



FM Shamshad Akhtar announces approval of NCGCL's share subscription agreement

The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, today. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Privatization and Inter Provincial Coordination Fawad Hasan Fawad, (Report on Page 8)



Remembering Babur on his 541st Birth Anniversary

Babur is a Persian word meaning in English "Tiger" in Urdu Cheetah (چیتا). Babur was born February 15, 1483 in Fergana, Uzbekistan and died December 26, 1530, Agra, India. Babur founder of the Mughal dynasty of northern India and was the emperor 1526-30. Babur, a descendant of the Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan and also of the Turkic conqueror Timur (Tamerlane), was a military adventurer, a soldier of distinction... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Called on

Rawalpindi: Turkish Deputy Chief of General Staff calls on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters.



Photo: ISPR

CJCSC discusses bilateral ties with Turkish Army's deputy chief

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Turkish Armed Forces Deputy Chief of General Staff General Irfan Ozsert called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, said Inter-Services Press Relations (ISPR).

According to the military's media wing, General Irfan Ozsert visited Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi. In a meeting, the Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee and the Turkish Armed Forces

Deputy Chief of General Staff discussed issues related to bilateral military engagements and cooperation.

Both the armed forces also reiterated their commitment to further develop deep strategic ties. General Irfan Ozsert praised the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

Earlier upon arrival, the Deputy Chief of General Staff of Turkish Forces was given a guard of honor.

PML-N, PPP agree to forge alliance for democratic stability



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) representatives Wednesday discussed the current political situation and agreed that establishing a stable democratic government is the need of the hour in the country.

Senator Ishaq Dar, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, and Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan represented the Pakistan Muslim League (N) at the meeting. The PPP was represented by Syed Murad Ali Shah, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Saeed Ghani, and other party leaders.

Highlighting the potential benefits, they stressed that such a government could address Pakistan's economic, political, law and order, and

terrorism challenges. Tackling issues like inflation, unemployment, and insecurity would ultimately free the populace from these burdens.

During the meeting, representatives from both parties presented their proposals. After thorough deliberation, they decided to reconvene on Thursday, with additional representatives from various provinces of the Muslim League (N) joining the session. Additionally, they resolved to finalize decisions after consulting with other politically aligned parties.

The representatives reached a consensus on expediting the government formation process. The proposals formulated through their consultation will be presented to the leadership. The final decision will be made by the leadership based on the committee's recommendations.

Fazlur Rehman urges PML-N to sit in opposition

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday said his party has 'completely' rejected the results of the February 8 general elections, inviting PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to sit in the opposition benches with the former.

Addressing a press conference, the JUI-F chief also rejected the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) statement in which it declared the polls free and fair, alleging that the rigging witnessed during these polls was unmatched.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman claimed that "rigging" in 2024 broke records of 2018 elections, regretting that the Parliament has lost its importance and democ-



racy was losing its case. Hinting at protests, he said it seems as if decisions will now be taken in the ground and not Parliament.

Elaborating on the next strategy, Fazlur Rehman said that his party would play its parliamentary role but would become a part of the assemblies with reservations.

"Defeating the JUI-F through poll rigging was a conspiracy of anti-Islamic elements," he alleged. "Our fault is that we spoke up against Israeli brutalities in Gaza and supported Hamas," Fazl added.

He added that the JUI-F was an ideological force and would

not compromise on any of its ideological stances. "Our workers are determined to start a movement," he added.

Moreover, the JJUI-F chief said that the ECP's role "from day one has been dubious". He claimed that the electoral watchdog rejected petitions filed by the JUI-F's candidates.

"On Feb 22, we will hold a meeting with the JUI-F's local general council, on Feb 25 we will hold a meeting in Balochistan, on Feb 27, we will hold a meeting in KP and meetings will be held in Karachi and Lahore on March 3 and March 5," he added.

Meanwhile, Fazlur Rehman also invited PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to sit in the opposition benches, saying that the PML-N brought Nawaz Sharif

in the name of Pakistan's Hope.

He alleged that the election results clearly showed that bribes were taken from successful and unsuccessful candidates. "I therefore invite the PML-N and Nawaz to come with us and sit in the opposition," he added.

Responding to a question, Fazl said that the JUI-F was not subservient to both the PPP and the PML-N. "We are not the government's coalition partners," he said when asked about giving vote to Shehbaz Sharif for prime minister slot.

A day earlier, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman apprised PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif of party's reservations over what he called 'fraudulent' elections, alleging that his party's mandate was stolen.

ATC declares 30 PTI workers as POs

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday declared 30 accused as proclaimed offenders (POs) in a case of attacking Jinnah House.

The court declared Tahira Yasmin, Asima Mumtaz, Rizwana Ghanzafar, Hayat Sikander, Waqas Ahmad, Owais Jan, Amjad Parvaiz, Raja Shah Nawaz, Tanzila Imran, Zahid Lodhi and others as proclaimed offenders.

ATC Judge Muhammad Naveed Iqbal passed the orders on an application filed by the police for the purpose.

The police had requested the court to declare the accused as proclaimed offenders. It submitted that the accused had not joined the investigation and judicial proceedings despite publication of advertisement. It pleaded with the court to declare the accused as proclaimed offenders.

The Sarwar Road police had registered a case against PTI leaders and workers on charges of attacking Jinnah House (also known as the residence of corps commander Lahore), during May-9 riots.

NA session may be summoned between Feb 22-29: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that the first session of the new National Assembly might be called on any date between February 22 and February 29. As per the Constitution, the president could convene the National Assembly's session within 21 days of the polling date, the minister said while explaining the post-elections procedure in a talk show of the Pakistan Television (PTV).

To a query, he said a simple majority was required to form a government and the president did not have any power to invite a person or a party for the formation of government. After the 18th Constitutional Amendment, he said, the office of the president represented the Federation. He said the Election Commis-



he said secret balloting was followed in election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the NA while for the election of the Leader of the House, the process was otherwise. Maulana Fazlur Rehman was a seasoned politician and announced to be part of the Parliament, he responded to another question. The minister said most of the political parties had expressed consensus on Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister for the second time. It would be the prerogative of next government to decide about the size of the Federal Cabinet, he noted. Highlighting the measures taken against dollars smuggling by the caretaker government, he said the dollar was being sold for Rs 350 to 400 in the open market. Economic stability was directly linked to political stability, he said while expressing the hope that the next government would continue the reforms process.

PPP decides to form govt in Balochistan

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to form a government in Balochistan by forging an alliance with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F).

Sources told that PPP has expressed its willingness to form a coalition government in the province, adding that the former has sought support from PML-N in this regard. However, sources claimed, the Nawaz-led party sought time for consultation on formation of provincial government. Sources added that most of the elected independent of Balochistan will join the PPP.

Furthermore, sources said that PPP would also invite Baloch Nationalist Party (BNP) to join the government. PPP would field its candidate for chief minister slot, while the cabinet would comprise members from allied parties, they added.

Sanaullah Zehri is a strong candidate for Balochistan Chief Minister's slot. Sources added that Sanaullah Zehri has a working relationship with JUI, PML-N, and Nationalist Party.

Pir Pagara accuses PPP of 'buying' elections



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) chief Pir Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi, popularly known as Pir Pagara accused the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of 'buying' the elections.

As per detail, Kamran Tessori called on Pir Pagara at his residence and discussed the political situation of the country. In a conversation with the governor, Pir Pagara rejected the results of the elections and blamed the PPP for rigging.

Pir Pagara said that their protest and sit-in are not against any institution but against election results and rigging.

Two roosters locked up in Sehwan



Correspondent

JAMSHORO: In a bizarre incident, the Sehwan police locked up two roosters seized from the cockfighting.

According to details, two persons were arrested from Sehwan on charges of holding rooster fight. Moreover, the police also seized the roosters and locked them up.

Senior House Officer (SHO) Sehwan police station Muhammad Ali Abbasi said that the suspects later obtained bail from the local court. He said that the roosters however are still behind the bars. The SHO said that the owners could get their roosters back after permission of the court. Muhammad Ali Abbasi said that the roosters owners are not willing to get them, fearing to be found guilty.

AJK PM announces focus on good governance

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while reiterating his commitment to ensure good governance in the state, has said that the government was working day in day out to improve the system of governance besides providing other basic amenities of life to the masses. While addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the office bearers of Kashmir Press Club Bhimber here today, the PM said that a number of initiatives have been taken to improve road infrastructure, promoting tourism, increase hydel-power efficiency and revenues and creating job opportunities for youth at local level. He said that development projects worth billions of rupees were in progress in Azad Kashmir. He said that people of Azad Kashmir were being provided cheap electricity. Referring to his plan to expand sustainable energy, the PM said that the government was focusing on solar energy.

Stressing the need for ending the culture of polarization, the PM said that promoting love and brotherhood in the society was ruler's responsibility. The ruler, he said, was a guarantor for rightful utilization of public money. He said that the menace of corruption



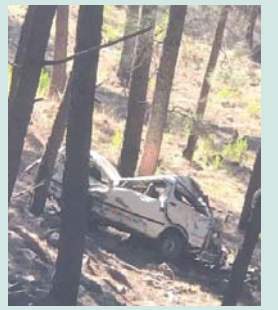
in politics has been eradicated. "I work 18 hours a day", the PM said, adding that if the prime minister can work for 18 hours, then why not a government employee. The PM said that after assuming charge of the government he had to fight a long battle against the Mafia. He said that serving underprivileged and weaker segments of society was his first and foremost priority. "An endowment fund of 5 billion rupees has been set-up for this purpose", he said. The PM said that he has tried to break the status quo by preventing misuse of public exchequer and by inducting efficient and honest officers in the bureaucracy. "Three billion rupees have been saved through austerity measures taken

by the government", he added. He said that 28 secretaries have been appointed on merit in the bureaucracy. "There is no political interference in Public Service Commission, even President or prime minister won't dare to call the chairman", he said, adding that now lecturers and doctors would be appointed on the basis of merit. He said that it was unfortunate that during the last 10 years recruitments were made on the basis of nepotism and cronyism instead of merit. The PM said that he has put an end to protocol culture. The PM, he said, moves from one place to another with just two vehicles instead of a 33-vehicle convoy. The PM, on the occasion, announced a 1 million rupees

grant for the welfare of journalists. He assured the journalist community of solving their problems. The function was attended by senior minister Col. retired Waqar Noor, and newly elected office bearers of the Bhimber press club. Meanwhile, the PM spent a busy day in his native constituency. He reached his home town in a private vehicle without any protocol. Elders from all over the constituency, prominent political and social personalities including, lawyers, businessmen and journalists visited his residence and offered him their heartfelt felicitations on performing Ummrah. He also visited the ancestral graveyard and offered Fateh at his mother's grave.

Azad Kashmir PM, President express deep sorrow over wagon accident near Hajira

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and AJK premier Ch. Anwar-ul-Haq expressed their deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in a wagon accident near Hajira. The president and Prime Minister expressed condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the incident and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque directed the district administration to provide all possible help and medical facilities to the injured persons. It is worth to recall here that a passenger wagon with 33 passengers on board skidded off the road due to break failure, as a result, 3 people were killed and 18 injured.



Our correspondent adds: Local administration SDM Hajira told the media that three persons along van Driver killed on the spot and 30 passengers were injured and admitted in Tehsil Headquarter hospital Hajira for medical treatment.

Sardar Attique says Pakistanis are ambassadors of their society



DUBAI/ MUZAFFARABAD: President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Pakistanis and Kashmiris living abroad are the ambassadors of their society and embassies should take care of their people as much as possible. He expressed theas while talking to Consul General Hussain Muhammad and HOC Rahimullah Wazir during his visit to the Pakistani Consulate in Dubai. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that while Pakistani diplomats should work diligently to present a better image of Pakistan, they should also focus on the problems of their own community because those who leave their home and country to work in the outside world. Pakistanis are valuable, they are also trying to stabilize the country's economy. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan praised the excellent performance of Pakistani diplomats. On this occasion, Kashmir issue and other issues were also discussed in detail.

Sardar Attique & Chaudhry Majeed express deep sorrow over death of DG Higher Education Colleges' father

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan and ex-premier Chaudhry Abdul Majeed and Minister of Education Colleges Zafar Iqbal Malik expressed their deep sorrow and grief over the death of the father of Director General Higher Education Colleges Dr. Khawaja Abdul Rehman. He prayed for the eternal peace of departed soul and expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family

Railways to redress grievances of railway employees on Facebook Live: Divisional Superintendent



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent of Railways, Multan Kashif Farooq Butt, on the instructions of the Federal Minister of Railways, listened to the complaints of the public, including the railway employees, on Facebook Live in Kahcheri. 442 complaints were received in the Facebook live court, most of which were redressed on the spot, while for immediate redressal of other complaints, DS Railway gave orders to the concerned officers on the spot. Issues related to posting of transfer of employees, recruitment on TLA in railways, pension and dues of retired employees, payment of marriage grant were discussed in Facebook Live E-Kachhari. On this occasion, DS Railway said that every work will be done on the basis of merit, railway policy and priority. He said that while living in limited resources, they are trying to resolve the grievances of maximum number of employees and people connected with the railway.

First priority of new government should be strengthen the economy: Khawaja Sulaiman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Central Chairman of the Central Association of Trade Unions of Pakistan Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, Senior Vice Chairman Sheikh Akram Hakeem, Central Senior Vice President Alhaji Babar Ali Qureshi, President Syed Jafar Ali Shah, Multan President Khalid Mehmood Qureshi, South Punjab Senior Vice Chairman Sheikh Mian Saeed Qureshi, Vice President of Multan and Old Sabzi Mandi Chowk President Rana Muhammad Owais, Vice President of Punjab Malik Imran Qayyum Bhatta has said that the first priority of the new government should be to strengthen the economy. Many claims have been made to stabilize the economy, but the country's trade and economy, including the economy. Left no stone unturned to destroy the business centers due to which millions of small traders as well as the working class are left behind if the new government does not change its priorities to strengthen the economy and if the same situation. If it continues, there will be chaos in the markets and markets. There will be protests, that's why the new rulers sitting in the Houses should ensure serious measures to give relief to more than 22 crore poor people of the country so that the poor people who are suffering from the economic crisis and rising inflation and heavy bills will get relief in the real sense. Get relief and let him be prosperous, the attitude of previous governments. In conclusion, if measures are not taken at the government level to solve the problems of the people, then the business community and the working class will have no choice but to come to the streets, so now is the time for the new ruler to strengthen the economy. And millions of small businessmen and working classes to give Korelev. Announce the package of economic reforms, he said that on the one hand, the economic crisis, increasing inflation and heavy bills have broken the back of the poor people, but the new taxes have made it impossible to live, due to which Today, the white-collar community is also suffering from disaster.

Langar Khana

RAWALPINDI: Poor people eating free food at a Langar Khana at Jamia Masjid road in the city.



Photo: Online

Khanewal admin, police officers felicitated for excellent performance during General Election

Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: The District Administration and District Police Officers were felicitated for their excellent performance during the General Election 2024. In this regard, a dignified ceremony was organized at the DC office, the special guests of which were Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu and DPO Rana Umar Farooq. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu and DPO Rana Umar Farooq paid tribute to their team for conducting a peaceful and transparent election, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Azubazim, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Aitzaz



Anjum, Assistant Commissioner Zanzweed Ahmed Balooh, Rameez Zafar, Adil Umar, Mohsin Alam, Sadaf Akbar, DSP Investigation-Shabir Rauch, SDPOs Mehr Nasir Ali Saqib, Malik Ejaz

Maswan, Ejaz Hussain Bukhari, Muhammad Saleem Khan, DSP Headquarters Masoodul Haque Bhatti, DSP Organized Crime Nasrullah Khan Niazi, DSP Traffic Mehr Afzal Mahar, Inspector Mehr Saeed, Ahmed, DMO and Deputy Director Development were awarded certificates while Deputy The Commissioner also presented a commemorative shield to DPO Rana Umar Farooq for

the integrated and full-proof security arrangements and best coordination on behalf of the district administration on a peaceful General Election Day.

Deputy Commissioner, the entire team fulfilled the national responsibility by conducting a transparent and fair election and all the departments showed excellent coordination. We are thankful to Allah Almighty for holding the election safely.

DPO Rana Umar Farooq said in his address that teamwork Under this, the establishment of law and order in the district was ensured, important national Officers and employees who perform their duties on duty deserve congratulations .

Traders protest PSL's plan to close Nawanshahr to ease traffic

Asim Tanveer

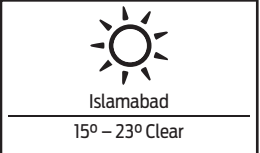
MULTAN: Chairman Multan Cantt Traders Association Khan Plaza Zafra qbal Khan, President Bilal Ahmed, Chief Coordinator Cantonment Tajran Ghazanfar Malik, President Khawar Center Clube Abid Khan and Atif Bilal while holding a press conference with officials said that holding PSL matches in Multan is welcome but last of the matches held in Multan for three years Meanwhile, the Multan administration and the police plan the route from Nawanshahr to Multan Stadium without taking the traders and



citizens of the respective routes into confidence. Helpless in case of possi-

ble emergency lights becomes impossible for the citizens to have immediate

access to Nishtar Hospital, Cardiology Hospital and Children's Hospital. Not only this, the education system of the children in the areas under the routes is also paralyzed. While the flow of traffic in the entire city is impossible The business community and civil society demand the Multan administration and police to close the route from Nawanshahr to the stadium only at certain times and to restore traffic flow in the shortest possible time and in the areas closest to the stadium on an emergency basis. Accommodation arrangements for cricket teams should be ensured.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:30 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:12 pm
Maghrib	5:50 pm
Isha	7:14 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

NEPRA concludes public hearing on XWDISCOS petition for quarterly adjustments

PPA

KARACHI: NEPRA concluded a hearing on account of Quarterly Tariff Adjustment (QTA) for the period October 2023 to December 2023, the second quarter of FY24. The request was filed by XWDISCOS and includes various charges concerning system operations. Per government guidelines, the final decision issued by the regulator and notified by the GOP, will apply to all customers of distribution companies including KE.

The final notification will state the amount to be charged in customer bills, and the period over which these charges will apply.

As the power sector operates in a regulated environment, costs of electricity and such charges are determined by NEPRA and notified by the Government of Pakistan.

Individual Distribution Companies cannot influence the process or make unilateral changes.

45th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran celebrated at Karachi

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, a grand ceremony was held by the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi. A large number of lovers and supporters of the Islamic Revolution from both Iranian & Pakistani people showed their deep devotion to Imam Khomeini and the leader of the revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei through their participation in this splendid ceremony.

Speakers of this gathering, through expressing their views regarding the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, during their discussion with the audience, emphasized on the continuation of Imam Khomeini's path.

Ayatollah Raisi, one of Pakistan's leading religious scholars, appreciated the political and intellectual insight of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khamenei for successful protection, perseverance, and continuity of the path of Imam Khomeini



during the last 45 years.

He further said: demonstration of steadfastness against the enemy with complete trust in Allah Almighty and in his nation along with taking timely effective decision in the national interest, were the utmost important characteristics of Imam Khomeini which have been transferred to the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khamenei through his thoughtful leadership.

Consul General of Iran in Karachi Hassan Noorian, Director of Iran Cultural Center in Karachi Saeed Talebinia, the wife of martyr Saeed Haider Zaidi & head of the Dar-us- Saqlain Publications Ms. Nuzhat Zaidi, while presenting their speeches on the topic of spiritual, scientific and technological achievements of the Islamic Revolution, emphasized on the unity of Muslims for the promotion of the Islamic teachings to resist against the anti-Islamic global imperialist powers.



Dr. Iftikhar Salahuddin, the renowned physician and the author of "Persia: Land of Emperors and Kings", and the president & editor in chief of Bol Media Group Mr. Nazir Leghari, Recount interesting memories of their visit to Iran, explained the

glorious history of the Islamic Revolution and Iran's progress, which was well received by the audience.

In the last episode of this commemorative ceremony, shields and certificates of appreciation were awarded to some selected

devotees and admirers of Imam Khomeini and Imam Khamenei, who rendered important services in highlighting the teachings and objectives of the Islamic revolution and its various material and spiritual aspects in the Muslim society.

Valentine Day

ISLAMABAD: Women are buying red rose flower bouquet at flower market on Valentine's Day, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

AIOU holds Int'l conference on Recent Trends in Chemistry

PNP

ISLAMABAD: A two-day Sixth International Conference on "Recent Trends in Chemistry" has commenced at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood was the chief guest at the inaugural session. He highlighted the importance of promoting science as it is crucial for the development of any country and nation. Dr. Nasir encouraged the students to work hard for the prosperity of the country, and to fulfill their dreams because it cannot be achieved without hard work. He also mentioned that the world is open for those who



work hard, and the success of students is an honor for the institution. Additionally, the Vice Chancellor emphasized the need for useful and applied research for the betterment of society. This conference is being organized by the Department of Chemistry, AIOU.

Dr. Nasir mentioned that experts in chemistry from Russia, China, and other

parts of the world have participated in the conference to educate students about the latest trends in chemistry. This will help students stay well-informed about the developments in the field of chemistry. The Chairperson of the Chemistry Department, Dr. Uzma Yunus, explained the aims and objectives of the conference in detail. She emphasized the importance of the conference, as AIOU is celebrating its golden jubilee and the chemistry department is celebrating its silver jubilee this year.

Dr. Uzma explained that the conference aims to showcase the research-based projects of students, provide a platform for scholars to interact with the national and international research community to enhance the quality of research, and acquaint students with the latest trends in chemistry. She added that scholars from 11 universities within the country will present their papers at the conference, and scholars from China and Russia will present their papers online.

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Zahiruddin Babur: Bridging Centuries and Cultures between Pakistan and Uzbekistan

Zahiruddin Babur, the 16th-century Timurid emperor, emerges not only as a historical figure but also as a symbol connecting the cultural and historical narratives of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. His legacy bridges centuries, transcending geographical boundaries and reminding us of the shared heritage that binds these two nations.

Born in Ferghana, present-day Uzbekistan, Babur inherited a rich artistic and literary tradition. His passion for poetry and scholarship resonates with the vibrant literary scene in Uzbekistan, where poetry remains deeply embedded in the national identity. His memoirs, the Baburnama, written in Chagatai Turkic, stand as a testament to his literary prowess and offer valuable insights into the social and political

landscape of Central Asia. Babur's military campaigns led him to establish the Mughal Empire in South Asia, laying the foundation for a dynasty that ruled for over three centuries. The architectural marvels of the Mughal era, like the Taj Mahal and Lahore Fort, are not just symbols of Indian history but also bear the influence of Timurid architecture, evident in their grand arches and intricate designs. This architectural legacy forms a tangible link between the two regions, showcasing the exchange of artistic styles and techniques.

Beyond physical structures, Babur's reign ushered in a period of cultural exchange between South Asia and Central Asia. Persian, the language of administration and literary expression during his rule, continues to bind the two regions through its rich literary heritage. His love for gardens, evident in the creation of Shalimar Gardens in Lahore, is reminiscent of the intricate garden designs found in Uzbekistan, reflecting a shared appreciation for nature and landscape architecture.

Today, as both Pakistan and Uzbekistan strive to strengthen their bilateral relations, understanding the shared historical and cultural threads becomes crucial. Recognizing Babur's legacy can serve as a bridge for fostering deeper cultural understanding and collaboration. Joint research initiatives exploring Timurid history, cultural exchange programs showcasing music, art, and literature, and even tourism initiatives highlighting shared architectural heritage can all contribute to building stronger ties between the two nations.

By remembering and celebrating figures like Babur, we not only acknowledge our shared past but also pave the way for a future built on mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration. As Babur himself wrote in the Baburnama, "The world is a garden, and the people in it are the flowers." Let us nurture the garden of our shared heritage, allowing the cultural flowers of Pakistan and Uzbekistan to bloom together.

The writer is President of Baburi Forum, Pakistan.



Muhammad Ramzan Mughal

Aga Khan University Hospital, Pakistan launches second opinion service

PPA

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) launched its Second Opinion service platform on Monday, February 12, 2024. With this launch, patients from across Pakistan and around the world will have access to the medical opinions of AKUH doctors, without having to consult them personally.

A second opinion is medical advice taken from a doctor other than the one who made the initial diagnosis or treatment plan for a patient. Patients may seek a second opinion to confirm their diagnosis, get assurance their treatment plan is optimal, explore different treatment options, or simply for peace of mind, especially when dealing with complex diseases.

AKUH's Second Opinion service, hosted on the AKUH Pakistan website, provides a secure and user-friendly platform for individuals seeking medical opinions from AKUH without requiring a consultation. This technology-powered solution allows patients to access AKUH's sought-after medical expertise, regardless of their location.

AKUH is a JCI-accredited comprehensive quaternary care hospital offering all services under one roof, with some of the best and most skilled and qualified doctors in the country. Therefore, patients can seek a second opinion on any disease or treatment plan, whether for adults and children. AKUH's Second Opinion service provides various forms of second opinions, including but not limited to general second opinions, second opinions when surgery is recommended, a review of lab or radiology reports, and much more.

Dr. Farhat Abbas, CEO AKUH Karachi, underscores AKUH's commitment to enabling informed healthcare decisions, stating, "We are dedicated to empowering individuals worldwide, ensuring access to the exceptional skills and experience of our specialists. I am excited to see the positive impact this service will have on patients dealing with complex medical challenges."

This service provides a valuable avenue for patients who are confused or are seeking further assurance and is particularly beneficial for those navigating complex medical issues or challenging treatment plans. It offers assurance, clarity, and confidence to patients in making informed decisions about their healthcare. Even if individuals are consulting elsewhere, they can benefit from the exceptional skills and experience of AKUH specialists.

Patients can request a second opinion through a secure and user-friendly online platform hosted on the AKUH website. The process involves creating an account, logging in, providing medical details, and uploading relevant reports. Once received, an AKUH doctor meticulously reviews the case and the reports and within five working days, patients receive a detailed written report.

Pakistan needs to harness its hydropower potential for sustainable economic development: Azhar-ul-Islam Zafar



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Director General Hydropower, Private Power Infrastructure Board, Dr. Engineer Munawar Iqbal has said there is a need to harness the country's hydropower potential to add clean and green electricity to the national grid system for sustainable economic development.

Pakistan has been blessed with huge resources for generating hydel and renewable energy (RE). The private sector should focus on investment in this sector in collaboration with the government. The Private Power Infrastructure Board is paying special attention to power generation from local resources, especially hydel, wind, and solar energy.

He expressed these views while talking to Acting President ICCI Engineer Azhar Islam during a meeting at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry the other day.

He said that Pakistani investors should come forward and take advantage of the immense opportunities for investment in clean and green energy. There are vast opportunities in the energy sector in Pakistan and investors should benefit from it.

He said that his organization has so far successfully added over 18,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid through Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which is about 50% of the total installed capacity. He said that PPIB is providing one window facility to investors and lenders in this regard.

He further said that at present the share of hydel in the energy mix is 25%, followed by solar energy with 6% and thermal with 69%. He further said that a target of 62% energy has been set through RE and hydel resources.

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PTI's Challenges: Stolen & reserved seats, and shifting loyalties - I

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) finds itself embroiled in a multifaceted crisis, grappling with significant challenges that threaten its political standing and influence in both the National and Provincial Assemblies. At the heart of this turmoil is a contentious legal struggle to reclaim seats that PTI alleges were unjustly wrested from its grasp, amidst accusations of a biased Election Commission and state machinery ostensibly arrayed against it. This situation is further compounded by the unsettling trend of PTI-endorsed candidates, who secured their victories largely through the party's support and the charismatic appeal of its former chairman, Imran Khan, now defecting under the pressures of coercion or the allure of incentives.

Faced with this precarious scenario, PTI's ability to retain its elected representatives is severely constrained, leaving the party in a vulnerable position. The shifting allegiances of its candidates not only undermine PTI's legislative strength but also pose profound questions about party loyalty and political integrity in Pakistan's tumultuous political landscape.

In response to these daunting challenges, PTI must tread carefully, adhering scrupulously to the stipulations of the Elections Act, 2017 (Section 104). This legal framework, while offering a pathway to address grievances, also demands meticulous compliance and strategic acumen from PTI as it seeks to navigate

these turbulent waters. The party's journey ahead is fraught with legal, political, and ethical hurdles, requiring a delicate balance between legal recourse, political strategy, and the maintenance of its core principles and public image.

Given this legal context, PTI's options to prevent defections are primarily political rather than legal. They may engage in negotiations or employ party-level strategies to retain their members. It may rely on internal rules or moral suasion to influence members' loyalty. Legally, the party should rely on pre-election agreements, if any, or party constitutions that candidates may have agreed to, which might include clauses related to party loyalty or penalties for defection PTI could explore enforcing these agreements.

However, the enforceability of such agreements is contingent upon their specific terms and compatibility with Pakistani law. Additionally, PTI could consider filing election petitions if there is substantial evidence of electoral fraud or malpractice associated with the defection. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of these legal measures is uncertain, given the lack of clear statutory provisions addressing post-election party loyalty. In Pakistan's political landscape, such issues of defection and party loyalty have historically been more amenable to political reso-

lutions rather than legal interventions.

In the case of reserve seats, PTI has limited options. Since PTI could not file the initial list submission reflecting the party's eventual electoral strength or diversity, PTI could explore forming alliances or negotiating coalition agreements with other parties. These political maneuvers would involve discussions around policy concessions or legislative support in exchange for backing PTI's nominees for key positions, thereby indirectly enhancing their representation in the assembly. Such alliances not only require adept negotiation skills but also a willingness to engage in give-and-take, balancing the party's immediate needs with its long-term policy objectives.

PTI faces formidable challenges in its quest for justice concerning allegations of extensive electoral rigging that ostensibly transformed its potential victories and defeats. The party contends that it is up against an overwhelming adversary, with accusations that the entire Election Commission, along with various state institutions, is determined to thwart PTI's aspirations for a majority government, particularly at the federal level. This perceived alliance against PTI is accused of employing a wide array of tactics, both within and beyond the legal framework, to systematically undermine

the party's electoral success and political influence.

The avenues available to PTI for contesting these allegations and seeking redress are notably constrained under these circumstances. The party's battle is not merely legal but also deeply political, entailing a struggle against a network of powerful forces allegedly aligned in opposition. This situation places PTI in a precarious position, necessitating a multifaceted strategy that goes beyond conventional legal challenges. It requires mobilizing public support, international advocacy for fair play, and engaging in diplomatic channels to highlight the perceived injustices. The party's endeavor to overturn the alleged manipulation and secure its rightful place in the political arena is a testament to the turbulent nature of democratic processes in contexts where the impartiality of electoral bodies and state institutions is called into question.

The electoral framework in Pakistan, as delineated by the Elections Act, 2017, is structured to uphold the sanctity and integrity of the voting process through a series of meticulous procedures and checks. From the initial step of voter identification, which leverages both traditional ID cards and advanced technologies like biometric verification, to the methodical issuance and tracking of ballot papers marked with indelible ink, the system is designed to mitigate the risks of impersonation and double voting.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Implementation of Indus Waters Treaty

Pakistan attaches high priority to the strict implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty," the Pakistani envoy stressed in the course of the day-long debate, which was convened by Guyana, the president of the Security Council for February. Nearly 90 countries took part. Pakistan, he added, aims to reinvigorate the Indus River basin — the largest contiguous irrigation system in the world, which provides food security to over 225 million people. "To this end, Pakistan has launched the multi-dimensional Living Indus projects," Ambassador Akram told the 15-member Council. Noting that the disputes over water — at the state, sub-national and local-community levels — were rising, he said competing claims to agricultural and animal pastures, especially in Sub-Saharan and Central Africa, were being exploited by terrorist groups and criminal gangs. "The scramble for exploitation of fisheries and fishing rights, and potentially for seabed minerals and resources, is causing increased friction between neighbouring coastal countries," he pointed out.

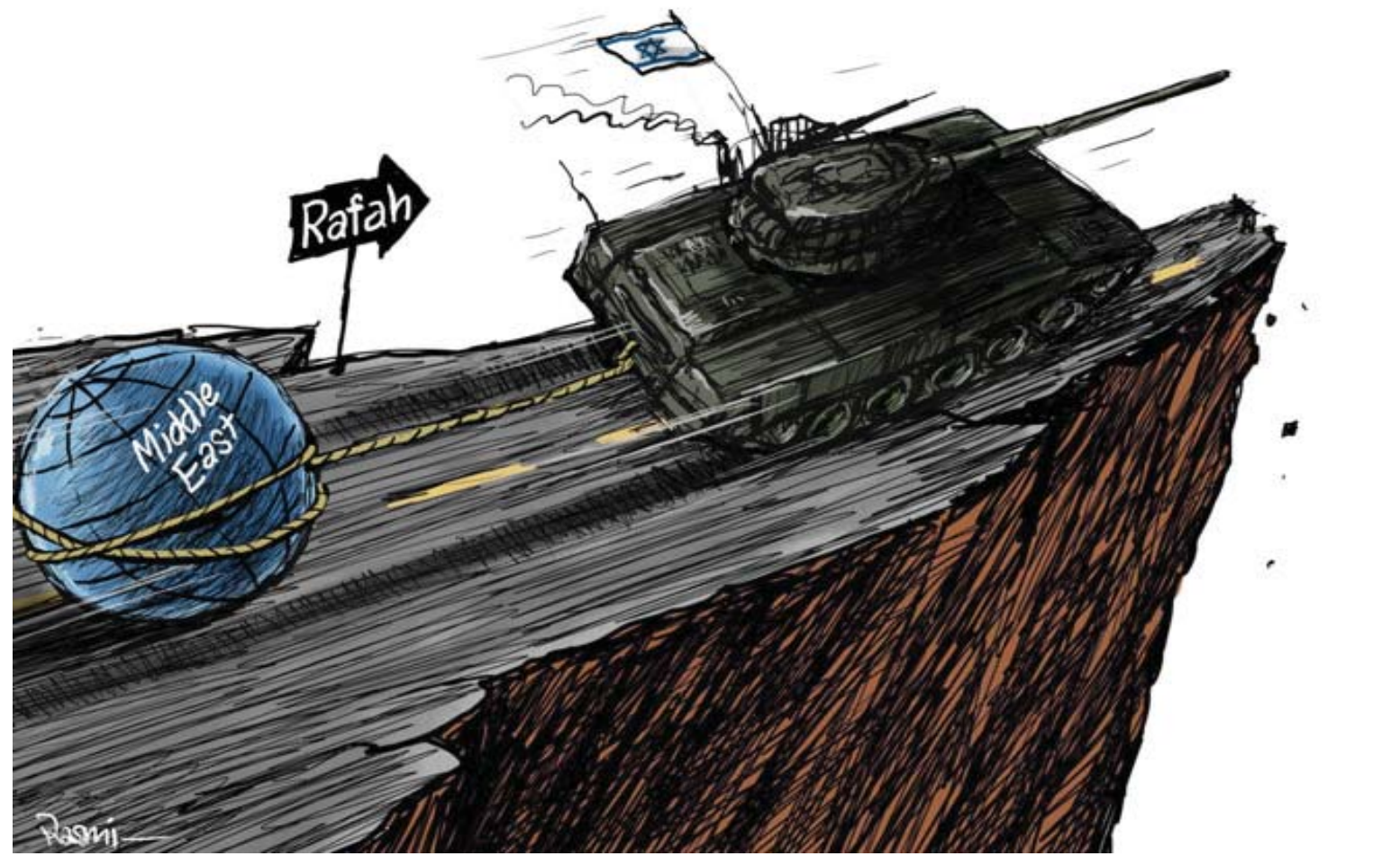
"Addressing the looming water crisis will be critical," Ambassador Akram added. Extreme temperatures, he said, were melting Pakistan's glaciers at an alarming rate, and together with heavier monsoons, lead to massive floods, like the 2022 epic floods which devastated the country, causing damage amounting to over US\$ 30 billion. "Urgent action is required to preserve the Himalayan glaciers and adapt to the impacts of global warming," the Pakistani envoy told delegates from around the world. When addressing climate change, securitizing the issue in the development agenda must be avoided, Ambassador Akram said.

The already scarce funding should not be diverted from development and climate change actions to security-related approaches. Scarcity is the mother of most conflicts, he said, adding that the best means of conflict prevention is sustainable development, achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the climate goals. "Unless the commitments made at COP-28 and other Conferences are implemented," Ambassador Akram said, "it will become almost impossible to achieve either the goals of climate change or the SDGs."

The Security Council, he said, could make a singular contribution to both the climate and development goals — by endorsing the commitments made on climate change and sustainable development to transform these into binding obligations. Opening the debate, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on member states to act now to break the deadly links between conflict, climate and food insecurity.

Climate chaos and food crises are serious and mounting threats to global peace and security. It is only right that they are addressed by this Council, he said. Climate disasters and conflict both inflame inequalities, imperil livelihoods, and force people from their homes, the UN chief said. They are also two of the leading drivers of the global food crisis, with almost 174 million worldwide affected in 2022. The UN chief said he was dismayed that the world is teeming with examples of the devastating relationships between hunger and conflict. One such situation is Gaza, where no one has enough to eat, Guterres said. Of the 700,000 hungriest people in the world, four in five inhabit that tiny strip of land.

Furthermore, he said, climate disasters add another dimension to the suffering in many places. All 14 countries that are most at risk from climate change are experiencing conflict, with 13 also facing humanitarian crisis.



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

Rigging Allegations and Anti-Establishment Narrative - I

The recent elections in Pakistan were conducted within a framework of freedom and fairness. However, it's disheartening to note the reluctance of our political parties and leaders to gracefully accept defeat. Those on the losing end often resort to unfounded and false accusations of rigging. In the aftermath of elections, such claims of rigging frequently emerge, casting doubt on the credibility of the electoral process and fostering mistrust among the electorate.

Baseless allegations of election rigging undermine public confidence in democratic institutions and diminish trust in the electoral process. When few politicians and political parties make unsubstantiated accusations of rigging, they challenge the fairness and integrity of the entire electoral system, causing their followers to question the legitimacy of elected officials and election outcomes. This erosion of trust can have enduring consequences, weakening the democratic foundation and breeding disillusionment among voters.

Unfounded allegations of election rigging often worsen political polarization and deepen societal divisions. Partisan-driven claims of rigging can exacerbate party divides and hinder efforts to promote dialogue and collaboration across political lines. Furthermore, when voters perceive elections as rigged, they may become more entrenched in their political ideologies and less inclined to compromise, heightening social and political tensions.

Maintaining credible and transparent electoral processes is crucial for upholding the integrity of democratic elections. However, baseless claims of rigging can undermine

confidence in these processes and weaken the credibility of electoral institutions. When voters believe elections are manipulated, they may be less motivated to participate in future elections, leading to voter apathy and disengagement from the political sphere. Additionally, unfounded allegations of election rigging can fuel conspiracy theories and spread misinformation, further eroding trust in democratic institutions and undermining the legitimacy of election results.

In today's era of rampant disinformation and online echo chambers, baseless claims of rigging can quickly proliferate through social media and other channels, causing confusion and distrust among the electorate. Such allegations can also have implications for international confidence and stability. Accusations of rigging can tarnish a country's reputation on the global stage and undermine faith in its democratic institutions. Moreover, in nations where elections are closely monitored by the international community, baseless claims of rigging can lead to diplomatic tensions and instability. It's crucial to recognize that the Pakistani Army's involvement in elections was solely to ensure a safe and secure environment, as requested by the civilian government for such arrangements. Regrettably, in Pakistan, the Army or the establishment is often criticized by the parties that didn't succeed in the elections. Certain factions have even alleged that the recent Pakistani elections were rigged by the Army to target a specific party.

In an era marked by the rapid dissemination of information across borders and through digital networks, the proliferation of anti-country and anti-army propaganda has become increas-

ingly pervasive. This subtle form of misinformation aims to undermine the reputation, stability, and sovereignty of nations, often through deceptive narratives, provocative language, and targeted disinformation efforts.

Following electoral defeats, defeated parties, along with elements opposed to the state, often engage in propaganda campaigns against the country and its armed forces. Anti-country propaganda employs various tactics to sow discord and foster distrust among populations, both domestically and internationally. These tactics may involve spreading false narratives about the government, culture, or people of a nation, manipulating images or videos to distort perceptions, or amplifying divisive rhetoric to stoke social and political tensions. Additionally, foreign adversaries or hostile actors may exploit existing grievances or conflicts within a country to provoke unrest or destabilize the nation.

Social media platforms have emerged as powerful tools for disseminating anti-country propaganda, enabling malicious actors to reach broad audiences with minimal effort and expense. Fake accounts, bots, and troll farms are commonly utilized to amplify divisive content, manipulate public opinion, and sow confusion. Moreover, the viral nature of social media facilitates the rapid dissemination of false information, making it challenging for users to discern fact from fiction.

Anti-country propaganda often targets vulnerable communities or marginalized groups within a society, exploiting pre-existing social, ethnic, or religious tensions for political or ideological purposes. By exacerbating grievances or stoking fear and resentment, propagandists seek to undermine social cohesion, weakening the fabric of society and fostering conditions conducive to extremism or radicalization.

To be continued

Post Election: Scene & Behind the Scene - I

As some Pakistanis discuss the relevance of Westminster Parliamentary System or generally speaking The Western Democracy is not a democracy in real because 49 votes are lost and 51 votes are winners that means only 2 votes decide the future and value of 98 votes.

That 2 votes can be from illiterate persons and among the lost 49 votes, there may be present many votes of Doctors, Engineers, Professors etc. Moreover only a portion of the voters use their right to elect the representatives, the elected representatives can not claim having a national mandate. Same happened again in Pakistan that only less than the half of total votes have been cast in Election 2024.

Total number of voters is 128 Million 585 Thousand and 760. Province wise, Punjab 73 M 207 K 896 – Sindh 26 M 994 K 769 – KP 21 M 928 K 119 – Balochistan 5 M 371 K 947 – Islamabad 1 M 083 K 029. Out of total 128.585 M, cast votes are 60 M approximately that clearly indicates that there was no enthusiasm in the voters to express their interest in the election of next regime in their country of population 250 Million.

It also mentions that it is not complete democratic process. If we see it in terms of total population of the country, it is 25 % only and less than half of the registered voters as well.

Interesting thing that happened for the first time in the history of elections in Pakistan, this time the winning party is blaming rigging and change in results. Otherwise losing party would complain. Another interesting matter is PTI always hints at rigging either it loses or it wins. Soon after election May 2013, Imran Khan

staged agitation jamming the country blaming 35 Punctures (Rigging in 35 NA constituencies). More interesting is PTI claiming clean sweep although PTI is not in the run as a party. The independents who are from PTI are not all from PTI and most of them are just the beneficiaries (we do not want to use the word opportunists) of the situation created due to disqualification of Khan and ban on PTI for not holding intra party election.

Here it is important to note that Khurram Nawaz MNA elect from NA -48 Islamabad has joined PMLN. He was elected on PTI ticket in last election. Mian Muhammad Khan Bugti from NA-253 from Ziaarat-Sibbi Balochistan has announced his support for PMLN. Ind Shamsher Ali Mazari Mazari MNA election in NA-189 Rajanpur South Punjab defeated PMLN candidate and later joins PMLN. In Provincial Assembly, Muhammad Sohail, independent PP-240, Khurram Virk PP-48 and Rana Muhammad Fayyaz PP-49 have also joined the PML-N.

For National Assembly, no party is in position to form government alone but every party is king maker as well, if makes alliance with another party, can form the government. It can be seen like "Divide and Rule" again comes the western west-minister style as in sub continent the minority Britain rule is attributed to their strategy "Divide and Rule". The Britain divided Hindu Muslim two largest nations and ruled here.

Apparently, PMLN is going to gather the simple majority if we see the trends, Independents joining PMLN (also see my previous article who are Independents other than PTI are and where they get directions from or they get their price).

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Tazeen Akhtar

IS Founder of the Mughal Empire

Remembering Babur on his 541st Birth Anniversary

The life and work of the great poet and statesman, geographer, commander and unique historian Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur have fascinated many generations over time and will continue to do so. Every year, anniversary of the birth of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur is widely celebrated in across the world.



Naveed Ahmad Khan

Babur is a Persian word meaning in English "Tiger" in Urdu Cheetah (چیتا). Babur was born February 15, 1483 in Fergana, Uzbekistan and died December 26, 1530, Agra, India. Babur founder of the Mughal dynasty of northern India and was the emperor 1526-30. Babur, a descendant of the Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan and also of the Turkic conqueror Timur (Tamerlane), was a military adventurer, a soldier of distinction, and a poet and diarist of genius, as well as a statesman.

Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad Babur was a soldier of distinction, a poet, a diarist, a statesman, a military adventurer.

Babur came from the Barlas tribe of Mongol origin, but isolated members of the tribe considered themselves Turks in language and customs through long residence in Turkish regions. Hence, Babur, though called a Mughal, drew most of his support from Turks, and the empire he founded was Turkish in character. His family had become members of the Chagatai clan, by which name they are known. He was fifth in male succession from Timur and 13th through the female line from Genghis Khan. Babur's father, Umar Shaykh Mirza, ruled the small principality of Fergana to the north of the Hindu Kush mountain range. Because there was no fixed law of succession among the Turks, every prince of the Timurids—the dynasty founded by Timur—considered it his right to rule the whole of Timur's dominions. Those territories were vast, and, hence, the princes' claims led to unending wars. The Timurid princes, moreover, considered themselves kings by profession, their business being to rule others without observing too precisely whether any particular region had actually formed a part of Timur's empire. Babur's father, true to that tradition, spent his life trying to recover Timur's old capital of Samarkand (now in Uzbekistan), and Babur followed in his footsteps.

The qualities needed to succeed in that dynastic warfare were the abilities to inspire loyalty and devotion, to manage the turbulent factions often caused by family feuds, and to draw revenue from the trading and agricultural classes. Babur eventually mastered them all, but he was also a commander of genius.

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Punjab three more times but was unable to master the tangled course of Punjab and Delhi politics sufficiently enough to achieve a firm foothold. Yet it was clear that the Delhi sultanate was involved in contentious quarreling and ripe for overthrow. After mounting a full-scale attack there, Babur was recalled by an Uzbek attack on his Kabul kingdom, but a joint request for help from Alam Khan, Ibrahim's uncle, and Dawlat Khan encouraged Babur to attempt his fifth, and first successful, raid. Setting out in November 1525,

For 10 years (1494-1504) Babur sought to recover Samarkand and twice occupied it briefly (in 1497 and 1501). But in Muhammad Shaybani Khan, a descendant of Genghis Khan and ruler of the Uzbeks beyond the Jaxartes River (ancient name for the Syr Darya), he had an opponent more powerful than even his closest relatives. In 1501 Babur was decisively defeated at Sar-e Pol and within three years had lost both Samarkand and his principality of Fergana. There was always hope at that time, however, for a prince with engaging qualities and strong leadership abilities. In 1504 Babur seized Kabul (Afghanistan) with his personal followers, maintaining himself there against all rebellions and intrigues. His last unsuccessful attempt on Samarkand (1511-12) induced him to give up a futile quest and to concentrate on expansion elsewhere. In 1522, when he was already turning his attention to Sindh (now a province in Pakistan) and India, he finally secured Kandahar, a strategic site (now in Afghanistan) on the road to Sindh.

When Babur made his first raid into India in 1519, the Punjab region (now divided between the Indian state and the Pakistani province) was part of the dominions of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi of Delhi, but the governor, Dawlat Khan Lodi, resented Ibrahim's attempts to diminish his authority. By 1524 Babur had invaded

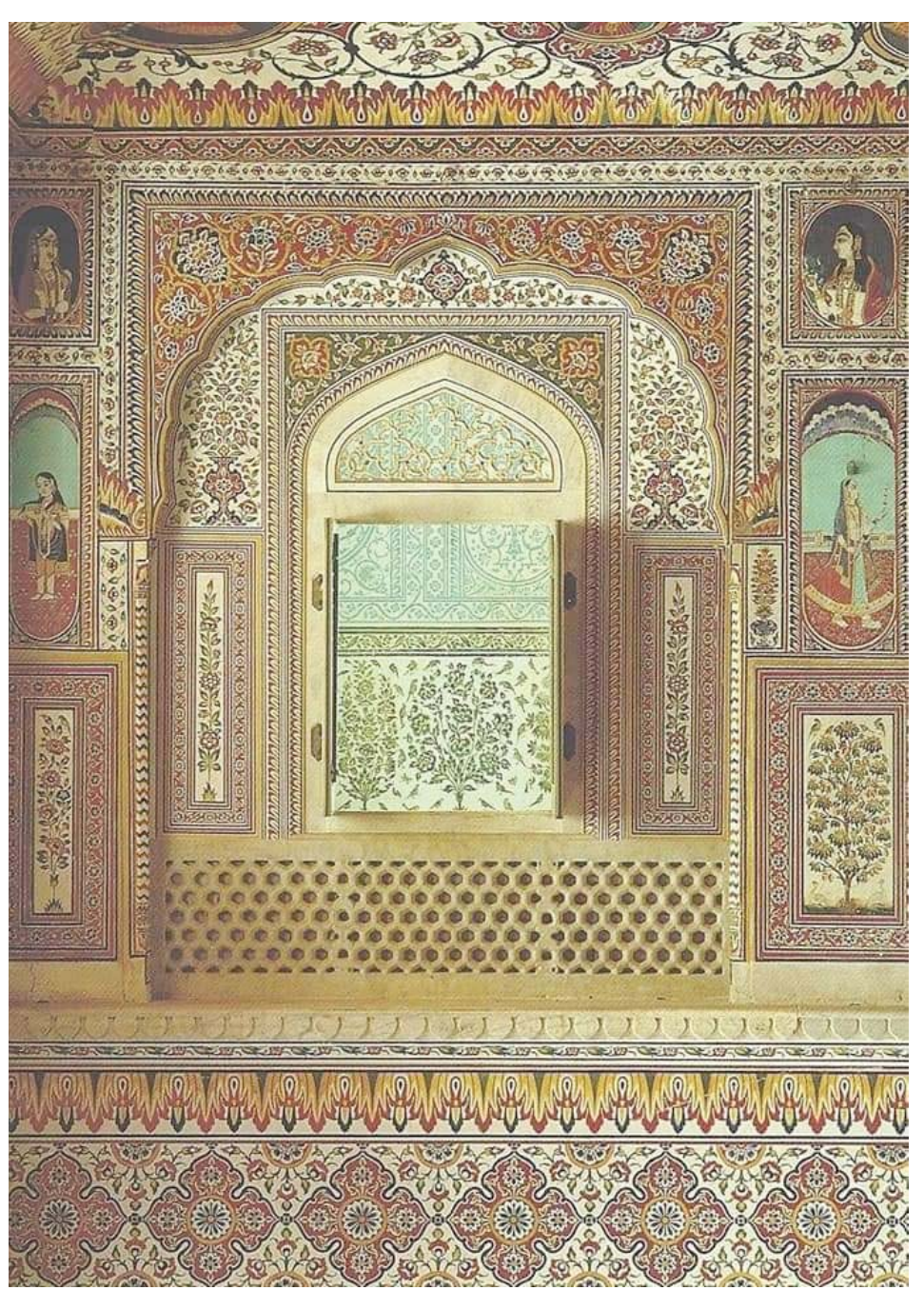


Setting out in November 1525,



Babur met Ibrahim at Panipat, 50 miles (80 km) north of Delhi, on April 21, 1526. Babur's army was estimated at no more than 12,000, but they were seasoned followers, adept at cavalry tactics, and were aided by new artillery acquired from the Ottoman Turks. Ibrahim's army was said to number 100,000 with 100 elephants, but its tactics were antiquated and it was dissentionous. Babur won the battle by coolness under fire, his use of artillery, and effective Turkish wheeling tactics on a divided, dispirited enemy. Ibrahim was killed in battle. With his usual speed, Babur occupied Delhi three days later and reached Agra on May 4. His first action there was to lay out a garden, now known as the Ram Bagh, by the Yamuna (Jumna) River.

That brilliant success must have seemed at the time to be of little difference from one of his former forays on Samarkand. His small force, burdened by the oppressive weather and located 800 miles (1,300 km) from their base at Kabul, was surrounded by powerful foes. All down the Ganges (Ganga) River valley were militant Afghan chiefs, in disarray but with a formidable military potential. To the south were the kingdoms of Malwa and Gujarat, both with extensive resources, while in Rajasthan Rana Sanga of Mewar (Udaipur) was head of a powerful confederacy threatening the whole Muslim position in northern India. Babur's first problem was that his own followers, suffering from the heat and disheartened by the hostile surroundings, wished to return home as Timur had done. By employing threats, reproaches, promises, and appeals, vividly described in his memoirs, Babur diverted them. He then dealt with Rana Sanga, who, when he found that Babur was not retiring as his Turkish ancestor had done, advanced with an estimated 100,000 horses and 500 elephants. With most of the neighbouring strongholds still held by his foes, Babur was virtually surrounded. He sought divine favour by abjuring liquor, breaking the wine vessels and pouring the wine down a well. His followers responded both to that act and his stirring exhortations and stood their ground at Khanua, 37 miles (60 km) west of Agra, on March 16, 1527. Babur used his customary tactics—a barrier of wagons for his centre, with gaps for



borders of Bengal, with a southern limit marked by the Rajput desert and the forts of Ranthambore, Gwalior, and Chanderi. Within that great area, however, there was no settled administration, only a congeries of quarreling chiefs. An empire had been gained but still had to be pacified and organized. It was thus a precarious heritage that Babur passed on to his son Humayun.

In 1530, when Humayun became deathly ill, Babur is said to have offered his life to God in exchange for Humayun's, walking seven times around the bed to complete the vow. Humayun recovered and Babur's health declined, and Babur died the same year.

Babur is rightly considered the founder of the Mughal Empire, even though the work of consolidating the empire was performed by his grandson Akbar. Babur, moreover, provided the magnetic leadership that inspired the next two generations.

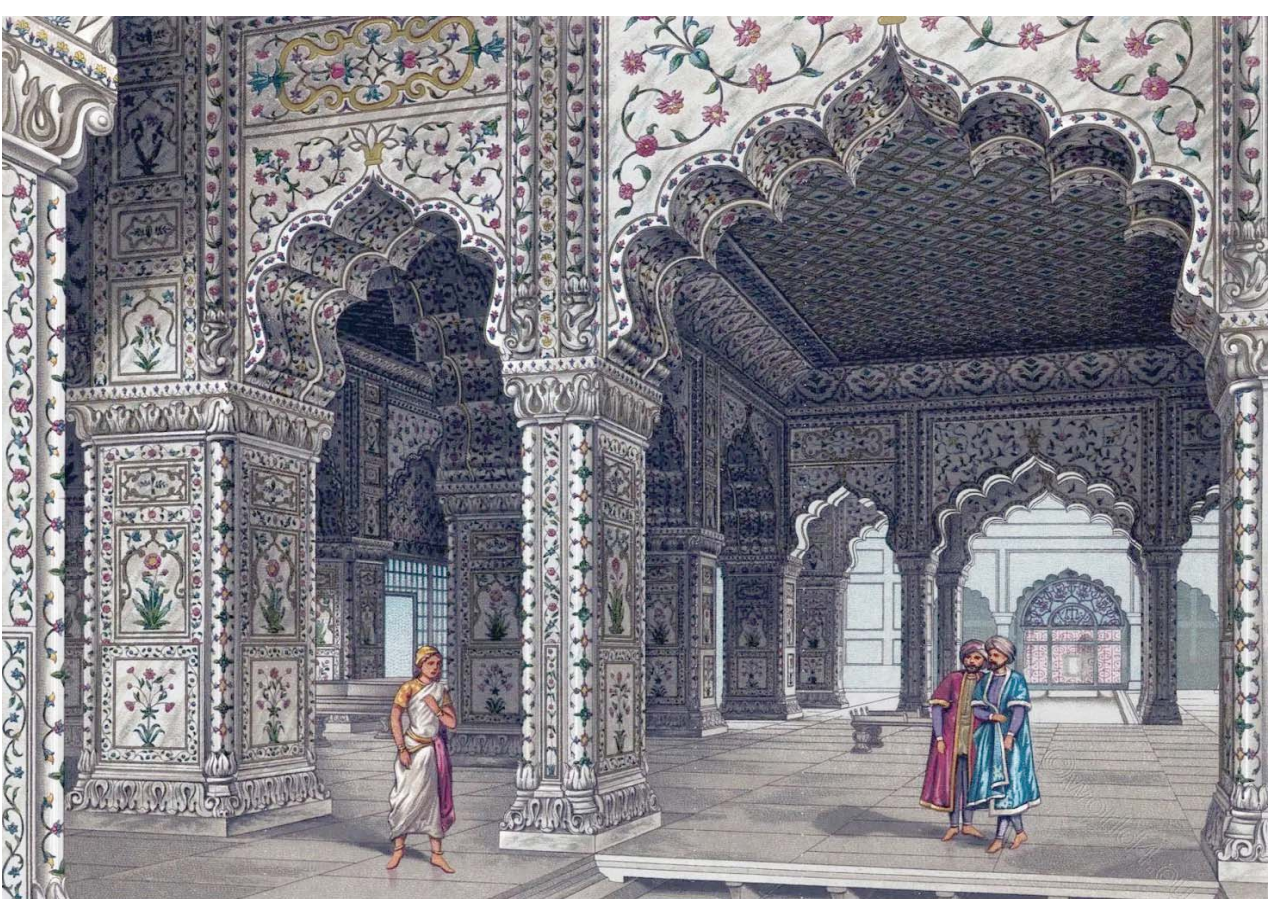
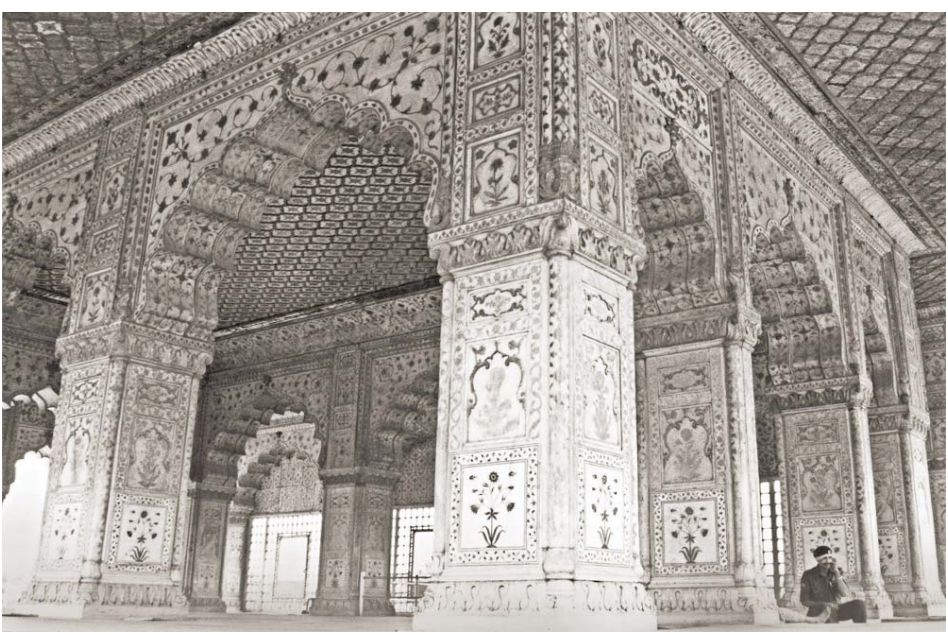
Babur was a military adventurer of genius and an empire builder of good fortune, with an engaging personality. He was also a gifted Turki poet, which would have won him distinction apart from his political career, as well as a lover of nature who constructed gardens wherever he went and complemented beautiful spots by holding convivial parties. Finally, his prose memoirs, the Babur-namah, have become a renowned autobiography. They were translated from Turkish into Persian in Akbar's reign (1589), were translated into English, Memoirs of Babur, in two volumes, and were first published in 1921-22. They portray a ruler unusually magnanimous for his age, cultured, and witty, with an adventurous spirit and an acute eye for natural beauty.

the artillery and for cavalry sallies, and wheeling cavalry charges on the wings. The artillery stampeded the elephants, and the flank charges bewildered the Rajputs (ruling warrior caste), who, after 10 hours, broke, never to rally under a single leader again.

Babur now had to deal with the defiant Afghans to the east, who had captured Lucknow while he was facing Rana Sanga. Other Afghans had rallied to Sultan Ibrahim's brother Mahmud Lodi, who had occupied Bihar. There

were also Rajput chiefs still defying him, principally the ruler of Chanderi. After capturing that fortress in January 1528, Babur turned to the east. Crossing the Ganges, he drove the Afghan captor of Lucknow into Bengal. He then turned on Mahmud Lodi, whose army was scattered in Babur's third great victory, that of the Ghaghara, where that river joins the Ganges, on May 6, 1529. Artillery was again decisive, helped by the skillful handling of boats.

Babur's dominions were now secure from Kandahar to the



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
62,153.84	61,226.92
Day's High	Day's Low
62,432.25	61,635.61
Index Value	Change
11,788,404,408	+926.92
Percentage	Time
+1.51%	14 Feb, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,568.40	+56.12
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	14 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,315.14	+42.39
Percentage	Time
+0.11%	14 Feb, 1:07 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,703.32	-260.65
Percentage	Time
-0.69%	14 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180	182
Bahrain Dinar	742.82	750.82
Canadian Dollar	206.5	208.5
China Yuan	38.84	39.24
Danish Krone	40.38	40.78
Euro	302	305
Hong Kong Dollar	35.74	36.09
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	907.43	916.43
Malaysian Ringgit	58.6	59.2
New Zealand \$	171.12	173.12
Norwegians Krone	26.43	26.73
Omani Riyal	725.48	733.48
Qatari Riyal	76.76	77.46
Saudi Riyal	74.4	75.2
Singapore Dollar	207	209
Swedish Korona	26.85	27.15
Swiss Franc	318.94	321.44
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	76.7	77.4
UK Pound Sterling	354	357
US Dollar	280.6	282.35

EDOTCO Pakistan Spearheads Sustainable Development and Community Wellbeing in 2023



PPA

ISLAMABAD: EDOTCO Pakistan, a key player in the telecommunications infrastructure industry marked a significant stride in its dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in 2023. The company's commitment to enriching underprivileged communities, particularly in areas with limited access to grid power, culminated in the successful execution of the Tower to Community (T2C) initiative. The visionary project, centered in Tehsil Kabir Wala, Multan, not only supplied clean energy to adjacent households but also set a benchmark in integrating sustainable energy practices with societal upliftment.

By tapping into solar energy, EDOTCO Pakistan innovatively utilized its towers not just as telecom infrastructure to connect the unconnected, but also as power sources for neighboring off-grid homes. This initiative underscores the company's role in driving sustainable development and cementing its unwavering dedication to enhancing community welfare and livelihoods.

Abdul Aziz, the Country Managing Director at EDOTCO Pakistan, shed light on the company's unwavering commitment to community upliftment through the successful execution of the T2C initiative and OHS School Program. He stated, "As an integral part of the EDOTCO Group, we consistently align our strategic initiatives with sustainable growth, with a laser focus on community development and positive impact creation. Our efforts to bridge technological gaps underscore our dedication to inclusive development. The fruition of these collaborative and innovative initiatives is a testament to our commitment to making a substantial difference."

Congratulations

High hopes pinned on the abilities of the business leader

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday welcomed the victory of a noted business leader in the general elections, terming it an excellent development.

He said Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig had secured victory in NA-241, which is encouraging as the business community will have a strong voice in the National Assembly. His achievement is the success of the entire business community.

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, Dr Baig is a successful businessman who can represent Karachi well, which is essential to resolving the problems facing the business community. Karachi is the foundation of the national

economy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that we are pinning high hopes on Dr. Baig and hope that the PPP leadership will give him an important role in the future setup, which will be according to the aspirations of the business community.

The business leader said that Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig is a leading industrialist with a vibrant career. He serves as Honorary Consul General Yeman, ha has advised the PM on textiles, and was Senior Vice President of FPCCI.

Moreover, he has remained active in diplomatic, social, philanthropic, and political domains over several decades and holds a good reputation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said Dr. Baig, winner of two civilian awards, greatly desires improve-



ment; the business community will fully cooperate with him to resolve issues, serve the masses, and bring about positive change.

He noted that Dr. Baig could close the gap between the government and the private sector, benefiting both.

Businesspeople who become politicians can bring fresh energy into the public service as they come from an ecosystem driven by urgency to produce measurable results, and businesses that run without a sense of urgency to have quantifiable results fail.

Business people like to increase transparency and accountability in the system, and they can bring private sector networks that politicians are unlikely to have.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that most of the time, business people make better political administrators and know how to harness human capability.

Businesses thrive when leaders have a keen eye for talent and can foster an environment that encourages innovation and productivity.

MOU

ISLAMABAD: The signing ceremony of MoU between the Stakeholders on Consortium Formation for Machike-Thallian-Tarujabba White Oil Pipeline Project has been held on Wednesday at SIFC Secretariat, PM Office.



Photo: PID

WWEA welcomes new member ENERCON

Spokesman Report

BONN: The World Wind Energy Association is pleased to announce that German wind turbine manufacturer ENERCON has joined the Association as a Corporate Member. WWEA is delighted to welcome its new member as both organisations share the vision of a world powered by renewable energy, with wind power as a cornerstone. ENERCON joins WWEA's membership, which spans over 100 countries on all continents and covers all wind energy sectors.

WWEA and ENERCON share common goals, particularly in strengthening domestic supply chains, promoting decentralised application models for wind energy and encouraging strong local support for wind farms through participatory approaches.

WWEA President Dr Irfan Mirza: "It is a great privilege for me to welcome ENERCON as our first new member since taking over the WWEA Presidency a few weeks

ago. As one of the world's leading turbine manufacturers, ENERCON will be a valuable asset and an integral part of our global wind community. WWEA's new strategy focuses on strengthening the local benefits of wind energy, from community involvement to the role of local compa-



nies. ENERCON has already proven to be a champion in these key areas. Therefore, membership comes at the right time and we look forward to working closely together to accelerate the transformation to a renewable future."

ENERCON CEO Udo Bauer adds: "Since its foundation, WWEA has been committed to small and medium-sized operators in the global wind business. These enterprises form the basis of our

sector's success. They are crucial to speed up energy transition and decarbonisation together with the big players. One important next step in this process will be regional cooperations between wind onshore operators and energy consumers - also in the industry. In this area, too, we expect valuable ideas and impetus from the WWEA community and are happy to provide support as a partner."

WWEA Secretary General Stefan Gsänger: "It is crucial for WWEA's daily work that we work closely with practitioners in the wind sector. With ENERCON as one of the world's technology leaders in wind turbines, we can build on even more expertise and another important perspective in our global membership. We look forward to working closely together in the future, be it on technical issues, policy instruments or the socio-economic dynamics of wind energy. ENERCON has great experience in working with local investors-this will be of great interest to many of our members."

Global LNG demand to grow beyond 2040

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Global demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG) is estimated to rise by more than 50% by 2040, as industrial coal-to-gas switching gathers pace in China and South Asia and South-east Asian countries use more LNG to support their economic growth, according to Shell's LNG Outlook 2024.

Global trade in LNG reached 404 million tonnes in 2023, up from 397 million tonnes in 2022, with tight supplies of LNG constraining growth while maintaining prices and price volatility above historic averages. Demand for natural gas has already peaked in some regions but continues to rise globally, with LNG demand expected to reach around 625-685 million tonnes a year in 2040, according to the latest industry estimates.

"China is likely to dominate LNG demand growth this decade as its industry seeks to cut carbon emissions by switching from coal to gas," said Steve Hill, Executive Vice President for Shell Energy. "With China's coal-based steel sector accounting for more emissions than the total emissions of the UK, Germany and Turkey combined, gas has an essen-



tial role to play in tackling one of the world's biggest sources of carbon emissions and local air pollution."

Over the following decade, declining domestic gas production in parts of South Asia and South-east Asia could drive a surge in demand for LNG as these economies increasingly need fuel for gas-fired power plants or industry. However, countries in

South Asia and South-east Asia would need significant investments in gas import infrastructure.

The Shell LNG Outlook 2024 shows that gas complements wind and solar power in countries with high levels of renewables in their power generation mix, providing short-term flexibility and long-term security of supply.

Kaspersky's Antidrone Solution capable of neutralizing civil drones to protect critical infrastructure, public events, and commercial facilities

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky Antidrone Solution is a comprehensive system that detects, identifies, and neutralizes civil drones that pose a security or physical threat to various settings, including critical infrastructure, public events, and commercial facilities.

By 2027, the global drone civilian market is estimated to grow to \$21.62 billion, nearly doubling from 2023. Therefore, there is an increased need to protect commercial facilities, critical infrastructure and public events from drones conducting unauthorized video recordings or even industrial espionage. Thus, to protect against civilian drones, which are constantly becoming more sophisticated, customers are turning to anti-drone solutions. To meet these growing needs, Kaspersky is enhancing its Antidrone solution with state-of-the-art technology, including AI algorithms and neural networks.

Amid a constantly grow-

ing civilian drone market, Kaspersky has given its anti-drone solution a major new update. The latest version features improved system scalability, an interface that operates 12 times more quickly, and optimized incident visualization.

In the updated system, the scalability of Kaspersky Antidrone has significantly and multilaterally increased. Through the advanced integration capabilities, the solution can serve as a whole regional ecosystem. Now, it's easier to integrate Antidrone with third-party solutions via API, enabling the geographic coverage area to be expanded, while managing the full system from one console.

Kaspersky Antidrone has its own developed map, where a significant redesign and a new framework were made, resulting in higher working speed. All graphic elements are easily displayed in real time. Additionally, users now can easily switch between video analytics and map modes to inspect all the details more closely.

NBP sustained GDEIB Award recognition in 2024

PPA

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has secured seven awards at the esteemed Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Benchmarks (GDEIB) Awards 2024.

The GDEIB Awards, organized by Diversity Hub-HR Metrics, are recognized as a benchmark for businesses worldwide, setting the standard for diversity and inclusion practices.

This recognition not only places NBP among Pakistan's top 20 Inclusive Companies

but also shines a light on their dedication to foster a diverse and equitable workplace culture.

NBP was awarded for "best practices" in various categories, including vision, strategy, and recruitment. They were also recognized for their work-life integration, communication efforts, and commitment to employees' development and community engagement.

NBP also won GDEIB awards in 2023, showcasing their sustained commitment to creating an inclusive workplace for all.

NTDC maintenance program continues to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Ramzan ul Mubarak

PNP

LAHORE: On the instructions of Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, a comprehensive maintenance program for NTDC Transmission Lines and Grid stations continues. Washing, Cleaning, Replacement of Disc Insulators and other necessary maintenance activities are being carried

out by respective NTDC formations.

These activities will increase reliability of Transmission Lines and Grid Stations and will help in ensuring uninterrupted power supply during the Holy month of Ramzan.

Under this program, shutdowns were availed on 500kV and 220kV Transmission Line Circuits in South region also.

Mohammad Nawaz eyes PSL 9 glory with Karachi Kings

A Sports

KARACHI: All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz expressed his desire to win the Pakistan Super League (PSL) with his new team, Karachi Kings, in the upcoming ninth edition of the franchise league.

Nawaz joined Karachi Kings as their second pick in the Platinum category after he was released by Quetta Gladiators ahead of the PSL 9 Draft.

While talking to the media on the sidelines of the Karachi King's training session here, Nawaz opened up about the team environment at his new home.

"This is a new experience with a new team. The overall environment is amazing and we are hoping to have a good season ahead," said the all-rounder.

The 29-year-old responded to a question regarding the goals he has set to accomplish in the upcoming tournament.

"My first goal is to help Karachi Kings qualify for the playoffs and then win the



tournament. As far as personal goals are concerned, I will try my best to claim the player of the tournament award," Mohammad Nawaz reflected.

"It is an important season for the team as the last few seasons did not go well, which resulted in some major changes this time around. I will try to give impact-

ful performance and play my role in team's victory."

Nawaz also commented on his preparations for the ICC T20 World Cup, which is scheduled to be played in the West Indies and the United States of America (USA) later this year.

"I am working on my batting and bowling skills, but World Cup is few months away. Right now, I am focusing on the PSL and aiming to perform at my best as an all-rounder for Karachi Kings," he concluded.

Mohammad Nawaz has acknowledged his crucial role in Karachi Kings and stated that he will try to finish the games for his team, both with the bat and the ball.

Notably, he is the sixth leading wicket-taker in tournament history with 70 scalps in 76 appearances. His tally of 70 wickets is the highest by a left-arm spinner.

He has also scored 728 runs in the tournament in just 58 innings.

Warm-up

MULTAN: Players of Multan Sultans busy in warm-up before the practice session for the upcoming PSL 9 at Multan Cricket Stadium.



SJAL delegation calls on Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A delegation of Sports Journalists Association of Lahore (SJAL) called on Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail at his office at National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday. Deputy Director Aatur Rehman was also present on this occasion.

The SJAL delegation consisted of President SJAL Aqeel Ahmed, Secretary Ashraf Ch, Secretary Finance Ihtashamul Haq, senior journalists Yousaf Anjum, Ejaz Sheikh and Hafiz Shahbaz Ali.

Talking to the SJAL delegation, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that Sports Board Punjab is taking all possible measures for the promotion of sports across the province. "The development of sports will continue in all parts of the province".



Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail further said that Sports Board Punjab will continue to organize mega sports events to provide maximum playing opportunities to young talented athletes. "After the successful holding of Winter Games, now we are going to organise the Spring Games in the coming weeks".

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that SJAL is playing an important role in the development of sports. "Sports journalists gave sufficient coverage to all sports activities of Sports Board Punjab. Literally, they played an effective role in the success of recently staged Rising Punjab Games 2024," he added.

The SJAL delegation appreciated the effective steps taken by Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail for the growth of sports among the younger generation.

"The successful holding of Rising Punjab Games and U-16 Talent Hunt Programme is definitely a big achievement".

WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari congratulates new officials of the Softball Federation of Pakistan

Sports Desk

KARACHI: World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) president Riccardo Fraccari has said that Pakistan has its name in the world in terms of sports. We appreciate the steps taken for the development and promotion of softball in Pakistan. In the future, we will continue our strong cooperation with the new officials of the Softball Federation of Pakistan.



In his congratulatory letter, Riccardo Fraccari said that Asif Azeem has been associated with the game of softball for a long time and I hope that his vast experience in softball and his skills as president will be of great help in expanding the game in the region. Riccardo Fraccari also expressed his desire that he wants to see the sport of softball in Pakistan fully developed, for which he plans to meet the president of the federation Asif Azeem very soon. Meanwhile, the president of the Pakistan Olympic Association Syed Abid Qadri Jilani, Secretary General Muhammad Khalid Mehmood, Vice President Fatima Lakhani, Consul General of America in Karachi CONRAD TRIBBLE, Squash Legend Jahangir Khan, Hockey Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui, Provincial Sports Minister Sindh Dr. Junaid Ali Shah, Sindh Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan Ronak Lakhani, Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput, CEO Combox Sports Omar Saeed and other personalities associated with sports have felicitated the newly elected President of Softball Federation Pakistan Asif Azeem, SVP Dr. Farhan Essa, Chairperson Yasmin Hyder and Secretary Naseem Khan and other officials. They expressed best wishes for the new office-bearers.

MI Emirates reach ILLT20 final at Gulf Giants' disposal

A Sports

DUBAI: An all-round batting and bowling effort led MI Emirates into the International League (ILLT20) final after a comfortable 45-run victory over Gulf Giants in the first Qualifier on Wednesday.



Put into bat first, MI Emirates posted a commendable total of 163/7 in the allotted 20 overs, courtesy of a combined effort by their middle order.

But the table-toppers had a shaky start to their innings as they were three down with just 46 runs on the board in 6.3 overs.

Dwayne Bravo then joined Nicholas Pooran in the middle and the duo scripted an astounding recovery. They added a brisk 45 runs for the fourth wicket before the skipper perished in the 13th over.

Pooran remained the top-scorer for MI Emirates with a 28-ball 36 which featured three boundaries and a six.

Watch ILLT20 Live on ARY ZAP

Bravo then put together a brief partnership with Tim David before falling victim to Blessing Muzarabani in the 16th over after scoring a cautious 30 off 28, laced with two boundaries and a six.

David then joined forces with Kieron Pollard and the pair bolstered MI Emirates' total with a brisk stand that yielded 45 runs in 26 deliveries.

Tim David perished in the final over after a 21-ball 29 while Pollard remained unbeaten with a swashbuckling 27. He conceded 14 deliveries and smashed three boundaries and a six.

Daniel Worrall was the pick of the bowlers for the Giants with 3/15 while Muzarabani bagged two wickets.

In return, Gulf Giants' batting unit failed completely against a disciplined MI Emirates bowling attack and folded on a meagre 118 in 18.2 overs.

World Jr Championship Leg-1 continues

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ITF Pakistan Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial World Junior Championship Leg-1 continued on Wednesday after one-day postponement due to sudden death of junior tennis player from Karachi Zainab Ali Naqvi.

As many as 45 players boys and girls from Kazakhstan, Türkiye, USA, Hongkong, China, Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Thailand were participating in the Championships.

A total of 27 Pakistani boys and girls were participating in the Championships.

In Boys Singles Pre-Quarter Finals, Kiagaoge Kang (CHN) beat Howard Chan (HKG) 6-3, 6-2; Xiuyuan Guo (CHN) beat Jiwan Park (KOR) 6-3, 6-4; Hamza Roman (PAK) beat Ahtesham Humayun (PAK) 6-4, 6-1; Ivan Mararov 6-1, 6-4; Dong Hyeon Euom (KOR) beat Hamid Israr Gul (PAK) 7-6(3), 6-4; Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) beat Papangkorn Bunyarit (THA) 6-1, 6-1; Zhe Jiang (CHN) beat Kieran Lin (USA) 0-6, 6-4, 6-0; Ju Hun Choo (KOR) beat Ilya Kryukov 7-5, 6-0.

In Girls Singles Pre-Quarter Finals, Paramee Tadkaew (THA) beat Sheeza Sajid (PAK) 6-1, 6-0; Amna Ali Qayum (PAK) beat Deren Cetinakaya (TUR) 6-1, 6-3; Stefaniya Neporent beat Jingke YAN (CHN) 6-3, 6-1; Jiaxiaqi WEN (CHN) w/o Ruslana Ruslanova (KAZ).

Quetta Gladiators Cricket Team Full Form and Ready to Play PSL 9th Edition: Nadeem Omar

Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: The HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL), initiated in 2016, stands as a vibrant testament to the cricketing prowess of the nation, showcasing a bouquet of six franchises that passionately compete for honour and glory on the T20 stage.

These franchises symbolise the flourishing of cricket in Pakistan, acting as catalysts for unearthing talent and providing a pathway for players to ascend to the national team.

Quetta Gladiators is a team that has consistently embodied the values of honour, dignity and commitment. Owned by the cricket-loving and successful businessman Nadeem Omar, the franchise

faced the challenge of establishing an identity for Quetta, particularly in the province of Balochistan.

Nadeem Omar's commitment to the cause was evident from the outset. His strategic moves included bringing on-board the legendary Sir Viv Richards as the mentor, the dependable Moin Khan as the head coach, and the accomplished Sarfaraz Ahmed as the captain. These decisions paid off handsomely in the initial four years, culminating in the franchise's maiden title in 2019.

As the franchise enters its ninth year, it has not only built a positive image of Quetta and Balochistan but has also made significant strides in tapping into local talent. Nadeem Omar acknowledges this, emphasising how Quetta Glad-

iators have eradicated negativity towards Balochistan and become an identity for the province. Initiatives such as the Inter-School tournament, Ramadan cricket, and even a successful women's tournament have contributed to reshaping perceptions.

The biggest positivity about Quetta Gladiators is that we created the soft image of Quetta and Balochistan," Nadeem sums up the achievements of his franchise.

The way the team played eradicated the negativity as we introduced Inter-School cricket in the province, held Ramadan cricket and energised players and fans in equal terms. The biggest thing was that we held a women's tournament with success in an environment where women might not

have gotten the same chance.

There were apprehensions over conducting such an event in Balochistan but Quetta Gladiators became an identity of the province. The message to the world as a whole and to the people of Pakistan in particular is that Quetta is a place where people can come and stage events. The sweetest and the most unforgettable moment for me is the welcome the people of Balochistan accorded us when we took a trophy tour of the province in 2019.

Gladiators can proudly mention players like Bismillah Khan, Abdul Nasir, Abdul Wahid Bangalzai, Mohammad Asghar, Haseebullah and Jalat Khan who were picked in Quetta Gladiators. The extreme weather conditions in



Quetta pose a challenge to hold trials, camps and matches, but Nadeem remains confident that the efforts from Quetta Gladiators will yield more fruitful results in

Khan and others. Rilee Rossouw became a brand at Gladiators while Nadeem Omar highlights the success stories, with Sarfaraz Ahmed becoming a captain, Mohammad Nawaz flourishing due to trust, and the introduction of players like Mir Hamza and Usman Khan.

Despite facing challenges in the last four years, Nadeem is satisfied with the progress of Quetta Gladiators. The biggest reward, he says, is the love and affection from the people of Balochistan, who take pride in the team. As Quetta Gladiators continue to strive for success, they stand not only as a franchise but also as a beacon of light for local cricketers, promising further harnessing of talent in the cricketing landscape of Pakistan.

Group photo

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo with officials from Pak Navy, Karachi Shipyard and China Shipbuilding & Offshore International during Keel Laying ceremony of 6th HANGOR Class Submarine at Karachi Shipyard.



President Biden aware of elections in Pakistan: White House

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: President of United States Joe Biden is aware of the general election held on February 8 in Pakistan.

The Press Secretary of White House Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference, that the President is very much aware of millions of Pakistanis who turned out to vote last week, including record numbers of Pakistani women, members of religious and ethnic minority groups, and young voters. She congratulated the Pakistani

people for participating in general elections 2024 — including poll workers, civil society members, journalists and election observers who protected Pakistan's democratic and electoral institutions.

Jean-Pierre maintained that the US is proud to stand with like-minded democracies, as it consistently conveys clearly, both publicly and privately, to the Pakistani government and across the Pakistani political spectrum the need to respect the will of the Pakistani people and ensure a transparent election process. It is critical, and it



is obviously important.

Uncertainty looms over Pakistan's political future

as none of the major political parties — PML-N, PPP or the PTI-backed independent

candidates — secured a simple majority in the National Assembly in the February 8 general elections.

Political stakeholders were making efforts to forge alliances and secure 169 seats in the 336-member lower house of parliament.

PTI-backed Independent candidates consolidated their lead in the general elections 2024 over mainstream political parties, especially in the National and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies, throughout the result announcement process.

FM Shamshad Akhtar announces approval of NCGCL's share subscription agreement

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, today.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Privatization and Inter Provincial Coordination Fawad Hasan Fawad, Minister for Interior, Commerce & Industries Mr. Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Energy and Petroleum Division Mr. Mohammad Ali, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed, Minister of Maritime Affairs, Communication and Railways Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Advisor to PM on Finance Dr. Waqar Masood, Federal Secretaries, and other senior government officers of the relevant ministries.

The ECC considered the proposal of Federal Board



of Revenue (FBR) regarding "Rationalization of Criterion of Enhanced Rate of 25% Sales Tax on Locally Manufactured/Assembled Vehicles (PCT87.03)". The proposal was approved after detailed discussion.

Finance Division sought "Approval of Share Subscription Agreement (SSA) of National Credit Guarantee Company Limited (NCGCL)" from the forum. The ECC approved the proposal of signing of SSA between NCGCL,

Karandaz and the Government of Pakistan through Ministry of Finance.

Ministry of Commerce presented a summary regarding amendments in "SRO 760(I)/2013-Import and Export of Precious Metal Jewellery and Gemstones Order, 2013" and "Import Policy Order 2022- Serial No. 16 of Part II, Appendix-B". The Economic Coordination Committee agreed to the proposals in principle, and directed that a committee

comprising of representatives of Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Law, FBR and SECP may formulate detailed proposals for this export oriented policy reform targeting opening up of the service sector.

The summary of Petroleum Division regarding "Natural Gas Sale Pricing FY 2023-24 (Effective-1st February, 2024)" was deliberated upon at length. After discussion ECC decided that revision of sale price/ tariff

should be consistent with revenue requirements of the Sui companies. The committee recommended uniform gas price for fertilizer plants. ECC directed Competition Commission of Pakistan to investigate the undue increase in urea price during recent past and fix the responsibility. ECC also directed Ministry of Industries for ensuring the stability of Urea prices in the market.

The ECC also gave approval of the summary of Intelligence Bureau for "Provision of Additional Funds of Rs.125 Million during the Current Financial Year" to meet the increasing requirements of Bureau vis-a-vis operations against terrorists and anti-state elements.

The summary of Finance Division regarding "Approval of Technical Supplementary Grant for Provision of Rupee Cover for Remaining Funds amounting to Rs. 7,621,756,096/- of 1st Tranche of Credit Lines of US \$85 Million obtained from the World Bank" was approved by ECC.

Israeli delegation departs Cairo after truce talks: media

AFP

CAIRO: An Israeli delegation left talks in Cairo to pause the Israel-Hamas on Tuesday, Israeli and US media reported.

Israeli intelligence chief David Barnea met CIA Director William Burns in the Egyptian capital for talks on a Qatari-brokered plan to temporarily halt fighting in Gaza.

The negotiations, which also involved Qatar's prime minister and Egyptian officials, were part of an intensifying effort to secure a ceasefire before Israel proceeds with a full-scale ground incursion into the southern city of Rafah, where more than half of the territory's population has fled.



Foreign governments and the United Nations have voiced increasingly frantic alarm about the possible civilian toll of such an assault, while Israel has vowed to press ahead with its campaign until it successfully eradicates Hamas from all of Gaza, including Rafah. The Times of Israel reported

citing an official in the Israeli prime minister's office that Israel's delegation had left Cairo on Tuesday night.

The Wall Street Journal reported citing officials familiar with the talks that Barnea's delegation had departed the Egyptian capital "without closing any of the major gaps in the

negotiations".

Egyptian state-owned television channel Al Qahera reported citing a senior Egyptian official that the talks would continue for another three days.

The same official said the talks had been mostly "positive", the television channel reported.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby called the negotiations "constructive and moving in the right direction".

"Nothing is done until it is all done," he told reporters at the White House. Ahead of the efforts to hammer out a truce, the Israeli campaign group Hostages and Missing Families Forum

sent the Mossad chief a plea saying the delegation must "not return without a deal".

Around half of the estimated 250 hostages taken by Hamas during the October 7 attacks are still believed to be in Gaza. Israel says 29 of them are presumed dead.

The Hamas attack that launched the war resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people in Israel, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

At least 28,473 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israel's relentless bombardment and ground offensive in Gaza since then, according to the health ministry in the Palestinian territory.

Keel Laying Ceremony of second HANGOR Class Submarine held at Karachi Shipyard

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Achieving another milestone in indigenous submarine development project at Pakistan, the Keel Laying Ceremony of second HANGOR Class Submarine was held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW) where Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest on Wednesday. As per the defence agreement between Pakistan and China for development of eight HANGOR Class Submarines, four submarines are under construction at Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry in China whereas remaining four are being built at KS&EW under Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf said, "It is a matter of great pride to witness the Keel Laying of HANGOR Class Submarine at Karachi Shipyard in collaboration with China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Co. Ltd (CSOC)." He lauded the joint efforts and performance of Ministry of Defence Production, Pakistan Navy, Karachi Shipyard (KS&EW) and CSOC for construction

of these Submarines. The Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted that indigenization was a top priority of Naval Headquarters policy which is being manifested by construction of these state of the art Submarines at KS&EW. Earlier during his welcome address, the Managing Director KS&EW, Rear Admiral Salman Ilyas highlighted that Karachi Shipyard was fully cognizant and completely aligned with the goals set forth by Government and Pakistan Navy in pursuing self-reliance in submarine construction. These submarines are a testimony of our commitment to this national cause. He also thanked Ministry of Defence Production and Pakistan Navy for their continued support and cooperation in realizing various projects at hand. This is the 2nd Submarine to undergo Keel Laying at KS&EW. Earlier, in Dec 2022, Keel Laying of first Submarine was successfully undertaken and currently it is at advanced stage of construction. The ceremony was attended by representatives of Embassy of China, CSOC (China), WSIG (China) and other high-ranking government officials including distinguished guests from Ministry of Defence Production (MoDP) and armed forces of Pakistan.

SC adjourns case against commercial usage of state land

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned hearing of a case pertaining to use of state land for commercial activities indefinitely.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case.

The court said that illegal constructions and residential buildings were being commercialized in Sindh. The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) came into action for demolishing an illegal building after its completion.

It instructed that the details regarding permissions / approvals of a building should be displayed on a board during the construction.

The court said that the SBCA could not misuse the circumstances for its benefits and delay the issuance of certificate for completion of the building.

During the hearing, the CJP

remarked that the institutions were running business, including marriages halls, and asked the Attorney General for Pakistan give an assurance that the practice should be stopped.

The counsel for Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) said that the disputed building was owned by his client department. The allottees got the land transferred in their names on fake documents and sold it out. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar said that the five story building had been under construction while the ETBP remained a spectator.

The CJP remarked that illegal constructions were impossible without the help of SBCA. He said that assets of SBCA's inspectors and officers should be checked.

To the query of bench, the SBCA director general said that the Authority had a total of 1400 employees, 600 inspectors and 300 senior inspectors.

Police station torching case: ATC orders attachment of property of 7 PTI leaders

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday ordered attachment of property of seven Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in a case of torching Shadman Police Station.

The court ordered attachment of property of Hammad Azhar, Muhammad Zubair Khan Niazi,

Jamshed Cheema, Murad Saeed, Musarrat Cheema and others.

ATC Judge Muhammad Naveed Iqbal passed the orders for attachment of property on an application filed by the police for the purpose.

The police had submitted that the accused were hiding to avoid arrest in the case. It requested the court to issue orders for attachment of their property.

SC sends GB judges appointments case to committee for larger bench

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sent the case pertaining to the appointment of judges in the High Court of Gilgit-Baltistan to the Judges Committee for formation of a larger bench. A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, which heard the case, also issued notices to the GB Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association for assistance into the matter.

It directed the respondents to submit written arguments. During the course of proceeding, the CJP remarked that the people of GB did not know even about their rights. The Additional Attorney General, on the occasion, said that the government wanted to bring the GB under the Constitution after giving it the



status of a province but international conventions were hindering it. He said that it would be appropriate to wait for the formation of government as the prime minister was the chairman of GB Council. The GB government's lawyer Saad Hashmi adopted the stance that a seven-member larger bench of the top court had given a judgment in 2019 about the GB. The verdict was also related to this court. The court adjourned the case for an indefinite time.