanate, as well as details of costumes and battle

scenes were conveved. He said that this is a movie based on footage for a great historical show. The Ambassador commended PNCA and National Heritage and Culture Division for collaborating Kazakhstan movie screening.

The movie was screened in

try to foster cultural values of noted. The minister said, "Law said, noting that the screening tolerance and harmony in the will and shall take its course but of the film "should be a learning the Urdu language. COMSTECH Organizes Training Course in Histopathology in Mogadishu

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with Benadir University in Mogadishu, Somalia organized 5-day extensive training course in histopathology. The course was inaugurated on Wednesday at Benadir University in Moga-

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH said in his online delivered welcome the high prevalence of infectious remarks that I congratulate the rector of Benadir University for taking lead in organizing your institution. He said that in Africa, histopathology assumes particular significance due to healthcare management.



diseases, tropical illnesses, and other emerging health challenges. He said that the accurate first event of COMSTECH in diagnosis of conditions, ranging from infectious diseases to cancers, is essential for effective

Prof. Choudhary said that the world renowned histopathologist and COMSTECH Distinguished Scholar, Prof. Dr. Shahid Pervez is leading this comprehensive training course of histopathology for the capacity building of Histopathologists of Somalia and Africa. He important milestone in our said that his team includes Dr. pursuit of excellence in medi-Nasiruddin, Associate Professor of Histopathology, and Dr. Zeeshan Uddin, Assistant Professor and consultant histopathologist, at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. He said that I am confident that the participants of this 5-day training course will benefit immensely from these experts.

The inaugural session was also addressed by the Rector, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Mohamud Hassan, and the Dean, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Mohamud Ali, of Benadir University. Prof. Hassan thanked COMS-TECH for organizing this very important training course and said that This event marks an

cal education, training and research. The Rector said that the knowledge of histopathology is key in the field of diagnosis of diseases.

Prof. Shahid Pervez said that without histopathology, medicine is blind. He said that histopathology is very crucial in the diagnosis in lab tests. He emphasized that the role of histopathology solely depends on the skills and knowledge of the practitioners, that can only be achieved through learning

and continuous reading. About 100 practitioners of histopathology and allied fields are participating in the training course physically.

Philip Morris International earns prestigious inclusion in Dow Jones Sustainability $^{\text{\tiny TM}}$ World Index

PAKISTAN: Philip Morris International (PMI/ the Company) proudly announces its inaugural entry into the Dow Jones Sustainability™ World Index (DJSW Index), alongside its fourth consecutive year on the Dow Jones Sustainability $^{\text{\tiny{IM}}}$ North America Composite Index. The DJSW Index is the most reputable benchmark for assessing the sustainability performance of companies worldwide and includes the top 10% of the largest 2,500 companies in the S&P Global Broad Market Index based on economic, environmental, and social criteria.

PMI achieved an impressive score of 85 out of 100 in the 2023 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), marking a significant 21-point increase since it first began engaging with the DJSW Index in 2018. This year, PMI secured the highest CSA score among the 13 companies assessed in the tobacco industry by S&P.

PMI has been classified as "Prime" a status which is awarded to companies with an ESG performance above a sector-specific threshold which means that they fulfil ambitious absolute performance requirements. PMI stands as the sole entity from the tobacco industry to receive this distinguished qualification, positioning the company for responsible investment recognition.

Roman Yazbeck Managing Director Philip Morris Pakistan Limited (an affiliate of PMI) commented on the company's notable achievement, "PMI's recognition in the Dow Jones Sustainability™ World Index, emphasizes our commitment to sustainability. It reflects our dedication to innovation, growth, and creating a purpose-led, impact-driven, long-term value creation. PMI is proud to be the first company in the tobacco sector to be included in the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability™ World Index, and hope to set the tone for the future of corporate sustainability efforts around the world.

Minister for Energy inaugurates Oil, Ğas and Minerals Career Expo



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Mr. Muhammad Ali inaugurated the first-ever national level 'Fueling Futures Career Expo 2024' on January 31 at Pakistan China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. The two-day Career Expo has been organised by the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) in collaboration with Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL).

The event witnessed an overwhelming attendance of students, facul-

ty, and company representatives. MD and CEO PPL Mr. Imran Abbasy welcomed the large number of students from across the country and thanked the participating companies and universities for making the two-day Career Expo a success.

The platform provides an opportunity for students to interact with the leaders of the energy and minerals industry and to learn from their experiences with the view to selecting, pursuing careers in Oil, Gas and Mineral sector, he added.

In his keynote address, the Federal Minister Mr. Ali emphasized that the event is planned for students to explore Career opportunities with energy and minerals being showcased by respective companies today. He shared that there is massive transformation happening in the Energy sector globally. Energy should be affordable, accessible, and sustainable, he underlined.

The Minister highlighted that Pakistan is energy deficient and an oil importer. Hence there is opportunity to convert the energy deficiency to surplus. Also, there are many in demand mineral resources in the

country with opportunities for their extraction in future. He advised students to make their career decisions based on future environment and needs with Energy and Minerals being critical sectors. Overall overwhelming response at the Career Expo with around 5000 students from across Pakistan in attendance along with faculty

members and staff of around 30 universities and schools The managing directors, senior management, and staff of 14 participating oil, gas and mineral companies.

The two-day Career Expo with the theme, 'Fueling the Future' comprised of company presentations, sessions on significance of oil, gas and mineral sector and opportunities, besides various career counselling dialogues and company and university stalls at the venue.

The event is managed by PPL in partnership with RG Blue Commu-

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'No substitute' for **UNRWA's lifesaving** work in besieged Gaza

o organization can be a substitute for the UN agency assisting Palestinians, UNRWA, in war-ravaged Gaza Strip, the Organization's senior coordinator for the enclave, Sigrid

Apart from a political decision, which would have to be made by the General Assembly, "there is no way any organization can replace or substitute the tremendous capacity and the fabric of UNRWA and its ability and knowledge," Ms. Kaag, Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, told reporters at a stakeout outside the Security Council Chamber in New

She also noted the key role the agency has played over decades, before the current conflict, in education, healthcare and other services. UNRWA was established by the General Assembly in December 1949.

UNRWA's operations are in jeopardy after several donor countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan, suspended funding in the wake of extremely serious allegations that several of its staff were involved in the 7 October terror attacks in Israel.

The Organization has initiated an investigation, and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has reiterated that any employee found to be involved will be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution.

Ms. Kaag's remarks to the press followed her first closed-door briefing to the Security Council since taking up her key coordination role pursuant to Council resolution 2720 (2023).

Her mandate is to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and verify humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza as well as establish a UN mechanism to accelerate humanitarian relief shipments to the enclave through States which are not party to the conflict.

Ms. Kaag underscored that the success of her mandate "is about the ability to achieve and meet the needs" of the civilians in Gaza.

"That is the only indicator, as far as I am concerned." Ms. Kaag emphasized that the absence of a humanitarian ceasefire is hampering aid efforts and causing delays.

"Currently, there is no space, given the fact that there is no ceasefire there and the conflict is raging. There is no space to have monitors all over Gaza to work with the agencies to see, to verify and monitor."

She also reiterated the importance of increasing the flow of commercial goods into Gaza in addition to humanitarian assistance.

"Commercial goods need to be allowed back in," she said. "There will be no recovery, let alone reconstruction in future, without that broad bandwidth."

CPI-2023 and Elections

Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2023, with its score increasing from 27 to 29 and its ranking rising from 140 to 133, marks a significant achievement since 2021. This advancement reflects a positive change in the nation's fight against corruption, potentially boosting its attractiveness for foreign investments and economic growth. This progress, the best since 2021, signifies an improved public perception of corruption reduction in the country, offering hope for future governance and development efforts. (For reference with a score of 1, Denmark is at position 1)

Marium Aurangzeb, the PML(N) spokesperson and former Information Minister, swiftly criticized the jailed ex-Prime Minister and PTI founder for failing to combat corruption, a major pledge of his administration. Concurrently, she lauded Shahbaz Sharif for Pakistan's CPI score improvement during his term since April 2022, highlighting a significant governance milestone. This strategic narrative amplifies PML(N)'s governance credentials ahead of elections, contrasting their achievements with PTI's shortcomings.

Following Bloomberg's positive economic review. Transparency International's CPI 2023 further boosts PML(N)'s pre-election momentum, showcasing their governance and anti-corruption strides. These accolades form a compelling narrative for PML(N), reinforcing their image as a transparent and effective party committed to reform, aiming to sway voters with a record of tangible achievements.

Pakistan's CPI 2023 score of 29, while an improvement, underscores the need for introspection rather than celebration. This rating places it below even some non-democratic regimes, highlighting the gap between Pakistan and nations $with \, robust \, democracies \, and \, strong \, legal$

akistan's improvement in the frameworks, which consistently outperform in anti-corruption efforts. This situation calls for a strategic reassessment and enhanced reforms to elevate Pakistan's standing and governance.

Pakistan's CPI score of 29 and ranking at 133rd, contrasted with India's higher score of 39 and 93rd rank, underscores a significant concern. This gap highlights the urgent need for Pakistan to enhance its governance and anti-corruption measures to improve its standing and perception internationally, especially in comparison to its regional counterparts like India. which is recognized as a flawed democracy yet scores better.

According to the report, the countries with strong rule of law, well-functioning democratic institutions, and effective governance, transparency, and accountability mechanisms sit on the top of the table like Denmark (score 90), Finland (87),

New Zealand (85), and Norway (84). Conversely, the countries, characterized by conflict, restricted freedoms, weak democratic institutions, inadequate justice systems, broader governance and societal challenges and inequality and injustice sit at the bottom of the table such as Somalia (score 11), Venezuela, Syria, and South Sudan (each scoring 13).

Given Pakistan's economic challenges and the urgent need to revitalize its financial stability and investor confidence, a robust anti-corruption drive is imperative. Eradicating corruption is not just about enhancing governance; it's crucial for leveling the economic playing field, fostering fair trade, attracting investments, and revitalizing tourism. It's a foundational step toward ensuring equitable access to services and bolstering public welfare, essential for Pakistan's rapid progress and global standing. For sustainable development and better international relations, this fight against corruption must be prioritized.

Pakistan can engage with top-performing countries on the CPI index through diplomatic channels and international cooperation forums. By initiating dialogues, exchanging best practices, and seeking technical assistance or joint anti-corruption initiatives, Pakistan can learn from their successful strategies to improve governance, transparency, and accountability within its own systems. Collaborating on reform projects and participating in anti-corruption train-

ing programs can also be effective.

Pakistan can also draw inspiration from Armenia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, which have significantly improved their CPI rankings through robust anti-corruption measures and reforms, particularly Armenia's post-2018

Velvet Revolution efforts. Adopting such proven strategies could be key for Pakistan to strengthen its corruption control mechanisms. For more insights, refer to Transparency International's report.

Enhancing access to justice is fundamental in the fight against corruption, as it underpins accountability and deters impunity. By streamlining legal processes, broadening the definition of corruption victims, and empowering civil society to champion corruption cases, Pakistan can build a more inclusive and effective justice system. This holistic approach, learning from global best practices, can pave the way for substantial anti-corruption progress.

While Pakistan's recent anti-corruption progress is encouraging, tackling grand corruption demands bolder measures. We must utilize international cooperation, leveraging the strengths of foreign justice

systems with robust rule of law. This can involve collaborative investigations, asset recovery, and high-profile prosecutions that send a powerful message of account-

Domestically, enhancing transparency is key. Publicly accessible data on legal proceedings, clear procedures, and an independent media foster public trust and deter manipulation. These combined efforts, local and international, will pave the way for a more robust, effective anti-corruption framework in Pakistan, ultimately building a fairer future for its citizens

A truly effective anti-corruption framework requires empowering its guardians - the justice system. This means shielding judges and prosecutors with security and dedicated reporting channels, fostering integrity through mandatory asset declarations and competitive salaries, and harnessing the power of community-based justice.

Integrating informal systems through mediation and dispute resolution mechanisms can leverage local knowledge, improve access to justice, and build trust. By empowering both formal and informal systems, we create a more robust and impactful shield against corruption, ultimately safeguarding the future of Paki-

Pakistan's improvement in the CPI-2023 underscores the potential for positive change with committed governance. This progress, while modest, marks a crucial step towards enhancing the nation's image and fostering an environment conducive to business, investment, and overall societal well-being. It's a reminder that, although the journey to eradicate corruption is arduous, it's attainable with persistent efforts, learning from global best practices, and reinforcing the rule of law and transparency. This momentum must be maintained and amplified to unlock Pakistan's full potential on the global stage.



The Fairest Elections-I

Abdul Basit Alvi

elections' smooth execution, certain elements are contributing to controversy surrounding the event.

These factors advocate for the establishall participants, devoid of any discriminatory practices. There is unanimous consensus playing field. on the pivotal role of a level playing field in the electoral process. A fundamental prin-

ciple of a resilient democratic system is the establishment of such a playing field, guaranteeing equal opportunities for all political entities.

The essence of democracy is encapsulated in the cultivation of a competitive environment where a variety of ideologies can vie on an equal footing. A level playing field

is instrumental in ensuring inclusivity with- choices. Eliminating bureaucratic hurdles in political processes, offering a stage for and ensuring an inclusive registration process parties with diverse perspectives and ideologies. This inclusivity is indispensable for accurately representing the varied spectrum of the population, thus nurturing a genuinely democratic atmosphere.

An equitable system promotes the emergence of a broad array of political parties, preventing the concentration of power within a single party or a limited range of ideologies. This diversity enhances public discourse, fostering more nuanced policy discussions. Transparency and fairness in the electoral process are essential for cultivating public trust. When citizens believe that elections are conducted justly, they are more likely to actively participate in the political process, fostering a sense of ownership and account-

Challenges arise from unequal access to

he general elections in Pakistan resources, including financial support, media nities for all political parties to convey their are set to occur on February 8 coverage, and party infrastructure, which can of this year. Despite extensive disadvantage smaller parties. Established preparations to facilitate the parties often enjoy advantages that hinder effective competition. Instances of electoral fraud, gerrymandering, and manipulation can distort the democratic process, hindering a fair competition of ideas and candiment of a fair and impartial environment for dates. Preserving the integrity of elections is vital for upholding the principles of a level

Media bias has the potential to disproportionately favor certain parties, influencing

public opinion and creating an imbalanced electoral landscape. A level playing field necessitates unbiased media coverage to ensure that voters receive balanced information. Legal and procedural obstacles may impede the formation and registration of new political parties, limiting voter

is imperative for fostering a diverse political landscape. Enforcing campaign finance regulations that are both transparent and fair is essential in diminishing the influence of money in politics. Implementing contribution limits and improving financial transparency are measures that can contribute to creating a level playing field. Strengthening independent electoral commissions plays a crucial role in safeguarding the fairness and integrity of elections. It is imperative to empower these commissions to oversee the entire electoral process, ensuring it remains free from political interference. Encouraging media accountability and advocating for pluralism can help mitigate biases in coverage. A fair electoral environment is further fostered through stricter adherence to ethical standards and by providing equal opportu-

messages. Governments should actively strive to remove barriers to entry for new political parties, achieved through the streamlining of registration processes, providing support for emerging parties, and promoting civic education to encourage a more diverse polit-

ical landscape. Arguably one of the most significant outcomes of contentious elections is the deterioration of public trust in the democratic process. When citizens perceive elections as manipulated or tainted by controversies, their confidence in the electoral system and the legitimacy of elected officials is compromised. This erosion of trust can lead to widespread disillusionment, apathy, and a sense of disen-

franchisement among voters. The integrity of democratic institutions is jeopardized when elections are steeped in controversy. Accusations of electoral fraud or interference can undermine the credibility of institutions responsible for overseeing the electoral process. This erosion of confidence may have lasting effects, weakening the foundation of democratic governance and diminishing the checks and balances necessary for

a healthy political system. Contentious elections do not escape notice on the global stage. The international community closely observes electoral processes, and when controversies arise, it can tarnish a nation's reputation. Perceived electoral irregularities may strain diplomatic relations, leading to consequences in trade, foreign aid, and international cooperation.

Making elections controversial can have enduring consequences for the democratic fabric of a nation. Persistent controversies may deter qualified individuals from participating in politics, further diminishing the quality of political leadership. A weakened democratic system may struggle to address the needs of its citizens and fulfill its fundamental purpose.

To be continued

January's Cloak of Sadness"

Sher Majam

he impacts of climate change have again given the birth to a variety of environmental hits in both these neighboring countries India and Pakistan. Due to Climate change this time both Pakistan and India are experiencing dry winters which causes many diseases. The impacts of climate change has not only affected the health but also the economy, tourism and environment of the both countries. According to the Pakistan Climate change Director General Gulam Rasul climate change is the cause of El Niño causes. Because of this El Niño causes 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 vear, 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 glaciers are drastically melting due to Climate change. This January in Gilgit-Baltistan locals are very disappointed because of neither

The impacts of climate change on the economy $is \, unprecedented. \, The \, economic \, impact \, of \, climate$ change has consistently demonstrated the vulnerability of market sectors such as agriculture, coastal resources, energy, forestry, tourism, and water.

Between 1992 and 2021, according to the World Bank Group, climate- and 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 no 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.

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 the 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 coo peration. 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.

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FM Jilani inaugurates picture exhibition in Brussels to commemorate Kashmir **Solidarity Day**

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Jalil Abbas Jilani, during his official visit to Brussels, Inaugurated "Photo Exhibition " depicting the plight of the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), at Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels, today.

On the occasion, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani categorically stated that the brave sons and daughters of Jammu and Kashmir have valiantly resisted all Indian attempts of coercion and control. Today, we pay homage to the martyrs for the Kashmir Cause and victims of the Indian brutalities. India has failed to subjugate the will of the Kashmiri people n their sacrifices will be remembered



He further said that Peace in South resolution of Jammu and Kashmir Security Council Resolutions and Asia will remain elusive until the just dispute in accordance with the UN according to the aspirations of the of the Kashmiri people.

Kashmiri people. The international community must urge India to stop the ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse the unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; and implement the UN Security Council

For its part, Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. It will continue to extend its full political, moral, and diplomatic support to their just struggle, Foreign Minister added

This initiative aims to raise awareness about the plight of the Kashmiri people and the importance of recognizing their right to self-determination. The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels remains committed to fostering international understanding and garnering support for the just cause

Minister for Commerce and Interior visits OICCI to address investor concerns

№ PPA

KARACHI: Dr Gohar Ejaz, minister for commerce and interior, along with Board of Investment (BoI) Secretary Sohail Rajput, visited the Over $seas\ Investors\ Chamber\ of\ Commerce$ and Industry (OICCI) on Wednesday to engage with foreign investors and discuss critical issues affecting Pakistan's business landscape.

During the meeting, OICCI CE/ Secretary General M Abdul Aleem delivered a comprehensive briefing to key officials on survival challenges faced by foreign investors in Pakistan. Recent survey conducted by the Chamber highlighted key concerns for existing investors part of the Chamber's membership, with rupee devaluation, inflation, the cost of doing business in

Despite these challenges, the secrein Pakistan from fiscal year 2013 to omy," he added. 2022, surpassing the net FDI inflows



of \$19.9 billion during the same peri-

In his remarks, Dr Ejaz said that the caretaker government worked day and night to identify the problem areas Pakistan and increasing tax burden that were bleeding the economy, one being identified as the top pain points. of which was the leakages through the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade.

of the sector-specific challenges, with the Pharma sector facing issues related to pricing policy adherence and overlooked patents during registration by DRAP. The telecommunication sector highlighted concerns about ment of help desks with designated spectrum pricing in US dollar and a relationship managers at BoI, both at regressive and highest taxation on tary general emphasized the significant He urged foreign investors to focus telecom in the region. Moreover, the visit concluded with a focus on ongoing achievements of OICCI members, who on the country's potential. "Pakistan is oil and gas sector raised issues such as collaboration to implement reforms have collectively reinvested \$22 billion poised to be a one trillion-dollar econdelay in timely margin revisions and that would ensure a visible impact on deregulation challenges. The Cham- investment promotion and ease of The meeting also addressed some ber also proposed specific areas where doing business in Pakistan.

the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and BoI could collaborate to improve the ease of doing business.

The Chamber suggested measures to reduce the number of regulators and regulations, with a focus on a transparent policy framework and its consistent application, ensuring no surprises either on tariffs or other regulatory

"To promote Pakistan as an investment hub, a proactive presence at key international forums and in international media, along with effective communication by Pakistani diplomats and trade officers abroad, is the $need\ of\ the\ hour, "said\ Abdul\ Aleem.$

To attract FDI, the proposal also urged quarterly global press engagements by the prime minister to address negative perceptions and the establishthe federal and provincial levels. The

Engro Corporation announces transition in leadership

KARACHI: Engro Corporation, Pakistan's premier business conglomerate, has announced the appointment of Ahsan Zafar Syed as President & CEO Designate.

Ghias Khan will continue to serve as President & CEO of Engro Corporation until the end of his term in April 2024.

Ahsan, currently CEO of Engro Fertilizers, began his professional career with Engro (then Exxon Chemical Pakistan Limited) over 30 years ago. Ahsan played a pivotal engineering role in the construction of the EnVen plant for Engro Fertilizers, which is the second-largest single train urea plant in gy, power and mining projects collec- largest coal reserves in Thar. the world. To date, the EnVen plant has tively amounting to USD 1.9 billion been Engro's largest project and invest- were established under Ahsan's leadment, amounting to USD 1.1 billion at ership, enabling Engro's energy verti-



In a PSX notification, "The Board has also expressed its deepest gratitude towards the existing President & CEO, the time. As the CEO of Engro Ener- cal to successfully unearth the country's Mr. Ghias Khan, whose leadership and

dedication has helped in the substantial growth of the Company."

Over the last 7 years, Engro has achieved historic performance milestones under Ghias's leadership. Its flagship business, Engro Fertilizers, recently became the most valuable fertilizer company on the PSX, the Thar project was completed successfully, VOPAK became a partner in its LNG Terminal, while Engro also started a new telecommunication infrastructure vertical through Engro Enfrashare and established Engro FZE in Dubai to enter regional trade. Ghias implemented Engro Corporation's current operating model, based on which the Engro enterprise received several awards-most recently four of its Group companies were in the top six of the PSX awards for 2023 and Engro was voted as a leading employer of choice.

IMO's Obligations of Reducing Harmful Emissions at Sea Pakistan's Response and Challenges



ISLAMABAD: NIMA organized a seminar on 'IMO's Obligations of Reducing Harmful Emissions at Sea – Pakistan's Response and Challenges' on 31st Jan 24. V/Adm Abdul Aleem, former DG NIMA graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He emphasized that the road ahead to achieve greener shipping in line with IMO GHG Strategy-23 is challenging but can be overcome by strategic planning and systemic capacity building.

President NIMA, in his welcome remarks, highlighted that in the era of "Climate Emergency", the responsibility of every sector has increased manifold. Mr. Camille Bourgeon, Tech. Officer from IMO, London highlighted the need for early ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by Pakistan as it has already ratified the earlier five annexes. He also assured that IMO will render full technical support in this regard. Ms. Alia Shahid, DG Ports & Shipping, MoMA clarified that a roadmap has been chalked out for its ratification in an early time frame. Cdre Irfan Taj from PNSC presented an elaborate plan as to how PNSC will replace its aging fleet in the next thirty years. He also mentioned that existing ships have already shifted to low-carbon fuel. Dr. M. Faheem from NUST introduced the latest technologies including remote sensing systems which can help in generating air pollutant patterns that can be essential tools to identify long-term effects on the environment. He also presented low-cost air monitoring systems developed by NUST with an accuracy factor of 90%. Representatives from various maritime communities including PMSA, KPT, GPA, and provincial EPAs also gave their valuable inputs. Towards the end, it was a unanimous concern that under the SDG 13 & 14, Pakistan needs to expedite its MARPOL VI ratification process to be able to meet 2030 and 2050 GHG targets.

Mobilink Bank joins Champions of Change Coalition to support gender equality

KARACHI: Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank, has joined the Champions of Change Coalition, a globally recognised, innovative strategy for achieving gender equality, providing more leadership opportunities to women, and building respectful and inclusive

Mobilink Bank is steadfast in its commitment to fostering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) as core principles of its organisational ethos. The Bank is committed to empowering women by offering tailored financial products and providing financial literacy training to female borrowers. Mobilink Bank's Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program, recognised by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is a testament to the Bank's dedication to fostering women's empowerment. This commitment is further strengthened by joining the Cham-

Coalition, enhancing Mobilink Bank's continual focus on positive driving change.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectiv-



ity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

The Champions of Change Coalition has gained recognition as a high-impact model for driving progress on gender equality. This visionary strategy engages influential industry leaders, forming a high-profile coalition committed to accelerating gender equality in the workplace. The Coalition includes CEOs, secretaries of government departments, non-executive directors and community leaders who believe gender equality is a major business, economic, societal and human rights issue.

Convenor Fiza Farhan welcomed Ghazafar's becoming of member saying, "We welcome Mobilink Bank to the impactful and actionable coalition of private sector leaders in Pakistan, stepping up proudly for gender equality within their organizations and communities, creating the much needed bold and disruptive action we need to make empowering women a business case leading to tangible and progressive outcomes."

Reflecting on the Bank's ongoing efforts, Mr. Ghazanfar shared, "I take great pride in our efforts to promote DEI across the board. Becoming part of the Champions of Change Coalition emphasizes our dedication to creating a more inclusive environment. At Mobilink Bank, empowering women is not just a social responsibility but a core element of our strategic priorities. We aspire to instill diversity within our organization and radiate that influence into the communities we serve. Our initiatives for women's empowerment, diversity and inclusion are not symbolic; they embody our earnest dedication to foster-

WYF held annual pride of Waziristan award show ceremony at Gomal varsity

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Waziristan Youth Forum's (WYF) 4th Annual Pride of Waziristan Award Show function was organized at AQ Khan Editorial Hall of Gomal University Dera.

Waziristan Youth Forum raising her voice for women's education.

The ceremony was attended by various political parties, universtudents, poets, Ullamas and

Tribal Awami Party chief

chief guest of the event.

On this occasion, Chief Guest of Tribal Awami Party Azam Khan Mehsud, President of Pronational Doctor Association Dr. Saddam Wazir and Alhaj Shafiq Kasouria addressed the ceremony and said, that God willing, we will continue honored Gul Nisa Wazir with to cooperate with Waziristan Pride of Waziristan Award for Youth Forum in terms of moral and financial.

On this occasion, the special guests announced 50,000 to Waziristan Youth Forum and sity administration including one lac to Irfan Mehsud for his good performance in the field of

Azam Khan Mehsud was the announced to bear the cost of free cial support to them in every

education to 8 poor students of all tribal districts.

Later, Dr. Saddam Wazir also announced to bear the educational expenses of 6 male and female students for the Waziristan Youth Forum.

The speakers said that Waziristan Youth Forum stands for education, development and prosperity and the day is not far when their hard work will pay off.

On the other hand, District Sports Officer Noor Ullah wazir said that the Department of Sports Directorate of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not only appreciates such positive activities and rather, we have provided finanforum and will continue to do so in the future.

Speakers further said that students should understand the importance of pen and the power of pen and devote all your energies to intellectual creation.

President of Waziristan Youth Forum Bakht Amir Suleman Khel and General Secretary Gul Ahmed Mehsud said that in a backward district like Waziristan, we are trying to highlight the problems of women and youth especially female education in Waziristan Youth Forum.

Apart from this, solving the problems faced in the health sector, development and attracting the youth towards sports are



among our top priorities.

cabinet members of Waziristan the participants and guests At the end of the ceremony, the Youth Forum thanked all whole-heartedly.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation					
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index					
Current	Prev. Close				
61,979.18	61,841.74				
Day's High	Day's Low				
62,600.12	61,896.00				
Index Value	Change				
6,676,762,277	+137.44				
Percentage	Time				
+0.22%	31 Jan, 2024 5:00 pm				
Europe: FTS	Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change				
7,655.87	-10.36				
Percentage	Time				
-0.14%#	31 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT				
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average				
Index Value	Change				
38,517.76	+50.45				
Percentage	Time				
1 010011tag					

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
36,286.71	+220.85		
Percentage	Time		
+0.61%	31 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

Орен магкес		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	183.8
Bahrain Dinar	743.86	751.86
Canadian Dollar	205	207
China Yuan	38.67	39.07
Danish Krone	40.68	41.08
Euro	301	304
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8
Indian Rupee	3.36	3.47
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.95	917.95
Malaysian Ringgit	58.52	59.12
NewZealand \$	171.34	173.34
Norwegians Krone	26.76	27.06
Omani Riyal	727.03	735.03
Qatari Riyal	76.83	77.53
Saudi Riyal	74.5	75.5
Singapore Dollar	207	209
Swedish Korona	26.76	27.06
Swiss Franc	324.29	326.79
Thai Bhat	7.85	8
U. A.E Dirham	76.4	77.3
UK Pound Sterling	354	357
US Dollar	279.5	281.7

Kaspersky solutions declared most effective in anti-malware protection



₿ Abid Saeed

ISLAMABAD: Amid the current prevalence of malware attacks, Kaspersky's anti-malware tools have achieved the highest possible rating in examination by independent security testing company SE Labs. Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business, Kaspersky Small Office Security and Kaspersky Plus were subjected to a mixture of targeted attacks using well-established techniques and threats found live on the internet at the time of the test. All three products were awarded the maximum possible 1136 points and an "AAA" awards certificate.

According to a recent Kaspersky global study, 28% of companies all over the world experienced cyber incidents due to malware attacks in the last two years. The majority of cyber incidents occurred in financial organizations, telecommunications companies, critical infrastructures such as energy, oil and gas, because employees downloaded

In SE Labs' anti-malware protection test, Kaspersky Small Office Security and Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business were tested in the "small business" and the "enterprise" categories respectively, while Kaspersky Plus was assessed in the "home" segment. Test scenarios in this examination represented real-world cyberattacks, allowing vendors to show the effectiveness of endpoint security solutions in terms of detection, prevention, and mitigation.

All Kaspersky products received the highest 400 points in the "Protection Accuracy Rating", as they detected and blocked all threats and didn't allow them to compro-

mise the system. Additionally, maximum of 736 points were earned in the "Legitimate Accuracy Ratings" as the products classified legitimate applications and URLs correctly.

S Climate change

Neglecting climate danger termed collective suicide: Mian Zahid Hussain

★ Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that most political parties have disregarded climate change in their manifestos.

A significant threat like climate change cannot be overlooked as ignoring this issue amounts to a collective suicide, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that while the economy is somewhat mentioned in the political parties' manifestos, climate change has yet to find the place it deserves.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan is one of the top five countries affected by climate change. Our agriculture, which was already

very weak, is now gradually being destroyed, and the industry is also at risk.

However, the majority of politicians and voters are not very interested in the most critical issues like climate change, which is equivalent to suicide.

He said climate change can only be considered an important subject in a country with literate voters. He observed that since voters are not worried about this problem, politicians are not too interested in it because representatives keep the people's priorities in mind. He said politicians are chanting slogans

about the economy, human development, and reforms. There is also talk to improve the environment, but there is almost silence about the devastating impact of climate change.

Claims of rehabilitating 30 million people affected by the floods have not been fully implemented, nor did the international community



do anything despite the promise to provide \$10billion to Pakistan.

He said that the major obstacle to the reha- with domestic politics.

bilitation of flood victims is the lack of resources, as the flood occurred when the country's economy was in bad shape.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that less focus on this sector is equivalent to encouraging poverty, unemployment, and illnesses in a country already facing multiple problems.

He said there is still a risk of floods in Pakistan, while the sea level is constantly rising, leaving over two million acres of land submerged.

He informed that climate change has affected at least 12 million people, many of whom are moving to cities, increasing pressure on their weak infrastructure.

In Pakistan, the people affected by climate change are financially weak and lack a voice. Therefore, they are neglected at all levels, and in turn, they have also become unconcerned

Hard work

ISLAMABAD: A cobbler preparing shoes under the shade of plastic sheet alongside a road during



Federal Minister hints at export target of US\$ 100 billion in next 5 years

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Federal Minister for Commerce and Interior said that the government intends to take Pakistan's exports to US\$ 100 billion in the next 5 years and the business community should play an active role in achieving this target. He said this while talking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz said that Pakistan needs to boost exports to improve its economy, therefore, the private sector should focus on diversification of exports to achieve better results for the economy. He said that the business community should partner with the government in accelerating the economic development of the country. He said that the business community should also take an active part in corporate social responsibility activities to address issues of the poor segments of society and



promote welfare activities in Export Development Fund.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the ICCI is making efforts for the establishment of an Expo Centre in the region and the government should cooperate in the given representation in the better security in the feder-

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the government should offer a special package to the SMEs and the industry in the next budget to facilitate their better growth.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam and a new Industrial Estate Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the Islamabad Police should be further completion of these projects. strengthened by enhanc-He said that ICCI should be ing its workforce to ensure

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan, Abdul Rauf Alam, Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Tariq Sadiq, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, former Presidents ICCI, Ch. Waheed ud Din, Muhammad Naveed Malik, and others were in the ICCI delegation.

Make Zong Roaming Bundles your Travel Partner

₿ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication provider, offers exclusive International Roaming bundles for your next trip abroad so that you can enjoy hassle-free and uninterrupted connectivity at affordable rates.

Zong 4G is working endlessly to make International roaming more seamless, accessible, and affordable for international travelers. The constant struggle of switching networks for international trips is a struggle. Keeping this in mind, Zong 4G deemed it necessary to offer International Roaming services to make your enjoyable.

Zong 4G is the only telecom operator in Pakistan that offers IR services in more than 150 countries and has specially-tailored IR bundles for multiple loca- holiday season.'



tions such as UAE, China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Azerbaijan, etc.

According to the official Spokesperson for Zong 4G, 'International Roaming in Pakistan is a service that is still undergoing a lot of changes, due to which most people do not consider roaming to be reliable. However, Zong is committed to transforming this perception. We firmly believe that International Roaming is an integral service that should be both affordable and relitraveling experience more able for all users. This is why we are pleased to introduce specially-designed IR bundles to ensure that our customers experience premium services at cost-effective rates, especially during this

Soneri Bank announces impressive results for December 2023

≫ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Soneri Bank Limited, in their 202nd meeting held in Lahore on 31st January 2024, approved the Bank's financial results for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Bank posted impressive growth in earnings with Profit before Tax (PBT) reported at Rs. 12,357 million for the year ended 31 December 2023 as against Rs. 4,554 million earned during previous year; which signifies an impressive 171.35 percent year on year growth. Profit after Tax (PAT) for the current year also surged to Rs. 6,075 million as against Rs. 1,883 million in the last year, translating to a growth of 222.61 percent year on year. Accordingly, the Bank's EPS was reported at Rs. 5.5108 per share for the current year, as compared to Rs. 1.7082 earned in the previous year.

With the Bank's EPS at historic high levels; The Board of Directors has recommended cash dividend for the year ended 31 December 2023 @ 30.00 percent i.e. Rs. 3.00 per share (2022: @ 10.00 percent i.e. Rs. 1.00 per share), subject to shareholders' approval in the forthcoming AGM.

Fund based income continued to improve at the back of improved spreads and robust asset and liability management keeping in view the interest rate regime, and the Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew by 102 percent to Rs. 22,759 million for the current year, as against Rs. 11,267 million reported last year. Non markup income (NMI) also registered a healthy growth of 25.23 percent YoY, with NMI reported at Rs. 6,459 million for the current year as against Rs. 5,157 million for last year, with core fee income reflecting an improvement of 26.97 percent year on year.

Capital should not be frozen but brought into circulation

№ Tariq Khattaq

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Wednesday expressed concern over the continued fall in home remittances.

He said the country's economic lifeline must be saved from the Hundi mafia and that the money received should be circulated, which has long been frozen in the a sizable portion of this capiunproductive property sector.

a statement issued here today erty sector for years as investhat the government must find tors wait for prices to increase,

ways to encourage Pakistanis he informed. working overseas so that the volume of remittances could be increased.

Up to \$ 30 billion a year is sent by Pakistanis living abroad. However, the banks withhold the dollars and pay the recipient families in local currency.

This is where the government's interest ends. The money received is used to keep many families afloat, and tal is invested in real estate. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in The capital is stuck in prop-

The business leader said the property mafia plunders some hard-earned money. In contrast, the remaining money is frozen for many years in the property sector which could be used for national develop-

He said that if this huge capital is directed to active sectors, it will play an essential role in developing industry and agriculture, but this has never been considered seriously.

The government should formulate a policy to put its money to use, which would ately after that, a significant

lead to the country's development and provide jobs to the people amid record unemployment, he demanded.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the target of remittances for the current financial year has been fixed at around \$30.50 billion, which is difficult to achieve. According to the IMF, remittances will likely be reduced by one billion

He said that remittances in 2020-21 had reached a record of 31 billion 28 million dollars. But they recorded a sharp decline of \$4 billion immedi-



economic blow.

The industry is suffering, agriculture and exports are not showing promising signs, and the IMF's demand for a lifting import ban is becoming a

real threat. Therefore, he said, poli-

cymakers should focus on increasing remittances and take steps to ensure money circulation.

Elements involved in Hundi business should not be allowed to become a threat to the system, he demanded.

Govt Girls Degree College, Kotri to participate in 6th Sindh College Games 2024

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: Government Girls Degree College Kotri will participate in the 6th Sindh College Games 2024.

The announcement was made by Principal Government Girls Degree College Kotri Professor Khadija Al-Kabari while addressing the ceremony of distribution of tracksuits and kits to the players selected to participate in various sports.

On this occasion, he advised the players to show the best discipline and participate in the competitions with

He praised the Director of Physical Education Ayesha Erum for preparing fully for participating in the Games and reiterated her commitment to provide all possible support. Prof. Hamida Mirbahr and others were also present.



Faisalabad girls, Sahiwal boys win Rising Punjab Games Athletics titles



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Faisalabad division with 152 points won Rising Punjab Games 2024 Women's Athletics title at Puniab Stadi- comfortably won the Javelin um on Wednesday. The second position went to Lahore division, which secured 89 points while Rawalpindi girls grabbed M Arham, who threw javelin 3. Tasleem Akbar (Srg) 25.73

third position with 50 points. In the Rising Punjab Games clinched top position with 127 Women and Men's competitions Musarrat (Srg) 13.94. tions were taken by Gujran- sium Hall. wala and Faisalabad divisions

with 95 and 85 points respectively.

Lahore's Yasir Sultan, who won bronze medal at Bangkok Asian Athletics Championship, Throw event with a throw of 71.44m. The second position in this event went to Faisalabad's at 59.87m.

The Rising Punjab Games Men's Athletics event, Sahiwal Table Tennis Championship points while the next two posi- are in progress at NPSC Gymna-

It is worth

the Rising Punjab Games are being organized as the first event of Sports Board Punjab's Annual Sports Calendar

Programme. Women's athletics results:

Javelin Throw 1. Fatima Hussain (Fsb) 39.52, 2. Yusra Ayub (Lhr) 37.52,

1. Faiqa Riaz (Lhr) 12.40, 2. Khaula Umer (Rwp) 13.28, 3.

1. Sunaina (Rwp) 2.32.72, 2. Aleem (Mul) 55.29 Kashaf Saddigue (Gui) 9 35 19

3. Maria Bibi (Fsb) 2.36.70. Triple Jump:

1. Amtul Rehman (Fsb) 11.99, 2. Ramzana Bibi (Mul) 10.06.3.

Iram Zahoor (Swl) 9.60. 4x400 Relay

Farhat (Fsb) 4.24.41, 2. Khadija, Bisma, Kinza and Ghazala (Lhr) 4.35.13, 3. Sitara, Kainat, Maliaka, Kashaf (Guj) 4.38.87

Men's athletics results: Javelin Throw

1. M Yasir Sultan (Lhr) 71.44, 2. M Arham (Fsb) 59.87, 3. M

1. Shajar Abbas (Lhr) 10.30, 2. Gohar Shahbaz (Guj) 10.40, 3. Ali Ahmed Sukharia (Swl) 10.81. 1500m:

1. Amir Sohail (Swl) 4.10.09, 2. Samiullah (Guj) 4.10.47, 3. 1. Amtul, Rida, Mahnoor and Usama Hassan (Lhr) 4.11.25.

Triple Jump: 1. Ûsman Zaffar (Swl) 15.29, 2. M Nazir (Srg) 14.94. 3. M

Afzal (Lhr) 14.59. 4x400 Relay

1. Abid, Ali Nawaz, Ikram and Shahid (Swl) 3.20.69, 2. Usama, Ali, Asad and Abdul Rehman (Fsb) 3.22.35, 3. Naeem, Sami, Nauman, Fahad (Gui) 3,29,56.

Lahore, Karachi declared joint champions of National Women's T20 Tournament

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Lahore and Karachi were declared joint champions of the National Women's Cricket Tournament 2023-24 after rain forced the final match to be abandoned without a ball bowled.

The allotted prize money of PKR 1.5 million was divided between the two

Lahore ended the league stage reigning supreme in the points table enjoying a 10-game winning streak. Karachi had secured their place in the final after edging over Rawalpindi with a superior net run rate.

Rawalpindi captain Aliya Riaz and Multan captain Gull Feroza were jointly declared players of the tournament. match awards – the most in the tour-

Aliya was the third highest run-get-



370 runs in 10 games, including three half-centuries and an unbeaten centu-Both players earned five player of the ry. She also picked up 10 wickets in the tournament.

Gull, the second highest run-scorer, produced 479 runs on the back of five

ter of the tournament, finishing with half-centuries, and had five dismissals behind the stumps.

Lahore's Sidra Amin was awarded the best batter of the tournament for amassing 494 runs in 10 matches, including three half-centuries and a century. Lahore leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima was the most successful bowler of the tournament with an impressive tally of 21 wickets in 10 games at an average

of 8.24 and economy rate of just 4.44. Sidra Nawaz, also representing Lahore, was adjudged the best wicketkeeper of the tournament had 15 dismissals behind the stumps, including six catches and nine stumpings.

Scores in brief: Lahore v Karachi

Match abandoned without a ball

Players of the tournament - Aliya Riaz (370 runs & 10 wickets) (Rawalpindi) and Gull Feroza (479 runs & five dismissals) (Multan)

Best batter – Sidra Amin (494 runs) Lahore)

Best bowler - Ghulam Fatima (21 wickets) (Lahore)

Best wicket-keeper - Sidra Nawaz (15 dismissals) (Lahore)

Pope reaches new heights, Babar at 5th position in Test batter rankings

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: England batter Ollie Pope has been rewarded for his heroics during the first Test against India by reaching a new career-high rating on the latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

Pope stunned India with a magnificent 196 in the second innings of England's thrilling 28-run triumph in the opening Test of the crucial ICC World Test Championship series on the sub-continent and rose a mammoth 20 places to 15th on the rankings that were updated by the ICC on Wednesday.

It was Pope's highest Test score away from home and the fourth highest individual innings by an England men's player in a Test in India and the in-form right-hander made a big jump up the rank-



ings as a result.

New Zealand veteran Kane Williamson remains out in front as the No.1 ranked Test batter in the world and there is a minor re-shuffle inside the top 10 following England's triumph in Hyderabad and the conclusion of the tied series between Australia and the West Indies.

Australia opener Usman Khawaja gains two places to eighth following a half-century in the opening innings of the

an side at the Gabba, while Pope's England teammate Ben Duckett also improves as he gains five places to 22nd after knocks of 35 and 47 against India.

Former Pakistan captain Babar Azam secured the fifth position, accumulating 768 points.

India veteran Ravichandran Ashwin maintains his place at the head of the Test rankings for bowlers following his six wickets against England, with teammate Jasprit Bumrah closing in on top position as he gains a spot and jumps to fourth following six scalps of his own in Hyderabad.

There's also a trio of quicks from the West Indies rewarded for their strong showing against Australia, with Kemar Roach (up two places to 17th), Alzarri Joseph (up four places to 33rd)

second Test against the Caribbe- and Player of the Match at the Gabba Shamar Joseph (up 42 spots to equal 50th) all making some ground following the upset victory. India star Ravindra Jadeja enjoys a healthy buffer at the head of the Test all-rounder rankings, but he may have a new challenger soon if England veteran Joe Root can continue his recent decent

performances with the ball. While Root is more renowned for his efforts with the willow, the 33-year-old collected five wickets against India with his more than handy spin - and even opened the bowling for England during the second innings.

This effort has seen Root rise to a new career-high rating on the list for Test all-rounder and seen the evergreen England star jump once place to fourth behind Jadeja on the updated rankings.

Faisalabad Board won the All Pakistan Inter Boards Girls Handball Championship

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Faisalabad won the All Pakistan Inter Boards Girls Handball Championship hosted by Education Board Multan. Lahore Board was the runner-up. Mardan bagged the third position. Faisal-



abad defeated Multan in the league-based event held at Multan Board's campus ground. Lahore and Mardan defeated the three teams. Lahore got the second position with two victories and Mardan got the third position by getting the only victory against Multan. In the closing ceremony, the special guest Assistant Secretary Education Board Multan Mujahid Hussain Baloch and Sports Incharge Malik Nisar Ahmad distributed the prizes.

Bahria Club face Arambagh in grand finale of 7th Commissioner Cup basketball tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Bahria Club will take on Arambagh Club in the grand finale of the 7th Commissioner Cup Basketball Tournament 2024 to be played at International Abdul Nasir Basketball Court Arambagh on Thursday.

The semifinals witnessed Bahria Club securing a hard-fought victory over Patars 2100 Club with a score of 61-56. Behzad Khan led Bahria Club with 18 points, supported by Hamad Khan with 14 points and Ali Hassan contributing 12. On the other side, Rana Athar was the top scorer for Patars 2100 Club with 21 points, followed by Mohsin Riaz and Anas Usman, each adding 10 points.

In the second semifinal, Arambagh Club triumphed over Civil Tigers Club with a 55-46 win. Hasan Ali shined for Arambagh Club, scoring 22 points, Abdullah Imam added 18 points, and Muneebur Rahman chipped in with 10. Civil Tigers Club's effort was led by Daniyal Marwat with 18 points, Zaid Ashraf with 16,

and Haris Shahid scoring 10 points. The matches were officiated by referees Zahid Malik, Amir Sharif, and Muhammad Ashraf, with Rajkumar Lakhwani, Michael Turner, Naeem Ahmed, and Zaima Khatun serving as technical officials. The match commissioner was Mohammad Ayaz Munshi, a former director of sports at KDA, and the event was organized by noted journalist Akram Ustad

Director General of KDA Naveed Anwar Siddiqui, the chief guest at the event, pledged KDA's full support for the development of basketball in the region. He emphasized the need for healthy activities in Karachi and assured that KDA would facilitate sports activities for the youth. Prominent figures such as Engineer Tariq Rafi, Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Asif Gulfam, Ghulam Abbas Jamal Advocate, and M Naseem were also present.

Pakistan secure 9th position in FIH Hockey5s World Cup 2024

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured the 9th position in the ongoing FIH Hock ey5s World Cup 2024 after beating Switzerland by 10-1 in Muscat, Oman on Wednesday.

According to information made available by the



a hat trick, while captain Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf, Abdul Hanan Shahid and Arshad Liaquat netted two goals apiece. Ghazanfar Ali scored one goal.

Rana Abdul Waheed finished the event as the top goal scorer with 23 goals. Pakistan was awarded the Challengers Trophy by International Hockey Federation (FIH).

Sixteen teams, divided into four pools featured in the event with the Netherlands and Malaysia advancing to the final to crown the first-ever men's FIH Hockey5s world champions on

KTrade becomes Multan Sultans official investment partner

Sports Desk

MULTAN: A leading stock trading platform, KTrade, formerly known as KASB, has joined Multan Sultans as the official investment partner for the ninth edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League, which commences on 17 February.

That this is the first instance of a capital markets firm from the Pakistan Stock Exchange sponsoring any top-flight cricket team underpins the popularity of Multan Sultans, the champions of the 2021 edition and the most successful team in the history of the tournament.

Multan Sultans General Manager Hijab Zahid said that they were extremely delighted to have KTrade on board.

Through this partnership, cricket is tapping into a new industry in Pakistan, which will prove to be beneficial for the game and the stock and commodity brokerage industry.

Iftikhar apologizes for heated spat with Asad Shafique

№ A Sports

KARACHI: Pakistan all-rounder Iftikhar Ahmed apologized over his heated verbal exchange with senior batter Asad Shafique in the Sindh Premier League (SPL).

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Iftikhar issued an apologetic statement and admitted that he should not have behaved in

'I am extremely apologetic for my behaviour in the field today. I shouldn't have reacted the way I did in the heat of the moment,"

Iftikhar Ahmed further shared that he has apologized to Asad Shafique in person and have always held great regard for him. "I've apologised to [Asad Shafique] Bhai in person after the match & have always held great regards for him. We have played a lot of cricket together," he concluded.

The incident occurred when Karachi Ghazi's Iftikhar dismissed Larkana Challengers' Asad in the eighth over of the 161-run pursuit.

The Spokesman

Called on

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Sri Lanka, Major General (retd) Faheem Ul Aziz, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.



Civil Society Organizations unite to combat diseases by curbing iTFAs in all dietary sources

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister of Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan expressed that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination is committed to taking all possible measures to regulate industrially produced trans-fatty acids in all foods and reduce consumption of unhealthy diets to save precious lives. He expressed his thoughts during his meeting with a coalition of organizations, including the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan Youth Change Advocates Global Health Advocacy Incu- the best practice policy" bator (GHAI). The purpose tion to the rising incidence of "Non-communicable diseas-Non-Communicable Diseases es are undermining Paki-Trans fatty acids (iTFAs) in

Pakistani dietary sources. He further said "We



Ministry of Science and Technology to help regulate indus-

According to Muna-

of disabilities. Industrially (PYCA), Pakistan National trially produced trans-fatty lent in a large number of food guidelines." Heart Association and the acids in all foods, and to adopt items in our markets, pose a major threat to public health."

of this meeting was to draw war Hussain, In-country mandatory government-led ty Stores Corporation on the Federal Minister's atten- Representative of GHAI, regulation of iTFAs, Mr. harmful food products like Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive banaspati ghee and sugar, Director of CPDI, stated, "We and redirect subsidies toward (NCDs) linked to the preva-stan's economic welfare gains, urge the Ministry of Nation-healthier options like fruits, lence of industrially produced and contributing to reduced al Health to lead the process vegetables, lentils and whole productivity of the human and work with the Paki- grain wheat flour. Mr. Munaresources. They also dimin- stan Standards and Quality war Hussain added, "It is ish the life expectancy of the Control Authority (PSQCA) essential to ensure that subsiare ready to call upon an population and render it to establish mandatory regudies support nutritious foods

inter-ministerial meeting with vulnerable to various forms lations limiting iTFAs to less than 2% in all food items, produced trans fats, preva- as recommended by WHO

The coalition also proposed to eliminate government

in the best interest of public health rather than those high in harmful ingredients such as iTFAs and sugar."

The Federal Minister of Health also indicated that the Ministry had decided to ban the serving of sugar-sweetened beverages in its official events and would be issuing an advisory to the other ministries to follow suit.

In 2023, PYCA launched the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign, aimed at raising public awareness and generating public demand and policy support for the elimination of iTFAs from all food sources. Afshar Iqbal, Director of Communications and Advocacy at PYCA, stated, "Our campaign is a call to action Emphasizing the need for subsidies through Utili- advocating for mandatory policies that safeguard public

> Mr. Sanaullah Ghaman, Secretary General, Pakistan National Heart Association was also present and apprised the Minister about the activities of PANAH regarding the harms of unhealthy food and sugary drinks.

Pak HC-designate to Sri Lanka calls on **President Alvi**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Sri Lanka Major General (Retd) Faheem Ul Aziz called on President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday. During the meeting, the president said that Pakistan attached great importance to its bilateral relations with Sri Lanka, which spanned over seven decades of the strong bonds, according to a President House news release. President Alvi stressed the need to further promote the people-to-people and cultural contracts between Pakistan Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

and Sri Lanka, besides consolidating the ties in the fields of economy and education. He said that bilateral trade volume with Sri Lanka must be increased to its full potential, adding the goodwill feelings of the two countries towards each other should be converted into strong economic ties. President Alvi said that Pakistan had Buddhist heritage sites which were of great importance for the promotion of tourism activities in the country. The president congratulated Major General (Retd) Faheem Ul Aziz on his appointment as Pakistan's High

AJK PM says Kashmir issue first priority

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that highlighting Kashmir issue both at national and international level was his government's first and foremost

The AJK premier made these assertions while talking to media men after visiting the office of the All Parties the Hurriyat Conference (APHC) here today. He said that in ary in Pakistan and AJK with a collaboration with the APHC coordinated efforts would be made to promote Kashmir cause at the global level.

"Besides meeting the foreign diplomats in Islamabad, special delegations would be dispatched abroad to sensitize the world about the early resolution of Kashmir dispute and highlight the plight of Kashmiris", he said. Urging India to shun its policy of intransigence and obduracy, the PM said that the Indian government must accept the ground reality and pave the way for early settlement of the dispute through peaceful means.

The resilient Kashmiri nation won't succumb to India's pressure tactics", he said, adding that the people of Kashmir would never give up their legitimate struggle for right to self-determination, which had been guaranteed to them by the international community. Lauding



stan's consistent support has been a source of great strength for the people of Kashmir.

He said that Kashmir solidarity day would be observed on 5 Februrenewed commitment to bring an end to India's illegal and forced occupation of Kashmir.

"Success is our destiny. Insha'Allah, the ongoing freedom struggle reach to its fruition", the PM said. In response to another question, the Prime Minister said that the success of the ongoing freedom movement in the Indian occupied Kashmir was that India has deployed 900,000 troops in a small area.

Referring to Kashmiris' unconditional love for the people and state of Pakistan, he said that Kashmiris had decided to accede to Pakistan on July 19, 1947. Speaking on the occasion, the APHC convener Mahmood Ahmed Saghar said that the Prime Minister's visit to Hurriyat Conference office was of great importance. Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to carry forward the mission of martyrs, he said that the ongoing struggle continue at all fronts till Pakistan's principled stand on the the people of Kashmir achieve their Kashmir issue, the PM said Paki- cherished goal of freedom.

Probationary Officers of 51st Common Training Program visit FBR

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: probationary officers of also attended by Member 51st Common Training Inland Revenue-Operations Programme (CTP) visited the Federal Board of Revenue Headquarters today as part of their pre-ser- and other senior officers of the vice training activities. The Revenue Division. batch comprised 236 officers including 92 female officers. Administration briefed the Upon arrival, the probationers were received warmly by officers of FBR and escorted to the auditorium for a brief-

Member Administration Sved Nadeem Hussain Rizvi The chaired the session which was Mir Badshah Khan Wazir, Member Customs-Operations Dr. Farid Iqbal Qureshi

On the occasion, Member visiting officers about the working, structure and funccollection system and various en the tax base to tap true also informed about reform



them about the revenue being undertaken to broad- of the national economy. He

tions of FBR. He apprised initiatives and interventions tax potential for betterment

measures being introduced to transform FBR into a modern and dynamic organization. Mr. Rizvi also wished the probationers best of luck in their future endeavors.

The probationary officers also visited different Wings of FBR for first-hand experience of working of the Division. They evinced keen interest in the functioning of FBR and asked queries for understanding of the tax administration. Later, souvenirs were also distributed among the

UN FAO conference to shape future of food security and reform regional food systems

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: A High-level delegation from Pakistan participated virtually at a major international conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in a multilateral effort to reform agrifood systems across the Asia-Pacific region after years of the pandemic, climate emergencies, volatile markets, and economies that have affected millions of producers and consumers.

The Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (#APRC37) is convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Government of Sri



The delegation from Pakistan comprised of Government of Pakistan's nominated Economic Consultant in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Dr Haroon Sarwar Awan, FAO Representative in Pakistan Florence Rolle, Deputy FAO Representative a.i. Emmanuel Monca(Programme) Aamer Irshad.

Highlighting the importance of APRC for Pakistan, FAO Representative in Pakistan Florence said that this country's high-level participation in this important conference will help guide FAÔ's work here in Pakistan and right across the Asia and Pacific region, as all FAO Member Nations share a common goal of achieving the SDGs by 2030, particularly those goals relating to hunger, poverty and inequality.

Dr Haroon, while speaking during the meeting, informed that Asia-Pacific LDCs, including Pakistan, grapple with looming debt distress, necessitating a departure from short-term crisis al Session.

da and Assistant FAO Representative responses to strategic investments. We emphasize that it's time for the global community to redirect its focus towards long-term solutions, with a spotlight on financing, gender empowerment in agriculture, and increased credit for smallholders, he emphasized.

There are 46 FAO Member Nations in Asia and the Pacific. Hundreds of high-level participants are registering for a senior official's meeting (31 January to 2 February-virtually), and a Ministerial Session from 19 to 22 February (in-person). The FAO Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, is expected to travel from FAO headquarters in Rome to participate in the Ministeri-

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Pakistan's education demand provides opportunity for UK higher education



ISLAMABAD: The British Council launched its "Mapping International Student Mobility from Pakistan" report at an event in Islamabad. The report, aimed at unravelling the dynamics of student mobility to the UK, revealed crucial insights that will shape the future landscape of educational collaboration across Pakistan.

A gap between supply and demand in Pakistan's tertiary education proposition is driving its university-age population overseas. Other important findings of the report include:

The launch event was attended by

the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CME OBE Country Director British Council Pakistan, James Hampson, representatives from UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and policymakers. British High Commissioner, Jane

Marriott said: James Hampson, Country Director

British Council Pakistan said: This report is a significant step towards informed decision-making

for all stakeholders and is a testament to the work the British Council is doing to improve access to international opportunities for students across Pakistan.

Farooq urges unwavering support for Kashmiris

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) AJK, Muhammad



Farooq on Wednesday urged Unwavering support for Kashmiris of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Talking to APP, he said Pakistan remains committed to supporting the Kashmiri struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination, also acknowledged by the United Nations al community.

(UN) through multiple resolutions. Rehmani stressed that this year's Solidarity Day should be viewed in the context of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ's) judgment on Palestine, highlighting Israel's actions in

He pointed out that Pakistan has an opportunity to bring India's 30-year-old ethnic cleansing of Kashmiris to the ICJ.

Seizing this chance would shift the dynamics in favour of the oppressed Kashmiri population, holding India accountable before the internation-