**Barkat Rice Mills** 

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif pledges support for honest officers and public service

CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her admiration for honest officers, emphasizing the importance of integrity in public service. She vowed to uphold meritocracy and prevent any form of nepotism, stating that political appointments would not be tolerated under her administration. (Details on Page 2)



PM AJK declares victory day for Pakistan after soft retort' against India

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming February 27 as a Victory Day for Pakistan, has said that painst IAF. The AJK premier said that on this day in 2019 Pakistan Force exhibited its professional capabilities and fighting prowess by responding to Indian aggression. (Details on Page 2)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'aban 17, Wednesday, February 28, 2024



🗦 www.dailyspokesman.net





Daily Spokesman Vol: 17, Issue: 319 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

#### Called on

ISLAMABAD: H.E General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of the General Staff, Saudi Armed Forces awarding King Abdul Aziz Badge of Honour of the Excellent Class of Saudi Arabia to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Tuesday.



#### Air Chief visits Saudi Arabia to promote Pak-Saudi defence ties

**№** PPA

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force called on General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of the General Staff, Saudi Armed Forces and His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Turki Bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Forces, during his visit to Saudi Arabia. Meetings were focused upon further promoting Pak-Saudi defence ties, particularly between the two Air Forces through joint military exercises and technological collaboration.

During the visit, the Air Chief was awarded King Abdul Aziz Badge of Honor of the Excellent Class by Chief of the General Staff, Saudi

## **NA session: Caretaker** govt responds to President Alvi's objections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government has responded to President Dr. Arif Alvi's objections on the returned tution that if specific seats are not allotted, summary for summoning

the National Assembly's (NA) inaugural session. According to details, the federal government in response told Dr. Arif Alvi that the president does not

have the 'discretion or power' to halt the National Assembly session under Article 91 of the Constitution 1973. "Nowhere in Article 91 is it written that if the House

is incomplete, the National Assembly session cannot be convened," the sources added while quoting the federal

It added that the president could only adjourn the 'ordinary' session of the National Assembly under Article 54 of the constitution. In the summary, the president was asked to summon an extraordinary meeting of the National Assembly for oath-taking of the newly elected members.

The caretaker federal government the response.

requested Dr. Arif Alvi to review his decision and summon the National Assembly session by February 29.

"It is not written anywhere in the consti-



the session cannot be called," the sources said while quoting the federal government. It added that under Clause 2 of Article 91 the constitution, it is obligatory to

21 days of the election. "Even if the President does not call the

National Assembly session by February 29, it would still be held on the same day," the caretaker government maintained in

summon the National Assembly within

## Pakistan resolved to safeguard its sovereignty, regional security: PM

👺 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said stan was resolved to safeguard its sovereignty and regional security. The prime minister, in a message on the fifth anniversary of the Operation Swift Retort, paid

On February 27, 2019, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had shot down two that being a peace-loving country, Paki- Indian planes that had violated Pakistani airspace. One of the Indian pilots was captured by Pakistan, but was later handed over as a gesture of peace. The prime minister said that the Pakistani



armed forces had proved their operational superiority falsifying the Indian clain "No one should have doubt that Pakistan is a peace-loving country that was determined to protect its sovereignty as well as the regional security," he remarked. The prime minister reiterated the resolve that Pakistan would forcefully respond to any aggression against it.

#### PTI founder supports President Alvi's decision of not summoning NA session

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder on Tuesday said that President Arif Alvi did the right thing by not summoning the National Assembly

The former premier said this during an informal interaction with journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday. He claimed PTI won the election, but 'rigging' was done to 'snatch' PTI's seats. Founder PTI said there could be no

greater theft than the public mandate, the whole nation is saying that a 'rigged 20-seater is being made prime minister'. He reiterated his demand for the resignation of the CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja.

Former prime minister Imran Khan alleged the caretaker governments were also against PTI, alleging that the Election Commission is still engaged in rigging after the election. He announced a protest on Saturday against the alleged theft of PTI's mandate in the February 8 elections.

#### ECP allows voter lists' modification till bye-election schedule announcement

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) declared on Tuesday that electoral rolls would remain open for modifications until the announcement of the bye-election schedule.

An ECP spokesperson, in a statement, urged the individuals seeking to transfer their votes or desire correction in the voter list, to submit forms 21, 22, or 23 to the district election commissioner or registration officer in their particular area. "Once the bye-election schedule is announced, the electoral rolls in the specific constituencies will be frozen," he added.

It may be mentioned that the word "freeze", in electoral terms, signifies that no alterations can be made to the voter lists after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decides to freeze them. Unfreezing the voter lists allows for pertinent changes to be made to the voters'

#### FEB&GIF clears educational-stipend claims within 45 days: Solangi

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi informed the Senate on Tuesday that the claims related to the educational stipends were cleared by the Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB&GIF) within 45 days. Responding to a question during the question hour in the Senate, he said that on average, 35,000 to 40,000 claims per annum were being received by the FEB&GIF for educational stipends from federal government employees.

He said that as of December 2023 and January 2024, around 4,997 claims were pending for the processing. The main reasons for this delay were twofold, he said adding first, the seasonal nature of claims, as the period from August to March was the peak time for receiving educational stipend claims due to examination results being declared from SSC to Masters during this period.

#### Final IMF installment likely to be negotiated by new govt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is preparing to host a team of the International Monetary Fund for its second review to unlock another installment of the Stand-by Agreement from the money lender.

The government has completed 25 out the 26 requirements laid out by the Fund. However, the last remaining item concerning legislation related to National Highway Authority, Pakistan Post and Pakistan Boradcasting Corporation cannot be completed as the National Assembly has just been elected.

Finance Ministry officials expect the IMF team's talks to continue with the new elected government instead of the caretaker government. The visit's schedule is likely to be decided after the new government takes office.

Successful talks would release the third installment of the SBA worth \$1.1 billion. The SBA was agreed in last July and

has helped Pakistan successfully avoid

#### President Arif Alvi to face dual constitution violation charges, says Bilawal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday asserted President Arif Alvi will face dual constitution violation charges after his retirement.

Talking to media men outside the Supreme Court after hearing of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's presidential reference, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said President Arif Alvi is 'violating' the constitution of Pakistan by denying summoning the NA session for the swearing-in of the new lawmakers.

It's a constitutional requirement to summon NA session by February 29, Bilawal said and added the president is denying discharging his duties.

The PPP leader said they will replace Arif Ali as president after the swearing-in of the new house and he will face the country out of crises.



cases including one of dissolving the assembly despite VONC motion and another of denying calling the session of the lower house of the parliament. Criticising the PTI founder,

Bilawal Bhutto said the man who is incarcerated in Adiala Jail is not ready to learn from his mistakes. "PPP too made mistakes but one has to learn from it."

He urged everyone to exercise their power in their respective constitutional domain and underlined the need for respecting each other despite political differences, as this is the only way forward to steer

#### Murad Ali Shah takes oath as Sindh chief minister



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Syed Murad Ali Shah has received a third consecutive term at serving as the Sindh Chief Minister (CM) as he took an oath of his office on Tuesday at Governor House.

Governor Kamran Tessori administered him oath in a ceremony attended by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PPP MNAs and MPAs, representatives of business commu-

nity and others During chief minister's election, presided over by Sindh

Assembly Speaker Owais Qadir Shah, a total of 148 votes were cast, with Murad Ali Shah obtaining 112. His opponent, MQM-P candidate Ali Khurshidi, garnered 36 votes. Lawmakers from the Jamat-i-Islami (JI) and the Sunni Ittehad Council, which was joined by PTI-backed independents who won seats in the Feb 8 polls, abstained from participating in the voting

The politico has served twice as Sindh's chief minister from 2016 to 2018 and then from 2018 to 2023, and this will be his third consecutive term.

## SC adjourns Bhutto reference till March 5

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned hearing of presidential reference pertaining to the 'judicial murder' of Zulifkar Ali Bhutto till March 5. A nine-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Tariq Masood, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Musarrat Hilali heard the reference.

PPP's Chairman Bilwal Bhutto Zardari attended the hearing. At the outset of hearing, Amicus Curiae Justice (Retd) Manzoor Ahmed Malik informed the court that he had prepared a summary of the case.

between the night of November 11 and 12, 1974 at Shadman Chowk in Lahore.

The investigation into the murder case registered at the Achhra Police Station, Lahore was closed by saying that the accused could not be traced. He said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was not named as an accused in the case. He said the record of the case was obtained by the police for re-investigation on August 8, 1977 without any written permission from the magistrate. He said that the magistrate had issued a formal order to close the case which was not challenged anywhere. "This order remains in field till date. The Federally Investigation Agency, however, conducted a separate investigation despite there

was no provision in the law to transfer the investigation from the police to the former," he added. Justice (Retd) Manzoor said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had accused the then chief justice of being biased. He referred to the statement Ahmed Raza Kasuri in the Shafiur Rehman case that the purpose of naming Bhutto in the case was not that he had murdered his father himself. The amicus curiae said that it was claimed that a conspiracy was hatched to kill Ahmed Raza Kasuri but he was still alive. Sessions Judge Ijaz Nisar had sought a report from the public prosecutor on the matter but the very next day, the case was transferred to the high court. He argued that Bhutto's lawyer could not appear in the first hearing and the court sought evidence on next

date which was a clear violation of the legal process. The accused were also charged separately while ignoring the rules, he said, adding that if there were more than one accused, the charge would be one. The chief justice remarked that he was looking at the order sheet and it seemed that it was a civil case. As per the charge sheet, the elements of conspiracy to murder were added to the charge. Surprisingly, it was not clarified that where that conspiracy had taken place. "In this case, the basis of murder is said to be a conspiracy," he said. Later, the court adjourned the reference till March 5. It may be mentioned here that former president Asif Ali Zardari had referred the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto murder reference in 2011 to the

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif pledges support for honest officers and public service

**Bureau Report** 

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her admiration for honest officers, emphasizing the importance of integrity in public service. She vowed to uphold meritocracy and prevent any form of nepotism, stating that political appointments would not be tolerated under her administration. Furthermore, she underscored the government's commitment to transparency in financial matters.

Addressing officials at the Darbar Hall Civil Secretariat, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the importance of providing quality healthcare services to the public. She directed officials to prioritize the prevention of diseases like dengue and polio, and to ensure the continuation of public improvement would be welcomed. She utility projects in the health sector. praised civil servants for their patriot-



ed her support for officers and employees who demonstrate dedication, stating that innovative ideas for public service

Maryam Nawaz Sharif also highlight- ism and commitment to public service, stating that accountability, transparency, and efficiency were non-negotiable principles.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of promptly addressing the IG Punjab and other secretaries.

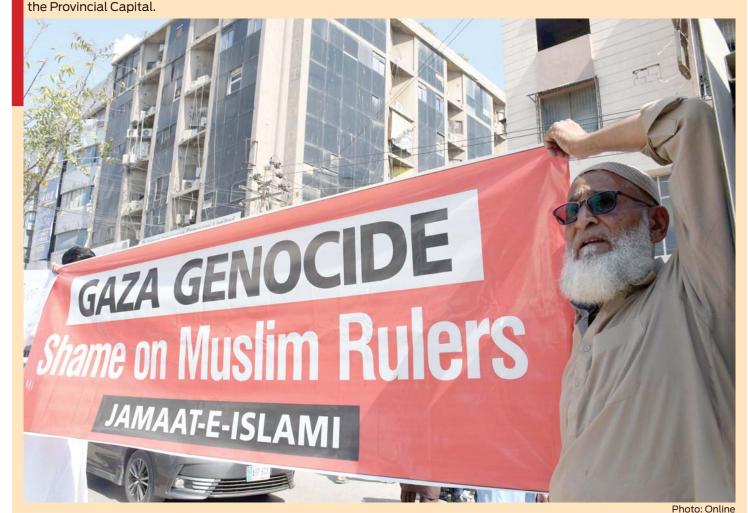
public grievances, stating that immediate action should be taken to resolve issues. She emphasized the need for institutional and organizational reforms to address problems at their root.

During her visit to the Punjab Civil Secretariat, Maryam Nawaz Sharif commended the restoration project of the Civil Secretariat for preserving its historical significance. She inaugurated a museum within the Secretariat and reviewed ongoing projects. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman provided a detailed briefing on the functions of various departments.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Chairman Planning and Development, Secretary Health, Secretary Finance, Members of the Punjab Assembly including Maryam Aurangzeb, Azmi Bukhari, and Sania Ashiq, as well as

#### Protest

KARACHI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami hold a banner during protest against Israel attack on Ghaza outside a mosque, in



#### Pakistan Zindabad marks 5th anniversary with jubilant ceremony in Muzaffarabad

B Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The fifth anniversary of Pakistan Zindabad under the title of "Pakistan Zindabad" on the timely response and professionalism of the brave forces of Pakistan in the air violation committed by India and the capture of the downed Nindan.

A grand ceremony was Kashmir, nominated candi-



Raza Sabzwari Advocate, Chairman Union Council held in the Central Press Muzaffarabad Igbal Yasin, Club here under the auspic- renowned businessman es of the Young Journalist Abdul Razzaq Mughal, Forum, in which the chief Private School Association guest was the Central Depuleader Nishad Butt, Ashiq ty Secretary Information of Butt, Muqds Prince, Bila-Pakistan People's Party Azad wal Munir, leaders from all schools of thought, includdate for Assembly Constit- ing from the electronic uency Lipa Valley, Shaukat print media. Speaking at Javed Mir, Member of the the participation ceremony,

plane and its pilot Abi District Council Syed. Ali Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Shaukat Javed Mir said that the breakfast of the Indian forces in the Lahore Gymkhana and the Indian pilot's desire for tea and the legendary hospitality of the Pakistani Kashmiri people will go down in history.

Shaukat Javed Mir has become the cause of shame and retreat. The forces of Pakistan sacrificed their lives for the defense of the home-

land and national identity and proved that they will continue the ongoing war against the anti-national forces and terrorists together with their defeat. He said, Operation Rah Najat, Operation Zarb-e-Azb, Operation Radal al-Fasaad, besides the Indian aggression on the Line of Control and Working Boundary, the nation fought alongside its elite

Pakistan has fought three wars for the freedom of Occupied Kashmir, Syed Ali Raza, Iqbal Hasin, Abdul Zaq Khan, the Holy Khwaja Bilawal Munir Nishad Butt said that the people of Kashmir will continue to sacrifice for the defense of Pakistan until the last breath of the people of Kashmir

### Bishop Yousuf Sohan visited Hazrat Shah Rukn Alam Darbar

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chairman of the Catholic Commission for Interfaith and Inter-Church Dialogue, Bishop Yousuf Sohan, along with a delegation, visited the shrine of the great spiritual leader of the Indo- Pak subcontinent, Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam, and met with the stan Samuel Clement, Allama Dr Muhammad Arshad Ali Baloch, Qari Ramzan Chishti, Father Daniel Taj,



scholars. Karia Tas Paki- Father Azam Siddique, this occasion. Yusuf Sohan Father Shahzad Khokhar, has said that interfaith and Amroz Gul and other young interfaith Harmony in the women from different cities Church is the need of the

of Pakistan were present on hour. The sanctuaries of the

saints are the havens of peace and order. From these sanctuaries, all people without discrimination always get blessings. The sanctuaries of the saints have played an important role in inter-religious and inter-religious harmony. We, along with our fathers and the church, visited the Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam Darbar and coming here gave us peace of mind because Multan is the center of Saints and Dargahs of Saints are centers of spirit-

#### Outgoing caretakers take important decision about gas, electricity prices

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker federal government has decided to empower the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to fix electricity and gas tariffs respectively without the government's approval.

According to details, the caretaker government has decided to end the government's role in the regulation of gas, electricity, and petroleum products prices.

The sources privy to the development said that the federal cabinet through circulation approved amendments in separate rules of the OGRA, NEPRA, and Petroleum Division.

The sources said that after the amendments, OGRA, NEPRA, and Petroleum Division would be empowered to regulate the prices without government interference.

Besides, appellate tribunals would also be set up for public grievances under the amendments.

Earlier in the day, in another shock to the already overburdened power consumers, the NEPRA has notified a hike of Rs7.5 per unit in the price of electricity as part of the fuel price adjustment (FCA).

The power sector's regulatory authority approved increase in the electricity tariff by Rs7.5 per kilowatt hour (kWh) under the head FCA of January 2024 and this hike in power tariff will be charged to power consumers during the month of March 2024. The increase will be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline consumers and the power consumers of K-Electric (KE). The hike in the power tariff will cause Rs66 billion worth additional burden on the already burdened power consumers.

#### PMAJK declares victory day for Pakistan after soft retort' against India

Abdul Mjeed Tahir
 ■

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming February 27 as a Victory Day for Pakistan, has said that the Pakistan Air Force amply demonstrated its conventional and technological supremacy through its successful counterattack against IAF.

In his special message issued on the fifth anniversary of Operation Soft Retort, the AJK premier said that on this day in 2019 Pakistan Air Force exhibited its professional capabilities and fighting

prowess by responding to Indian aggression. Referring to Pakistan army's excellent track record and ability to defend the geographical frontiers of the country, Prime Minister Haq

said that Pakistan Army has always proved its metal. The PM said that downing of the Indian war plane and arrest of its pilot was not only a big surprise for India but the befitting response by the Pakistani Shaheens had completely destroyed the myth of India's

The operation swift retort, he said, dashed to the ground the India's ambitions and false proud. "Now India cannot even dare to cast an evil eve on Pakistan".

We are proud of Pakistan Army, which has always fulfilled the nation's expectations", he said, adding that Pakistan Army was the guarantor of peace in the region.

#### All Parties Hurriyat in Kashmir write to OIC to protest treatment of Kashmiris in Indian jails

**Bureau Report** 

ISLAMABAD MUZAFFARABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference-AJK chapter has issued an urgent appeal to Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Hissein Brahim Taha, inviting his attention towards the unjust treatment faced by Kashmiri detainees in Indian jails.



Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, Convener of the APHC-AJK chapter, penned a letter to the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, expressing grave concerns over the deteriorating conditions endured by Kashmiri detainees. The letter emphasized the wrongful imprisonment of individuals who have been implicated in politically motivated cases, suffering under India's oppressive regime.

Saghar highlighted the challenges faced by Kashmiri prisoners, including political activists, journalists, and civil society members, who have been arrested and detained under draconian laws such as the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities Prevention

The appeal underscored the misuse of so-called anti-terrorism laws and the manipulation of the judiciary to suppress Kashmiri voices advocating for a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute. The APHC stressed the urgent need for international intervention to address what it termed as "judicial terrorism" against Kashmiri detainees.

#### Solar Pakistan is great events: Rana Kashif

**№** PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Futech **Energy Managing Director** Rana Kashif said that Solar Pakistan is great events and this exhibition this year holding l in 3 halls and in first day there is huge response receive from the public in this exhibition. He further said that



Solar and Energy exhibition create awareness among the people and I think that in year 4 exhibition should be held not in big city in also others small city of Pakistan. He said that due to these kind of exhibition playing a vital role to high light the products of Solar. At last he said that my message to the people to visit in Expo Center, Lahore and watch this huge solar exhibition.

#### Gwadar facing possible flooding after torrential rains

GWADAR: Multiple parts of Balochistan received torrential rain on Tuesday causing alarm about flooding, particularly in Gwadar.

Visuals showed swathes of land inundated by water as residents tried to save their belongings and shift to safety. Atleast seven houses have been destroyed by the rains and many

major highways have been rendered unusable for traffic. Balochistan's Senator Kauda Bakhsh has called for Gwadar to be declared a calamity-hit region. He also said that the entire city of

Gwadar has been overrun by water. However, Gwadar's DC said that the rain has temporarily stopped in the city and it has not lost road connections via road to Karachi

and Turbat. The DC acknwledged that Gwadar's internal roads have been affected. He also said that numerous houses have been partially damaged

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also expressed concern over the post-rain situation in Gwadar.

Bilawal also called on both the city's administration as well as PPP

workers in the area to make all possible efforts for the city's relief.

#### Women University of Multan signs MoU with Australia on women's empowerment

**Asim Tanveer** 

MULTAN: cherishing principle building bridges between Australia and Pakistan through academic collaboration and



nourishing the Academia-Industry Linkages, The Women University Multan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Australia-based non-profit organization Celebrating and Conserving Cultures (CCC), and a management consultancy Indus-Yarra Linkages (IYL). Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, the Vice-chancellor, Prof. Dr. Mamoon Khan, The Registrar, Dr. Kanwal Rehman, Director of ORIC, and Dr. Asma Akbar, Assistant Director of ORIC, Trainings, and Startup Links from the Women University Multan and Mr. Saqib Awan, Director of IYL, and Ms. Uzma Rubab, Director of CCC have attended this prestigious event and signed this Memorandum of Understanding.



SERVICES		
Namaz 1	Timings	
Fajr	5:17 am	
Zohr	12:21 pm	
Asr	4:22 pm	
Maghrib	6:02 pm	

#### EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI	
Rescue (Police) 1	15
Bomb Disposal 1	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 1	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122	&
& Rescue Services 445112	22
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police 9270601-2	0

#### **Women Police Stations**

istarriabaa	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2
•	
ENQ	UIRY
Edhi Ambulance	
Edilitalibolance	

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

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

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS**

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

#### 'Achhra lahore incident condemnable': Mufti Akeel



Mufti Akeel Pirzada, Grand Mufti Of Islamabad strongly condemns the Achbra lahore incident, there is absolutely no room for such anarchy in Islam. The woman was wearing a shirt with Arabic writing on it that saideعلوه-حلوه "halwa" or "halwa al-haiya" which was given the color of religious blasphemy and was made a mockery even though the shirt did not have any verses of the Holy Quran or hadiths of the Messenger of Allah written on it. And there was no issue of religious insult, it was better that this incident was resolved with reformation. love and respect and not to shame Islam and Pakistan in the whole world. The words "Ahlawashla, Marhaba Bakum, Halwa, Kal Sunna and Tayyab"، حبابم حبابكم، are used, معلوه، حياه، كل سنة وانت طيب even all the items and food, etc., are written in Arabic, and instructions are written in the Arabic language, which is not prohibited. We have to do and move forward with positive thinking so that such incidents do not happen again.

## Nation congratulated on new democratic journey

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Monday congratulated the nation on its new democratic journey and hoped that the overall situation would improve.

The incoming government should try hard to reduce the problems of the people, and politicians from all political parties should show nationalism by initiating efforts to save the economy, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the newly elected members of the Sindh and Punjab Assemblies have taken oaths, and the elected members of other provinces will also take oaths soon.

After a few days, the new Prime Minister will also be elected which will defuse

political tensions to some extent, he said. Now, all the political parties should decide their grievances related to the elections on the relevant forums instead of on the streets and play their role in political stability.

the country out of its problems. The country needs political and economic stability like never before, without ensuring stability, it is impossible to rebuild the country.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that all the politicians will have to keep national interests above personal and party interests and measures should be taken for economic survival, security, and prosperity, for which a long struggle is needed.

He demanded that the politics of hatred, provocation, revenge, and division, should be buried and a constructive attitude should be adopted.

He said that the debt burden on the He said all parties should unite to get country has increased to more than 126

billion dollars, and the people are kept unaware at the time of taking loans and kept in the dark about the usage of these loans.

However, the burden of these loans is always shifted to the masses, which is unjustified. Politicians take loans without hesitation despite the knowledge of their negative effects which should be stopped.

Due to these loans, electricity, gas, and oil have become very expensive, inflation is increasing and people cannot pay for them. This is also affecting the investment climate, as investors prefer countries where these things are cheaper.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that politicians should learn from the mistakes of the past and focus on economic stability instead of gimmicks like the devaluation of the dollar and appreciation of the rupee through administrative measures.

Who will be willing to invest in Pakistan if key policies can be changed at any time? He said that the plan to import gas from Iran is welcome, but the displeasure of Western powers should not be taken for it because the loss of international sanctions will be more than the loss of

#### Convocation

ISLAMABAD: Chancellor ISRA University Prof. Dr. Ghulam Qadir Kazi giving gold medal to a student during 5th Convocation 2024 of ISRA University, in the Federal Capital



## Hashoo School of Hospitality Management and Bahria University, Islamabad join hands to facilitate premium hospitality education

ISLAMABAD: In an exciting initiative designed to enhance hospitality education in Pakistan, Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) and Bahria University are joining hands and providing a more holistic academic experience for upcoming hospitality leaders. The launch ceremony of this partnership, held recently in Pearl-Continental Hotel, Rawalpindi, was attended by senior executives from Hashoo Group, Pakistan Navy, HSHM,

and academia. Through this partnership, HSHM students will be housed at the Bahria Finishing School with access to state-of-the-art facilities such as modern classrooms, training kitchens, a mock restaurant and training hotel room while learning from leading culinary and hospitality experts from around the globe. Several need and talent-based scholarships are also available. bringing premium hospitality



education to a wider population and securing the industry's footing for future prosperity.

Addressing the collaboration, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education, Hashoo Group, Haseeb A. Gardezi remarked, "We are excited about the future of Pakistan's hospitality industry, which is looking brighter than ever with meaningful collaborations such as this one with Bahria University. Together, we will lay a stronger foundation for hospitality and tourism in this country and help unleash its youth's complete potential for success."

Vice Admiral Asif Khaliq, Rector Bahria University shared this enthusiasm by sive university having multidissaying, "With the potential ciplinary programs that includes

of our tourism and hospitality industry remaining largely untapped, enhancing access to world-class education facilities is the first major step towards growth. We look forward to working closely with Hashoo

Group and HSHM to secure

Pakistan's youth in this flour-

ishing industry."

Bahria University was established by the Pakistan Navy in 2000, and since then it has steadily grown into one of the leading higher education institutions in Pakistan. It plays a major role in grooming future leaders who can make a positive difference to the world around them. Bahria is a comprehenHealth Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Computer Sciences, Management Sciences, Social Sciences, Law, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Psychology and Maritime Studies.

Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) is Pakistan's premier hospitality and tourism education institution dedicated to producing skilled professionals who will shape the future of the industry. HSHM also collaborates with the Confederation of Hospitality (CTH) in the United Kingdom to ensure alignment with international education standards. Hashoo Group is Pakistan's premium conglomerate with a diversified business portfolio spanning both national and international markets. The Group owns and operates the Pearl-Continental Hotels & Resorts and PC Legacy & Hotel One brands in Pakistan and has business interests encompassing the information technology, investment, travel & tourism. and real-estate sectors.

#### Aga Khan University Receives \$1.5 Million Boost to Revolutionize Treatment of β-Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease

**₽NP** 

KARACHI: Aga Khan University has received a \$1.5 million grant from Wellcome Leap, a leading global health innovation organization. This significant grant will support a project that seeks to transform the treatment of  $\beta\mbox{-}$  Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), which have plagued South Asia, particularly Pakistan. These diseases have not only caused significant suffering but also imposed a heavy economic burden on society. This competitive grant provides a significant boost to the development of innovative gene therapies.

Thalassemia varies worldwide, with over 300 different mutations in various regions, including Pakistan. Due to this diversity and the increasing focus on personalized treatments or therapies developed in one country may not effectively address the unique challenges faced by patients in another. Thus, localized research is crucial to comprehend region-specific mutations and develop tailored solutions.

Dr Afsar Mian, Assistant Professor at Aga Khan University, and the principal investigator of the project, explains the limitations of the only known curative therapy, allogenic hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplantation, which is dependent on donor compatibility, expensive and can result in treatment failure. Dr Mian states, "This limits access to treatment and highlights the need for alternative therapies."

The study team at AKU includes Dr Afsar Mian, Dr Salman Kirmani, Dr Ambreen Fatima, Dr Fawad Ur Rehman, and Dr Irfan Hussain. This groundbreaking approach offers newfound hope and relief to a significant number of Thalassemia patients, paving the way for targeted and efficient solutions customized to the distinct genetic profiles

#### $AIOUinks\,MoU\,to\,establish$ museum



**№ PPA** 

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Goodwill Ambassador, Muhammad Asif Noor and Museum Expert, Muhammad Azeem Iqbal for setting up a museum in the university. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presided over the ceremony. Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmed, Director, Institute of Educational Technology, Irfan Ali Ansari and other officers were present on this occasion. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that AIOU will be 50 years old in May 2024, we wish to inaugurate AIOU History Museum in May. Mohammad Azim Iqbal said that he will try his best to complete a portion of the museum by May.

Moreover, a ceremony titled "Showcasing best practices of Zero Out of School Children (OOSC) Campaign in ICT" was held at AIOU. This ceremony was organized by the Federal Ministry of Education and Pakistan Institute of Education, Federal Secretary Education, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry presided over the ceremony while the VC, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood was the chief guest. Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education, Dr. Shahid Soroya performed welcomed the guests. Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry said that we started this campaign together and thanked all the partner organizations participating in the campaign to enroll 70,000 out-of-school children.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that institutions thrive with visionary eadership, this success was achieved only because of Waseem Aima Chaudhry's dynamic leadership, vision and passion for work. Dr. Nasir said that the purpose of establishing Allama Iqbal Open University was to provide facilities to people deprived of education. Dr. Shahid Soroya said that we had got the target of admitting 80 thousand out-ofschool children of Islamabad, out of which we admitted 70 thousand children with joint efforts. Representatives of all partner organizations participated in the event.

#### Start of a New Era of Health Education in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: In a historic collaboration aimed at revolutionizing health education in Pakistan, the Health Services Academy (HSA) has joined hands with MarCom Private Limited to launch



the nation's first-ever public health YouTube channel. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed today at the Health Services Academy in Islamabad, marking the beginning of a groundbreaking initiative set to transform how health information is disseminated to the public.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy, Professor Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan and the Managing Director of MarCom, Ms. Madiha Naseem Khan, signed the MoU in presence of team members from both parties. MarCom, a leading advertising agency renowned for its innovative approach to communication, will spearhead all aspects of the channel's development, including content creation, show formats, promotions, and channel

Ms. Madiha Naseem Khan, Managing Director of MarCom, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the agency's commitment to leveraging its expertise to create impactful health communication initiatives. "We are honoured to partner with HSA in this noble endeavour," she remarked. "Through strategic content development and innovative storytelling, we hope to inspire positive behavior change and promote a culture of health and wellness in Pakistan."

## IIUI, Fospah Organize Seminar on Women's Property Rights

ISLAMABAD: The Office of Students' Advisor of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) in collaboration with the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection against to counter such harassment through Harassment of Women at Workplace relevant channels. In the question (FOSPAH) arranged an awareness answer session she also spoke about seminar on women's property rights the privacy of the complainant and role and protection against harassment at of FOSPAH in establishing a public workplace on Tuesday.

Speaking during the seminar, the about the women's property rights. Federal Ombudsperson for Protecthe Workplace, Fauzia Viqar said that

to stabilize the country economy. Federal Ombudsperson for Protec-

tion Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace also discussed the gender based harassment as well as she defined and elaborated the procedures perception and requisite information

Speaking on the occasion, the tion Against Harassment of Women at HIUI Rector, Prof. Dr. Samina Malik thanked Ms. Fauzia Viqar for an these are high times when contribution insightful and awareness based discusof working women must be increased sion on the vital issue of women's

educational institutions and educated females of the higher education to play positive role in protecting the rights of women and to help the institutions working for the harassment again women.

The seminar was also joined by Vice President, Research & Enterprise, IIUI, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Director Female Campus Dr. Summiyya Chughtai, Students Advisors female Dr. Sadia Saleem, faculty members and a large number of female students.

The seminar served as a platform for fruitful discussions, shedding light on the significance of establishing safe

property rights. She called upon the and respectful work environments for all individuals. Participants engaged in dialogue, exchanging best practices, and exploring strategies to effectively address and prevent workplace harassment, emphasizing the dignity of women.

Earlier, the Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Fauzia Viqar also called on H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President IIUI and discussed issues of mutual interest. Both the President and the ombudsperson discussed role of educational institutions in promoting the rights of women and discouragement of the harassment.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

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

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

#### **CPEC** new phase focuses on industrial cooperation, agriculture

akistan and China have decided to start a new phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with a lot of focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture, mining and energy.

Last year marked the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

"Having drawn from the excellent progress that was made during the first 10 years of this corridor, both China and Pakistan have decided to start the new phase with a lot of focus on industrial cooperation and agriculture, as well as mining and energy, (with) a renewed focus on renewable energy," he told China Daily.

Beyond that, in the second phase of CPEC, the two elements of high-quality development and the sustainable nature of the projects will get sharper focus, he said.

"Going forward, we are very excited to start the next phase, building on the very good progress that has been made," Hashmi said. "We have all the ingredients in place", including good-quality infrastructure, he said.

"These are areas which we also find alignment with, so both Pakistan and China agreed to pursue the next phase along these lines," Hashmi said.

Hailing China's global vision, he said the global visions proposed by China, including the Belt and Road Initiative and the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, underscore Beijing's goal of universal prosperity and sharing high-quality development with the rest of the world.

They "demonstrate the notion of win-win that President Xi Jinping has emphasized for a long time", he add-

Hashmi noted that at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October, Xi announced an eight-point agenda in relation to the Belt and Road Initiative and that the global community lauds the program as it advances "innovation in development, livelihoods, open economy, (and) compliance with internationally accepted standards when building new projects".

Xi, in his keynote speech, listed eight major steps that China will take to support the joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, which include building a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network and supporting an open world economy.

Hashmi believes the larger spirit in the concept of a community of shared future, especially in the new era, is highly significant. "As far as I can see, I think this is where China has done an excellent job in bringing forth to the developing world, its own experiences, and its own good practices," he said.

## Magical Bonding - A Tale of Love towards Pakistan and Pak Army - III

ry, few institutions command the respect, admiration, and gratitude of its citizens as profoundly as the Pakistan Army. Since the inception of the nation, the men and women of the Pakistan Army have exemplified unparalleled courage, selfless sacrifice, and unwavering dedication in safeguarding the sovereignty, security, and prosperity of the nation. From repelling external threats to providing vital assistance in times of crisis, the Pakistan Army's remarkable service to the nation underscores its commitment to duty, honor, and national pride.

At the forefront of the Pakistan Army's mandate lies the safeguarding of the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity against external threats and aggression. Through their unwavering vigilance, preparedness, and steadfast determination, the soldiers of the Pakistan Army serve as the frontline defenders, poised to repel any challenge to the nation's security. Spanning from the rugged mountains of the north to the arid deserts of the south, the presence of the Pakistan Army serves as a deterrent to those who would seek to undermine Pakistan's independence and sovereignty.

Moreover, beyond their primary role in national defense, the Pakistan Army has emerged as a significant force for promoting peace and stability both regionally and globally. As one of the foremost contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions, Paki-

n the annals of Pakistan's histo- stan's soldiers have distinguished them- various endeavors such as infrastruc- unite under the banner of their nation, selves in conflict zones across the globe, working tirelessly to restore tranquility, protect civilians, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. From Sierra Leone to Bosnia-Herzegovina and beyond, the Pakistan Army's peacekeepers have garnered international acclaim for their professionalism, integrity, and commitment to upholding the principles

of peace and security. During times of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies, the Pakistan Army has consistently demonstrated its readiness to provide vital assistance and support to affected communities nationwide. Whether

responding to floods, earthquakes, or other crises, the swift and coordinated efforts of the Pakistan Army have saved numerous lives, alleviated suffering, and instilled hope in those facing adversity. From conducting search and rescue operations to distributing relief supplies and offering medical aid, the humanitarian endeavors of the Pakistan Army exemplify the ethos of compassion, solidarity, and service.

Beyond its conventional roles in defense and security, the Pakistan Army has also played a pivotal role in spearheading nation-building and development initiatives aimed at improving the lives of ordinary Pakistanis. Through

ture projects, educational programs, and healthcare services, the engineers, doctors, and educators of the Pakistan Army have worked tirelessly to uplift marginalized communities and empower them to forge brighter futures for themselves and their loved ones. Initiatives like the Pakistan Army Welfare Trust and the Fauji Foundation

have made substantial contributions to social welfare, poverty alleviation, and economic development, significantly enhancing the quality of life for millions of Pakistanis.

In the intricate tapestry of human existence, few bonds are as

profound and enduring as the connection between the people, their country, and its armed forces. It is a bond forged through the crucible of history, shaped by shared trials, sacrifices, and dreams for a better tomorrow. Whether defending sovereignty, promoting peace and prosperity, or extending a helping hand in times of need, the indelible bond between citizens, their nation, and its armed forces encapsulates the essence of unity, pride, and sacrifice.

At the core of the profound connection among citizens, their country, and their armed forces lies a spirit of unity amidst diversity. Despite variances in rity, and way of life. race, religion, or ethnicity, individuals

bound by a shared identity, heritage, and destiny. Serving as the safeguard of the nation's sovereignty and security, the army embodies this unity, acting as a unifying force that transcends societal divisions and cultivates a sense of solidarity and belonging among the populace.

This special bond among people, their country, and their army is also marked by a profound sense of pride and patriotism. Citizens take pride in their country's accomplishments, heritage, and values, celebrating its cultural diversity and resilience in the face of challenges. While, the army evokes feelings of reverence and admiration, with soldiers epitomizing the highest virtues of courage, honor, and sacrifice in their dedication to national service. This mutual pride and patriotism reinforce the connection between citizens and their armed forces, fostering a shared sense of duty and responsibility towards safeguarding and upholding the nation's interests and ideals.

Central to this unique bond is the ethos of sacrifice and service. Soldiers willingly place themselves in harm's way to defend the nation's sovereignty and uphold its values, often enduring significant personal risks and hardships. Their selfless commitment and bravery evoke appreciation among citizens, who recognize the sacrifices made by their armed forces in defending their freedoms, secu-

To be continued



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

## "Why the increase in medicine prices?

is not worried about rising inflation. of the world, the necessities of life are increasing day by day. To a large extent, this is a natural process, because the popuis increasing with the speed with which the goods are increasing. The production of food accordingly. If the resources are not availa-

which has seriously affected the poor class and has also raised the cries of the whiteclad middle class. while the supervisory governments seem to be spending time on ding-tapao policies showing indifference to the ground situation, they are not interested in this smart inflation, nor are they concerned with

administrative parts control inflation at the level of the markets. Instead of controlling, it is determined to take action against the retailers, but the caretaker government did not get any relief before and will not get any

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

f we consider and look at the performance of the caretaker government, we will know that the caretaker government, as soon as it was established. had made lofty claims that it would take practical measures to make the economy more prosperous, economic stability and control of demand. They will give relief to the people. But the caretaker government has people the inflationary shocks that the people

n today's times, there is no one who could have expected. If the rest of the inflation is left in its place and only the recent increase By the way, inflation is an interna- in the prices of medicines is discussed, this tional problem. In all the countries move of the caretaker government is cruel to the people and especially the poor people. By increasing the prices of drugs, it was impossible for the people to live and now they gave lation of the world and especially Pakistan a new opportunity to the people to increase the prices of medicines. You can do it yourself. DRAP had sent a summary of price and other necessities of life is not increasing hikes to the government for 262 drugs and the government has approved the hike in ble, the country cannot be managed in an the prices of 146 life-saving drugs. Includes orderly manner. This is also the case. By the vaccines and antibiotics. After this decision way, there is already a storm of inflation in of the federal cabinet, the prices of medicines the country which is not stopping in any way, in the market are likely to increase every week

> After the approval of the cabinet, the Ministry of Health has issued a notification for the deregulation of medicines. The cabinet has given the power to fix the prices of drugs to the pharmaceutical companies from Drape, the caretaker cabinet does not have this

the problems faced by the citizens, while the power. They took the position that the pharmaceutical companies will burden the public by selling drugs at arbitrary rates. According to a government notification, the Drape Act, 1976 has been amended to remove the role of Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan Drape and empower pharmaceutical companies to fix drug prices. This decision of the government will be applied to non-essential medicines i.e. daily medicines. Medicines in Pakistan are divided into essential and daily medicines. Now controlling the prices of daily use medicines i.e. fever, headache, blood pressure, antibiotics, anti-allergy and multivitamins will not be under the jurisdiction of the government, while the authority to increase done it as soon as it goes and has given the the prices of life-killing medicines will be given to the cabinet.

It will be possible only with approval. The public is expressing regret over the government's decision as the daily increase in the prices of medicines has already troubled them, the latest move will increase the hardships of

There are only 464 drugs in Drape's list of essential drugs while there are more than 1300 drugs in the market. Thus, the power to increase their prices will go to the pharmaceutical companies. The government has already experimented with anti-nutrition drugs, whereby medicines that used to cost Rs 15 are now being sold at Rs 2,500 or more after deregulation. Pharmaceutical companies in Pakistan have been demanding for a long time to fix prices based on market demand, now they have been given an opportunity to play openly. Although they have taken notice, pharmaceutical companies are so strong. That they may cause more problems by creating a medicine crisis. This has happened on many occasions in the country, Peristamol, which used to cost 10

rupees, is now being sold for 35 rupees. The common man has already become a victim. In a recent survey, 44 percent of the Pakistani people have expressed concern about their financial situation, saying that they are financially weaker than ten years ago. Gone, drug price hikes will fuel the fire. The government has increased the prices of 146 life-saving medicines. According to the notification, the prices of the drugs that have been increased include cancer, vaccines and antibiotic drugs. The Drug Regulatory Authority had sent a summary of the price hike of 262 drugs to the government. The government has listed 146 life-saving drugs. Increased prices of medicines. According to the authorities, the prices of 116 drugs included in the list will be increased by the pharmaceutical companies themselves. Officials further said that the government will now control the prices of only 464 medicines included in the National Essential Medicines List.

### **Education standards in** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**Asmat Shah Garwaki** 

ducation standards in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have suffered due to unnecessary experiments and dwindling socio-economic conditions during the last two decades or so resultant into increase dropout ratio of students from educational institutions.

The political and economic instability besides socioeconomic imbalances and unnecessary experiments of the past governments have adversely affected education standards in the province where currently over 4.7 million children are out-of-schools. Bringing them under the education net would be challenge number one for the new elected government.

Detrimental to democratic and economic growth, the high rate of illiteracy in the province especially in merged tribal districts has not only risked the very existence of the education system but it also deprives the poor strata from quality education despite tall promises made by the democratic dispensation, resulting an increase in poverty, unemployment and illiteracy in the country.

"I left my education at primary school after the death of my father and started labour work to support my eight-member family and never look behind," said Kamal Khan, a resident of Pabbi tehsil. "To pay heavy loans obtained for the treatment of my father Hamayun Khan died due to pancreas cancer, I abandoned education and started job in construction industry to clear the loans and run house expenses due to poverty," he added.

"Education standards in KP has suffered as it was passed through different unnecessary experiments during the last two decades in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, resulting an increase in dropout ratio of students from schools and unemployment," said Professor Dr AH Hilali, former Chairman Political Science Department, University of Peshawar while talking to the news agency.

Shahab Khan, senior planning officer KP Educa-

tion Department said that about 15,667 new schools were required to enroll 300 such children (aged 5-9 years) per school for upcoming academic year, adding ALP (alternate learning pathways) were initiated for OSC. He said that 300,000 OSC would be enrolled in schools in KP in the next three years besides construction of 10,000 new schools

Early Child Education (ECE) policy is ready while teaching materials including teachers' guidebook and handbook for such mode of learning prepared; adding transformation of Katchi into ECE was in progress besides completion of training of 790 naster trainers and 425 teachers on ECE.

More than 4000 teachers in primary, secondary and middle schools recruited and about Rs30 million invested to support 489 literacy centers besides disbursement of Rs three billion in scholarships among students of the hitherto neglected tribal districts.

Similarly, more than Rs20 million have been spent on students in madrasas in four years, while free textbooks and bags provided to more than 600,000 students in tribal districts besides over Rs20 million for digital skills of students in 2018-22. Besides shifting over 1100 schools to solar energy in the tribal districts, more than three billion rupees

were allocated for solarizing of schools. Former Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Department Mohtasim Billah Shah said the department has notified provision of free textbooks from class nursery to 12 for the academic year 2024-25. He said 100 free textbooks would be published from class nursery to class 03, 80 percent from class 04 to 05 while the remaining 20 per cent to be managed from old textbooks. Similarly, 50 per cent of textbooks would be published for class 06 to 12 and remaining 50 percent to be managed from old textbook.

The department has planned to explore the possibilities of soft copies of textbooks to be used through personal, registered cell phones or on tablets, laptops of the students for academic year 2025-26.

## Pakistani students to visit Japan under the JENESYS **Program**

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation by the Government of Japan, a group of eight Pakistani undergraduate students (four from Islamabad and three from Karachi) will be visiting Japan from March 5 to 12, 2024 under the JENEYSYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) program. A total of 49 youths have been invited from the SAARC countries to participate in this program which is being held under the theme of Environment.

JENESYS is a youth exchange program between Japan and the Asia Pacific region launched by the Japanese Government which aims at promoting mutual trust and understanding among the peoples of Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. With focus on the theme of environment, the invitees from the SAARC countries during their stay in Japan will be



provided opportunities to learn and deepen further their understanding of Japan's economy, society, history, politics, and diplomatic relations, and also experience Japan's diverse culture through lectures and visits.

The Embassy of Japan held today a

pre-departure orientation session for the visiting youth to give them useful information before their departure

While interacting with the students on the occasion, Mr. Kazumasa Takane, Counsellor / Head of Public and that of SAARC countries.

Affairs, advised them to make optimum use of this opportunity and learn as much possible about Japan during this short period as this may become a life changing experience for them. "Since my arrival in Pakistan last year, I have had the opportunity to meet many young people in Pakistan and have found them very energetic, talented and keen to learn about Japan and its culture. He hoped that youth from Pakistan and Japan can play the role of a bridge for further promoting mutual understanding and friendly relations between the

The Government of Japan invites every year several groups of undergraduate/graduate students from SAARC countries to participate in this short term invitation. The program is expected not only to promote capacity building but also to develop mutual understanding among youths of Japan

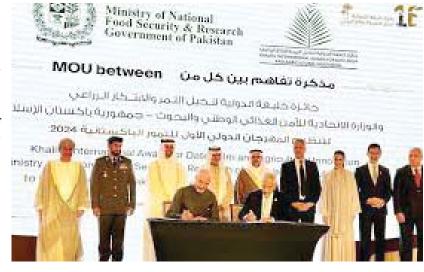
### Pakistan and UAE sign MoU for promotion of date palm cultivation

**Spokesman Report** 

ABU DHABI: Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding today in Abu Dhabi aimed at boosting agricultural innovation and research related to development and promotion of various aspects of the Date Palm cultivation and related industry.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by H. E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahvan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence of the UAE. Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and Dr. Abdelouahhab Zaid Prof., General Secretary, Khalifa Internaand Agricultural Innovation, signed the MOU.

The MOU will help in innovative ideas. promoting joint cooperaion and sharing of expertise between the two sides. It ical support to Pakistan to



will also provide an oppor- increase date palm cultivation tional Award for Date Palm tunity to Pakistani farm- as Pakistan's rich topography ers to increase cultivation of presents immense potential date palm including through

UAE will provide technolog- 2024 will also be organized.

in this sector. Pursuant to this

enjoy fraternal relationship and are engaged on a range mutually beneficial collaborative projects includcultural, energy and defence

MOU, First Pakistan Inter- ing in the realm of politi-Being one of the pioneers, national Date Palm Festival cal, economic, agricultural, Pakistan and the UAE cooperation.

#### China's top legislature concludes standing committee session

#### Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) concluded its eighth session on Tuesday in Beijing. At the closing meeting, lawmakers voted to adopt a revised Law on Guarding State Secrets. President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order to promulgate the law. The law will take effect on May 1, 2024. Zhao Leji, chairman of the NPC

Standing Committee, presided over the closing meeting. Lawmakers approved in principle the work report of the NPC Standing Committee. The Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee suggested entrusting Zhao Leji to deliver the report to the upcoming second session of the 14th NPC. Lawmakers passed a deputy qualification report and other personnel-related bills. They adopted the draft agenda of the NPC session and the draft name list of the session's presidium and secretary-general, and decided to submit the drafts to the preparatory meeting of the NPC session for deliberation. They also adopted the name list of the members invited to sit in on the session as non-voting participants, CGTN reported. Highlighting the significance of the NPC session in his address at the closing meeting, Zhao called for meticulous preparations to ensure a democratic, united, practical, and progressive session. Zhao also called for more support and encouragement for NPC deputies to speak the truth and propose practical solutions, thereby truly reflecting the voices and wishes of the people. He also urged good news publicity and stressed thriftiness in convening the session. Zhao chaired a meeting of the Council of Chairpersons before the closing meeting and presided over a lecture for lawmakers after the closing meeting. Revised Law on Guarding State Secrets The revised Law on Guarding State Secrets has codified effective measures and practical experience gained in work to guard state secrets since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), according to an official of the Legislative Affairs Commis-

#### Affordable calls to China & Äfghanistan with Zong

ISLAMABAD: l direct dialing bundle for China & Afghanistan at the most affordable price ever so that you can stay connected with your loved ones despite the distance!

Embracing multitude, Zong 4G understands the struggles of international calling from Pakistan and the inaccessibility tied to the expensive rates which is why IDD Bundles were introduced for more than 10 countries as a way to ease the process of international calling and make it accessible and affordable. Zong 4G's IDD bundles focuses on the theme of 'Kam Paisay Ziada Baat', offering prices as low as 15 Paisas per second for international calling to China & Afghanistan.

In order to make international calling to China & Afghanistan as accessible as possible and to facilitate its users, Zong 4G's International Direct Dialing bundle for China & Afghanistan has been tailored specifically for you to remain connected with your loved ones at all times. The bundle can easily be subscribed through My Zong App or by simply dialing \*3966# with the lowest ever subscription charges priced at Rs.2/daily.

IDD Kam Paisay Ziyada Baat – Prepaid Offer

Sharing his insight on this, the official spokesperson for Zong 4G stated, 'International calling in Pakistan is an expensive facility, which is why Zong 4G deemed it important to contribute and formulate bundles that would be easily accessible to users nationwide while offering top-notch connectivity and affordability.'

#### Tech-based vision a must to transform Gwadar into energy hub: experts



**№** PPA

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a policy dialogue have said that Gwadar may be made an energy hub, but it is only possible through a technology-based development vision and a community-centric social development approach.

The policy dialogue titled: 'Gwadar as an Energy Hub of Pakistan: Pathways for Sustainable Development', was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) under its Network for Clean Energy Transition (NCET) here.

In his opening remarks, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, SDPI Executive Director, said the discourse on a unique subject like Gwadar as an energy hub was pertinent and crucial at a time when the new government is about to take office. He further said the development of Gwadar as a port and a modern city has co-benefits that need to be identified. Naghman Chaudhry, the former advisor and Strategic Analyst, said that

keeping in view the recent developments in the Indian Ocean Region and global geopolitical landscape, it is important for the country to embrace a change of mindset. He underlined that Gwadar is an alternate port that could be used to degravitate Central Asian Republics (CARs) from Russian influence as the Gulf oil reserves were to last not beyond 40 years. Dr Hassan Daud Butt, Associate Professor, Bahria University and

former Director CPEC at the Ministry of Planning and Development, stressed the need to find a middle ground between opportunities and challenges to get an alternative plan for a speedy development of Gwadar

Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Chief Executive Officer, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, said the total gross regional product of Shenzhen city alone is \$489 billion that started its journey from a few million dollars.

Dr Eram Ashraf, Research Scholar, said there is a scarcity of data on CPEC that needs to be resolved to ensure credible flow of information for better reporting on the gamechanger project. "Gwadar is not connected to the national grid, so how it can become energy hub whereas it is important that the policy initiatives should be inclusive that means not only power players, but also local communities should have their input and stakes in the decision-making process. The problems of protesting people, including women, needs to be addressed on priority bases," she added.

#### Alif Holdings presents waterfall eastern tower, where luxury meets investment security

**№** PPA

LAHORE: Alif Holdings Pvt. Ltd, a beacon of excellence and innovation in Pakistan's real estate development landscape, proudly announces the launch of their latest project, Waterfall Eastern Tower in Lahore. This new addition to Lahore's skyline promises to elevate the standards of luxury living while offering unparalleled investment opportunities in the region.

The project, which marks the 17th venture of Alif Holdings (Pvt.) Limited, comprises three distinct towers-Central Tower, Eastern Tower, and Western Tower-housing over 200 luxury apartments and presidential suites. Each unit is designed to offer residents the epitome of comfort and convenience, with features such as a Compatible RFID system for entry and exit, Full home automation, CCTV surveillance with armed guards, and High-speed elevators.

Alif Holdings Pvt. Ltd prioritizes the security of investments for its customers. With a track record of delivering successful projects and a commitment to transparency and integrity, investors can trust that their investments in Waterfall Eastern Tower are in safe hands

#### Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlomov called on Interim Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali on Tuesday.



## Jordan keen to expand trade relations with Pakistan

**№** PPA

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of Jordan visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and during an interaction with the business community, said that his country is keen to expand trade relations with Pakistan so that both countries can achieve mutually profitable outcomes. He said that Jordan and Pakistan can cooperate in many areas including tourism, IT, sports, vocational training for youth, agriculture, and others. He said that there is a good potential for cooperation between the women entrepreneurs of both countries to achieve mutual profits. He said that the bilateral trade volume of Jordan and Pakistan is much less

stressed that Jordan and Pakistan should establish direct air links to promote strong connectivity between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of bilateral business and investment cooperation. He said that Pakistani investors can invest in the real estate sector of Jordan. He assured that he would cooperate in developing business linkages between the private sectors of both countries to increase bilateral trade and economic relations between Jordan and Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Jordan enjoy cordial relations that should be transformed into growing trade and around US\$ 50 million between economic relations between the two countries to achieve mutu-

than their actual potential and all benefits for their economies. He said that Pakistan produces many quality products including textiles, food products, pharmaceuticals, sports goods, surgical items, and leather goods. Jordan should enhance its imports from Pakistan to meet the needs of its consumers. He said that both countries should focus on the regular exchange of trade delegations and facilitate B2B meetings between their private sectors to strengthen bilateral business cooperation. He said that the Jordan Embassy should share the list of its major imports with ICCI so that the business community can increase its exports to Jordan.

Akhtar Hussain, Muhammad Ashfaq Chatha, Maqsood Tabish, Rizwan Chheena, and others were also present at the meeting.



## Economy/Commerce

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

#### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
63,219.09	63,305.93	
Day's High	Day's Low	
63,622.00	63,055.64	
Index Value	Change	
9,200,113,815	-86.84	
Percentage	Time	
-0.14%	27 Feb, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,683.02	-1.28	
Doroontoro		
Percentage	Time	
<b>-0.017%</b>	Time 27 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
-0.017%	27 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
-0.017%	27 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
-0.017% USA: Dow Jones	27 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average	
-0.017%  USA: Dow Jones  Index Value	27 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average Change	
-0.017%  USA: Dow Jones  Index Value  38,901.13	27 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average Change —168.10	

Percentage	Time
+0.015%	27 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Change

+5.81

**Index Value** 

39.239.52

#### Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.1	183.1
Bahrain Dinar	742.91	750.91
Canadian Dollar	207.1	209.1
China Yuan	38.87	39.27
Danish Krone	40.61	41
Euro	303.1	306.1
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.10
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.46	914.46
Malaysian Ringgit	58.50	59.10
NewZealand \$	173.05	175.05
Norwegians Krone	26.41	26.71
Omani Riyal	725.54	733.54
Qatari Riyal	76.74	77.44
Saudi Riyal	74.25	75.05
Singapore Dollar	207.15	209.15
Swedish Korona	27.04	27.34
Swiss Franc	317	319.5
Thai Bhat	7.76	7.91
U.A.E Dirham	76.1	76.8
UK Pound Sterling	351.6	355.1
US Dollar	279.3	282.2

#### EFP launches code of conduct for employers of domestic workers

**№** PPA

KARACHI: The Employers Federation of Pakistan has launched a Code of Conduct for employers of domestic workers in a tripartite meeting, represented by more than 100 representatives from Employers, Workers Federations, civil societies, and officers from the labor department and

Addressing the launching ceremony, Shariq Ahmed, Secretary Labor & Human Resource Development Department Sindh, stated that the code of conduct will help promote decent working conditions and protect the rights of domestic workers. Domestic workers, who represent a large portion of the informal economy, are deprived of their fundamental rights and face numerous challenges, including low wages, poor working conditions, harassment, and various forms of abuse. He appreciated the efforts and commitments of EFP in promoting decent work for all and stated that the code will provide the basis for legislation on domestic workers

Geir Tonstol, Country Director ILO Pakistan Office, highlighted the importance of ILO and its normative framework in promoting decent work globally, in coordination with its tripartite constit-

Feroz Alam, Vice President of EFP, welcomed the participants, stating that the EFP is at the forefront of promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at work to realize decent work for all.

Majyd Aziz, Former President of EFP, stated that the EFP is fully committed to promoting compliance with international standards and social justice to create an inclusive, equitable, and prosperous soci-

Razi Haider, project coordinator, briefed about the contribution and achievements of the PRS/STRIDE Project.

Ms. Aya Matsuura, ILO Gender Specialist, appreciated EFP's initiatives, stating that this will provide the basis for recognition of the rights of domestic workers.

Rao Zahid, Deputy Secretary, Labor Department, Government of Punjab, made a detailed presentation on the Punjab Domestic Workers Act.

## Country's biggest and only dedicated alternative energy exhibition - starts

LAHORE: Pakistan Sustainability Week-Country's Biggest and Only Dedicated Alternative Energy Exhibition has started at Expo Center, Lahore. Governor Punjab Baligh-Ur-Rehman inaugurated the exhibition along with Ceo Perfect Exhibition Saleem Khan Tenoli. On this occasion Shah Jehan Mirza, MD Private power anf infrastructure Board, and other dignitaries were present.

Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., country's leading exhibitions organizing company is organizing a flagship event Pakistan Sustainability Week (PSW) alongside Solar Pakistan - 14th International Renewable Energy Exhibition & Conference and Electricity Pakistan - 7th International Exhibition for Energy Storage and Power Industry from 27th - 29th February 2024 at Expo Centre Lahore.

Pakistan Sustainability Week is the biggest gathering of key industry leaders, policymakers, investors, manufacturers, suppliers, trad-native energy industry in Pakistan.



ers and distributors. The event aims to create a platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange that will elevate the alter-

The three-day mega exhibition is expected to have more than 175 eminent global companies from 15 countries including Austria, China, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, and UAE etc. with a number of versatile technologies to be debuted at the event.

Alongside the exhibition, Sustainability Innovation Summit will also take place which will focus on highlighting technical innovations, alternative energy initiatives bringing industry stakeholders, government officials and thought leaders under a common platform to share their valuable insights, market overview

Mr. Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. stated that "Pakistan Sustainability Week has played a pivotal role in the development of alternative energy industry by introducing efficient technologies and solutions for manufacturers and the event is all set to augment success and growth for the industry."

Pakistan Sustainability Week has proved to be a worthy platform for professionals to get acquainted with latest industry trends and technology up-gradation in the alternative energy domain and successfully bridged the gap between industry and consumers.

#### Handmade Items

KARACHI: A vendor is colouring plants clay pots attraction for customers at his workplace in Provincial Capital.



## Hexing's Participation in Solar Pakistan Exhibition, showcasing Innovative Solar Solutions

LAHORE: The Solar Pakistan Exhibition, a three-day event, commenced at the Lahore Expo Center on Tuesday, drawing a significant turnout from households commercial and industrial entities seeking energy-efficient solutions.

Hexing Energy (Pvt) Ltd., a pioneering entity in sustainable energy solutions, is actively participating in this 14th international exhibition to showcase the company's diverse range of smart and green energy products and solutions.

Hexing's core business involves renewable energy products, smart metering and distribution products in the electricity and water industries, and IoT solutions. The company has been working in Pakistan since 1998 and enjoys a significant market share, supplying over 20 million meters of electricity.

While sharing his views, Mr. Leo Xu, Director of Global Marketing and Regional CEO of South Asia of Hexing Group, said, "At the Solar Pakistan Exhibition, we are thrilled to uncover our latest solar solutions. We believe in providing cost-effective, innovative products and energy management solutions for the Pakistani market, as



our mission is to make electricity green in a bid to energize the country for a bright-

Hexing Energy is looking to emerge as a key player in providing green and

energy-efficient solutions in Pakistan. The management is committed to driving sustainable progress in the country, swiftly transforming its energy production towards more green and clean solutions.

#### Sunova Solar unveils cutting-edge solar products, revolutionizing Pakistan's energy landscape



LAHORE: Sunova Solar, a global leader in renewable energy solutions, set the stage for a paradigm shift in the country's energy sector with the introduction of cuttingedge Tier-1 Solar products in a momentous event held in Lahore, Pakistan. The groundbreaking unveiling showcased Sunova Solar's commitment to driving innovation and shaping a sustainable future for Pakistan's energy needs. Over 260 esteemed guests, including industry luminaries like Mr. Tauseef, former chairman of NEPRA, and the visionary Usama Khalid Malik, Director of Strategic Projects, gath- marks another milestone ered to witness the unveiling of in Sunova Solar's journey to Sunova Solar's groundbreak - empower nations with clean ing innovations.

Under the guiding light of Vincent Zhou, the dynamic CEO of Sunova Solar, the event dazzled with anticipation. Attendees were captivated by the unveiling of two incredible modules boasting power ranges of up to 590 W and an astonishing 705 W respectively.

Established with a vision to transform the global energy landscape, Sunova Solar has been at the forefront of innovation since its inception. With a focus on sustainable and efficient solutions, the company has consistently pushed the boundaries of solar technol-

The launch in Lahore and renewable energy sources.

#### **Business Community** shocked at three-fold increase in charges: Saquib Fayyaz Magoon

**₿** PPA

KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, has apprised that the business, industry and trade community is in the state of shock and disbelief at threefold increase in container terminal charges since Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited (KGTL) has taken over the management of container terminal at Karachi Port's East Wharf. Previously, charges were PKR. 150 per metric ton and they have been raised to PKR. 480 per metric ton, he added.

Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, strongly demanded that KGTL should rationalize their rates with immediate effect; and, any future raise should be announced 2 – 3 months in

advance. Additionally, they should not operate in a vacuum in a consultation-less manner.

It is pertinent not that Mr. Khurram Aziz Khan, CEO of Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited (KGTL), visited FPCCI Head Office in Karachi to interact and get feedback of the business community over their services and charges at Karachi Port.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon stressed that shipping lines and container terminals need to be brought under a strong and effective regulatory authority to put an end to exploitation of importers and exporters at their hands. Trade is the backbone of any economy and traders cannot be left at the mercy of container termi-

### Rise in cost of doing business is hurting the industrial growth: Saqib Rafiq

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq has said that immediate steps should be taken to reduce the cost of doing business. Addressing the All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference in Rahim Yar Khan expectations from the new govern-Saqib Rafiq said that the economic ment. and industrial activities have shrunk due to increase in production cost.

Saqib Rafiq said that the policy should be made in consultation with the stakeholders, at this time the Pakistani economy is facing many challenges, there is an energy crisis, renewable energy i.e. green energy ing the industry, economic Progress

Whether it is SMEs or large-scale industry, both sectors are suffering from high cost of doing business, electricity and gas are many times more expensive. He said that the business community in Pakistan has several

We demand for creating a conducive environment for business growth, improving economic stability, and addressing challenges that hinder

entrepreneurship and investment. He said that Pakistan's economy could be put on the path of stability by promoting industrialization in the

has to be promoted, without promot-country. No doubt industry played a major role in the success of any country's economy, however, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector being an important component of any industry, helped the industry to grow manifold. The promotion of industry will generate more jobs thus ensuring prosperity of the labour class, he

Saqib Rafiq urged that since the continuity of policies in Pakistan is essential for achieving economic stabilization and growth by providing stability, predictability, and confidence to investors and businesses. The Special Investment and Facilitation Council (SIFC) has played a significant role in promoting economic



by facilitating investment, streamlining business processes, and addressing challenges faced by investors. He also suggested that to improve transparency, accountability, E-governance country, he added.

stabilization and growth in Pakistan and digitization is the key to check corruption, ensure transparency in the system.

The scope of Business Facilitation Centers should be spread across the

Mateen crowned Nayza National Armwrestling

Season 2 champion

Spokesman Report

Muzammil Khawar.

national acclaim.

## 19th International Cholistan Desert Rally a success and biggest racing event



Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: To make the 19th International Cholistan Desert Rally a successful and biggest racing event from national level to South Asia level, the divisional and district administration of Bahawalpur and TDCP have taken great steps in mutual collaboration and Allah Almighty.

With the grace of, we have made this event of national and international levelManaged to make a successful event for which all the management bodies deserve congratulations. Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr. Ehtesham Anwar expressed these views while addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the 19th International Cholistan Desert Jeep

On this occasion, MD Tourism Department Corporation Paki-

Abbasi, Sahibzada Umar Daud Abbasi, officers of divisional and district administration, rally participants, drivers and a large number of spectators were present. Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr. Ehtsham Anwar said that in a desert two to three hours away from the city where telecommunication and other facilities are not available, but despite that, a whole city should be settled there for the Percholistan Desert Jeep Rally and then the necessities of life there.

Everything including food, medical facilities, sanitation providing fool-proof security including sanitation, energy and water is a huge task and if this task is done in a good manner, all the administrative bodies including District Administration, TDCP, Police Department, Health Department, Rangers, Rescue stan (TDCP) Humira Ikram, 1122 and Bahawal. Officers of all Sahibzada Muhammad Usman other institutions including Poor

Waste Management Company Employees deserve congratulations.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Division said that Bahawalpur has the honor that 25 years ago some friends of Bahawalpur presented the idea of Desert Rally and after a few years the Desert Jeep Rally was officially started from Bahawalpur and later this Jeep Rally

Rallies were organized in other parts of the country as well.

Commissioner Bahawalpur-The Division thanked friends Chaudhry Mehmood Majeed, Mian Umar Daud Abbasi and Civil Servant Raheel Siddiqui for giving the idea and starting the Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally 19 vears ago.

MD TDCP on conductingHe also congratulated Humira Ikram and the racers who participated in the International Cholistan

### PCF 8th National Road Cycling Championship Wows Karachi Audience

**Sports Desk** 

Pakistan Cycling Federation's 8th National Road Cycling Championship echoed through DHA Phase-8.

The opening ceremony, graced by Mr. Shuaib Nizami, CEO of Sports in Pakistan, and Syed Azhar Ali Shah, President of PCF, marked an auspicious beginning for this thrilling event. Affiliated teams, including four provinces, Islamabad, POF Wah, Crank Addict, BCA, and SSGC men's and women's teams, are actively participating in the champion- Men Master ITT Results:

DHA administration's Addict steadfast support and 2. Muhammad Wahabprovision of top-notch Crank Addict facilities played a pivot- 3. Naeem Ahmad-SSGC al role in the champion- Men ACE ITT Results: ship's success. PCF extends 1. Ali Ilyas-SSGC heartfelt gratitude for their 2. Mohsin-BCA

The first day showcased Women ACE ITT Results: outstanding performances in various categories:



sports-promoting attitude. 3. Habib Ullah-SSGC

1. Rajia Shabir–SSGC 2. Zainab Rizwan-BCA 2. Rizwan Usman-SSGC 3. Ali Ilyas-SSGC Women ACE Road Race Results:

1. Habib Ullah-SSGC

1. Rajia Shabir-SSGC 2. Kenza Malik-SSGC

3. Zainab Rizwan-BCA **Men Junior ITT Results:** 

1. Wahid Babo-Crank Addict 2. Shayan Aziz-BCA

3. Muhammad Hashim-Sind Cycling

Women Junior ITT Results: 1. Anisa-BCA

2. Shams ul Nisa-Sind 3. Uroj-Sind

**Men Experts TTT Results:** 

prizes and medals will be

distributed among the

2. BCA

3 Crank **Women TTT Results:** 

1. BCA

2. Punjab 3. KPK

The championship 3. Rimsha-Sindh Cycling continues, with day three The excitement continfeaturing more events and ued on the second day with a closing ceremony where

winners.

thrilling road races and team **Men ACE Road Race Results:** 

2. Shah Wali-BCA

2. Taiba-BCA

3. Abdul Razzaq-SSGC

**Women Experts ITT Results:** 

1. Bisma Choudhury-BCA

#### Bangladesh announce new Lanka series

LAHORE: Bangladesh on Tuesday named former Glamorgan cricketer and Bermuda international David Hemp as the batting coach of the national men's team for two vears.

Along with Hemp, former New Zealand all-rounder Andre Adams will join the team as bowling coach for the same duration, the Bangladesh Cricket Board said in a statement. The duo will begin their tenure with the home series against Sri Lanka in March, the BCB said.

Hemp, 53, who scored more than 15,000 runs in first-class cricket for Glamorgan, Free State and Warwickshire, and represented Bermuda in 24 one-day internationals, is currently in charge of Bangladesh's

high-performance team. He was the head coach of the Pakistan women's team from 2020 to 2022 and was also the head coach of the Victoria State women's team and the Melbourne Stars in

the Women's Big Bash League. New bowling coach Adams, 48, who replaces South African great Allan Donald in the role, represented New Zealand in 47

matches across all formats He also worked as the New Zealand bowling coach in the recent T20I series against

Pakistan and was Australia's assistant coach in the 2022-23 series against South Africa. Former Sri Lanka batsman Chandika Hathurusinghe is currently the head coach of the Bangladesh men's team.

## coaches ahead of Sri

Sports Desk
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■
 ■

Reflecting on his victory and the platform provided by Nayza, Mateen Asif said: "Having represented Pakistan on international stages before, I am deeply grateful to Nayza for nurturing such talent. This support is pivotal for our athletes to excel and bring international honours to our country."

The Nayza National Armwrestling Championship 2024 Season 2 saw a staggering participation of 500 competitors from across Pakistan, competing in six major categories, including many national and international players.

LAHORE: International player Mateen Asif emerged as the

title winner in the Nayza National Armwrestling Champion-

In the senior -80kg category, Mateen Asif displayed outstand-

ing armwrestling prowess and outsmarted his opponent Haroon

Khokar, who finished as runner-up. Mukram Asif managed to

In the youth division for the -85kg weight class, Abdul Aziz, esteemed president of Major Armwrestling, emerged victo-

rious, with Hamad Butt and Hamza Butt finishing in second and third places, respectively. The heavyweight +85kg category

saw Shazil Ali taking the top spot, followed by Hassan Butt and

respectively. The -60kg category was dominated by Huzaifa Shah, with Sajjad Shah and Mian Ahmed completing the podium.

competitors has truly enhanced the stature of this champion-

ship." He expressed optimism about the future of armwrestling

in Pakistan, envisioning the nation's athletes achieving inter-

Nauman Malik, the organizer of the tournament, praised the event's ability to attract national and international talent. "The remarkable participation from both national and international

Additionally, Shahbaz Baig, Mudassir Jutt, and Haider King claimed the first, second, and third positions in the -75kg category,

ship Season 2 that concluded here on Saturday.

grab the third position in the same category.

#### All Sindh 8th Badminton tournament opening ceremony held at GYM Khana Ďadu



DADU: The opening ceremony of the 8th All Sindh Badminton Tournament by GYM Khana Dadu was held at GYM Khana Sport Hall in which Deputy Commissioner Dadu Fayaz Hussain Rahoojo, SSP Dadu Shabir Ahmed Sethar, Secretary GYM Khana Shahzaman Malkani, President Dadu Press Club Sabir Bhand and others. The tournament was inaugurated by cutting the cake.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Dadu Fayyaz Hussain Rahojo said while addressing the ceremony in order to attract the younger generation towards sports, it is necessary to guide and motivate them at all levels So that they can avoid negative activities and use their talents for the betterment of the coun-

SSP Dadu said that sports are very important for good health and adults including youth should actively participate in sports

In the ceremony, Secretary GYM Khana Shahzaman Malkani said that 76 teams from different districts of Sindh are participating in the tournament. In the final of the tournament, the first position Winner team will get one lakh cash and two motorcycles, the second position team will get 50,000 cash and one motorcycle and The 3rd postion winning team will be awarded 25,000 cash and Motercycle, 25,000 cash prize get to the Man of the Player.

### Test Cricketer Tauseef Ahmed distributed the prizes among the players

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Sepaktakarw event in 18th Sindh Games 2024 was held at North Karachi Gymkha- abad third position. na on February 24 and 25. The chief guest of the opening cere- Federation Secretary Genermony of the championship was President of People's Youth Chairman Sindh Sepaktakarw Organization District Central Association Dr. Muhammad Jawad ul Hasan while the Chief guest of the closing ceremo- bir Ahmed, Event Manager ny was Former Test cricketer legendary Tauseef Ahmed and the president of Naya Nazimbad Sports Complex, Syed Muhammad Talha.

second and Hyderabad third position, while in the women's competition, MirpurKhas won first, Karachi second and Hyder-Sepaktakarw Pakistan

al Noushad Ahmed Khan, Arif Hafeez, President Shab-Rehana Asif, RCAK Zone III Secretary Afzal Qureshi, Sindh Olympic Association Rafat Jahan, Majida Hameed, DSO Benazirabad Abdul Rahim, In the men's event, Karachi Asghar Hussain, referees Tahidivision won first, Benazirabad ra Yasmin, Ali Gohar, Zulfiqar



ceremony, Test cricketer Tauseef Sepaktakarw event in the Sindh

Ali and other guests were also Ahmed said that today I am feel present. Speaking at the closing happy that I am present at the

I will advise the Sindh government to provide maximum facilities to the players, Tauseef Ahmad also appreciated the efforts of the organizers of the event. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Muhammad Talha said that I have seen Sepaktakarw game for the first time today. Women's competition in the final was very good. I congratulate him for defeating the strong team of Karachi. He further said that if you hold Sepaktakarw event in Naya Nazimabad, we

will provide all possible support.

Games. He praised the perfor-

mance of Karachi's men's team

in the final. He further said that

## Usman Khan, Usama Mir power Multan Sultans to thump Lahore Qalandars

A Sports

LAHORE: Usman Khan played a commanding 96-run knock, followed by Usama Mir's six-fer to help Multan Sultans register a thumping 60-run victory over Lahore Qalandars during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9 here at Gaddafi Stadium on

Multan Sultans solidified their position at the top of the PSL 9 points table, while Lahore Qalandars are lying at the bottom after losing six consecutive matches this season.

While chasing a mammoth 215, Lahore Qalandars bundled out at a meagre 154 with three overs to spare.

Lahore Qalandars got a flying start to the pursuit as they raised a 54-run opening pair between Sahibzada Farhan (31) and Fakhar Zaman (23) inside the power play.

However, Multan Sultans' bowlers removed both batters in six deliveries spanning over two overs to reduce the home side to 56-2 in 6.3 overs.

Rassie van der Dussen and Kamran Ghulam attempted to help Lahore Qalandars recover with a 33-run partnership.

However, Faisal Akram spoiled the party as he dismissed Ghulam (12) in the 10th over with 89 runs on the board.

Sikandar Raza then came out to bat and smashed two sixes to

score 17 off seven before he also fell prey to Akram. Lahore Qalandars' captain

Shaheen Afridi promoted himself up in the order but could not help his side get out of the trouble and became the first victim of Mir.

Van der Dussen top-scored for Lahore Qalandars with a cautious 30 off 22, which featured one boundary and one six before he also fell to Mir courtesy of a brilliant catch by Mohammad Rizwan in the outfield

Van der Dussen's wicket was followed by the dismissals of George Linde and Jahandad Khan in the same over of Mir, reducing the home team to

Mir struck twice in his next over to complete his six-wicket haul and bundle Lahore Qalandars in 17 overs. Carlos Brathwaite remained unbeaten at 14

Mir's bowling figures read 6-40 in four overs, while Akram claimed 2-25.

Earlier, Multan Sultans opted to bat first but Lahore Qalandars drew first blood with captain Shaheen Afridi castling opposing captain Mohammad Rizwan in the first over.

But the Sultans made a comeback quickly with a brilliant 70-run partnership between Reeza Hendricks and Usman Khan before Sikandar Raza struck to dismiss the former.

Hendricks scored a 27-ball 40 with the help of seven boundaries including one six.

Khan continued his onslaught and was involved in a one-sided partnership with Tayyab Tahir, raising 77 runs in only 40 balls for the third wicket.

Tahir scored only 21 runs and was sent to the pavilion by Carlos Brathwaite with the scoreboard reading 151 in 15 overs.

Iftikhar Ahmed joined Khan and wreaked havoc with a blistering unbeaten cameo of 40 runs from 18 balls, which featured two boundaries and three sixes.

Khan on the other hand scored he got out in the final over. 96 runs from 55 balls, laced with 13 boundaries, including two sixes but missed his hundred as ed 20 overs.



Multan Sultans finished their innings at 214-4 in their allocat-

For Lahore Qalandars, Afridi led the bowling with the figures of 2-39, while Raza and Brathwaite claimed one wicket each.

## The Spokesman

# Called on ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on

## Ethiopia, Pakistan discuss maritime cooperation

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, called on Chief of the Naval Staff H. E. Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday here at the Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

two sides exchanged views on the matters of mutual interests including bilateral cooperation in the area of maritime ic Republic of Ethiopia in discussion during the meeting. and regional security.

Abdula briefed the Naval played by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in promoting pan-Africanism in the region to foster the spirit of brotherhood, fraternity and collaboration among the people of Africa.

The Ambassador also informed the Naval Chief During the meeting, the about the successful conduct of the 37th African Union port diversification and ener-Summit by the Government of the Federal Democrat-Addis Ababa which witnessed

On the occasion, H. E. the presence of more than 49 Ambassador said the FDR Ambassador Jemal Beker heads of the states from African countries and senior offi-Chief on the major role being cials of international organizations.

He highlighted the role of the FDR Ethiopia in ensuring regional security by immensely contributing to the fight against terrorism.

The regional integration initiatives of the FDR Ethiopia including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, gy export to the neighbouring countries also came under On the occasion, the

Ethiopia had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland that completely aligned with the international rules.

He said Ethiopia had been striving to connect the whole region by sharing its resources with brotherly countries in order to ensure just and equitable development across the

On the other hand, Chief of the Naval Staff H. E. Admiral Naveed Ashraf acknowledged the role played by Ethiopia in regional integration through

He congratulated the Government of the FDR Ethiopia on holding the AU summit successfully.

The Naval Chief, on the occasion, acknowledged the historical significance of Ethiopia as well as the great importance attached by the Government of Pakistan to its bilateral relations with an heir of the one of the oldest civilizations.

He said both the countries were heirs of the centuries' old civilizations and had huge potential for the bilateral cooperation including the area

## President emphasizes early prevention of diseases to avoid expensive treatment



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that adoption of preventive measures against various diseases was prerequisite to ward off treatment which was expensive in Pakistan and such habits would also help reduce burden on the health system. The president expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) that called on him at that Aiwan-e-Sadr to present a report on the activities and accomplishments of the organization, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

ing awareness among the masses tions in the health sector.

about the significance of preventive measures against non-communicable diseases and heart diseases. He also underscored the need about the role of media, local population, mosques and non government organizations to create such awareness, besides utilization of different latest platforms to spread awareness messages. PANAH President Major General (retd) Masud Ur Rehman Kiani briefed the president about the role of the organization and public awareness campaigns including holding of walks, seminars, lectures and training sessions. He said that they were creating awareness among the people about healthy activities and lifestyle. President Alvi The president stressed upon creatappreciated PANAH for its contribu-

#### IHC withdraws show-cause notice to DC Islamabad

ISLAMABAD,: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday withdrew the show-cause notice issued to Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon for non-appearance in the contempt of court heard the miscellaneous application court on that day. of DC Islamabad pertaining to the contempt of court case. Irfan Nawaz Memon appeared before the court pronouncement. It may be along with his lawyer Raja Rizwan

On the court's directive, the DC submitted his response to the show of Public Order against Shehryar cause, requesting for the withdraw- Afridi, which will be pronounced al of the notice. The court accept- on March 1.

ed this request. Irfan Memon then sought exemption from attendance on March 1, citing his scheduled tour to Saudi Arabia for Umrah. Justice Babar Sattar rejected the DC's request, observing that the court would pronounce the reserved verdict on March 1 and the accuser case. IHC's Justice Babar Sattar was expected to be present in the

He ruled that the accuser could leave for abroad after the verdict's mentioned that the decision of the contempt of court case is reserved for the issuance of a Maintenance

## Minister Gohar Ejaz returns from Saudi Arabia PTI decries 'theft' of people's mandate after 'fruitful' visit



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries & Production. Investment, Interior and Overseas Pakistanis, Dr. Gohar Ejaz returned to Islamabad after a successful visit high-level discussions to strengthen bilateral economic ties between the two nations.

lih and Commerce Minister Majid Bin collaboration.

Abdullah Al-Qasabi in Riyadh. These meetings aimed to explore opportunities for collaboration and investment between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Accompanied by a delegation of 20 Pakistani industrialists, Minister Gohar Ejaz held productive discussions with Saudi ministers on various avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and investment. The discussions emphasized the importance of increasing cooperation in sectors such as oil and gas, construction, food, and agriculture.

Minister Gohar Ejaz highlighted the need to elevate trade and investto Saudi Arabia, where he engaged in ment relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, underscoring the mutual benefits of closer economic cooperation. Saudi ministers expressed their During his visit, Minister Gohar Ejaz commitment to strengthening trade met with key Saudi officials including relations with Pakistan, affirming their Minister of Investment Khaled Al-Fa- willingness to explore new avenues for

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday continued its criticism of the recently-held general elections 2024, saying that it wants the "real mandate" of the public to be

recognized. Addressing a press conference, PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan alleged that the people's mandate was stolen during the February 8 polls and added that the poor people decided on bringing "change" via elections.

He stressed that the public should be allowed to exercise its right to choose a government. "The results of the elections should reflect the actual votes cast by the people," he added.

Referring to Maryam Nawaz's election as the chief minister of Punjab, he said that he had nothing against her and would have congratulated the PML-N leader if she had won her seat through votes.

Ali Muhammad also urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) to order probe into allegations of former Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chatha, who confesses to be involved in rigging the general polls in Rawalpindi divi-

Elections 2024

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 Pakistan general elections 2024 over mainstream political parties, especially in the National and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies, throughout the

result announcement process. According to the results announced so far, PTI-backed independent candidates have managed to win 92 seats. PML-N is in the second position with 79 seats, while the PPP has won 54

#### ECP begins issuing nomination papers to for presidential election

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday began issuing nomination papers to candidates for the presidential election. According to an ECP spokesperson, the candidates can submit their nomination papers at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, as well as the offices of provincial election commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till 12 noon pm on March 2.

The spokesperson said that the schedule and public notice for the presidential elections would be issued spokesperson added.

on March 1. For any details, individuals could contact the ECP at telephone number 051-9219335, she added. Quoting Article 41 (4) of the Constitution, the spokesperson emphasized that the presidential election must be conducted within 30 days of the

general elections. She added that according to Articles 91 and 130 of the Constitution. the first session of all assemblies was mandatory within 21 days of the general elections. "By February 29, all assemblies will begin working to complete the electoral colleges needed for the presidential election," the

## Israeli forces stop Gaza aid convoy, detain and strip-search paramedics: United Nations

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: UN relief agencies operating in the war-torn Gaza voiced deep frustration on Tuesday over continuing aid access restrictions placed on them by the Israeli military, of course could not happen at after ambulances carrying patients away from a stricken hospital at the weekend were stopped for several hours while health workers were searched and detained. "This is not an isolated incident. Aid convoys have come under fire and are systematically denied access to people in need," said the UN Humanitarian Country Team in Palestine, after the mission to evacuate 24 patients from Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis.

The development came amid continued intense fighting for at least seven hours nor why across the enclave since October 7. Amid repeated international calls for a ceasefire, negotiations have continued for the release of the Israeli hostag-

held in Israel. To date, nearly to Al Amal Hospital. Once there, 30,000 Gazans have been killed, the majority women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Several patients "if not all of them" required some kind of surgical intervention "which Al Amal Hospital", said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN aid coordination office, OCHA. Thirty-one non-critical patients had to be left behind. Speaking in Geneva, Laerke confirmed that the evacuation mission had been flagged to the Israeli authorities who had acknowledged this notification as part of standard deconfliction protocols. But, the Israeli military had not given "any information or any communication" about why the ambulances were detained the paramedics "had been taken out, forced to undress", with two still not freed, Laerke said. The development involved a UN

World Health Organization

UN-partner the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PCRS) evacuated 24 patients, including a pregnant woman, a mother and a newborn. The hospital – a PCRS-run facility – has been at the centre of military operations in the southern Gazan city for over a month, sustaining 40 attacks between January 22 and February 22 which left at least 25 dead and health workers too scared to leave the medical compound for weeks, the UN country team said in a statement. Today in Gaza, only 12 of its 36 hospitals were "partially functioning", WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier told journalists in Geneva. "Six in the south and six in the north (but) 23 hospitals are not functioning at all." An additional 15 emergency medical teams had also deployed in the south of Gaza with four field hospitals offering capacity to address basic surgia combined capacity of 305 beds, Lindmeier continued. "These

but of course it would be more important to get the Gaza health system back up on its feet and get all those healthcare workers - which are there and trained and they are even, under these circumstances, ready to work into a position and able to work." On Saturday, a UN relief mission to Al Amal successfully delivered desperately needed medical supplies, medication and antibiotics, along with some food, water and fuel for the generators. The health workers confirmed that they were able to step outside the hospital buildings within the compound on Saturday after a month inside," WHO reported. "They were afraid for their lives, since there was fighting around the area and the hospital had been hit numerous times." Pre-war, the hospital had 100 beds and focused on maternal and child health with some cal and internal medicine needs, along with specialized rehabili-

third floor decreased the capacthe operation which delivered enough supplies to treat 50 trau-

caused by the bombing of the (UNRWA), the UN population known as the Blue Line that fund (UNFPA), the UN landity to an estimated 60 beds. mine relief agency (UNMAS) Six UN entities participated in and the UN Department for im Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Safety and Security (UNDSS). In a related development, UN ma patients: WHO, the UN aid peacekeepers expressed alarm in recent days between Hezbolcoordination office (OCHA), the es and Palestinian prisoners (WHO)-led convoy on Sunday are important pockets of help, tation services. But, destruction UN agency for Palestine refugees hostilities on the border area the Israeli military.

separates Israel and Lebanon. The alert from the UN Interfollows what it calls "a concerning shift in the exchanges of fire" on Tuesday at an escalation in lah militia in south Lebanon and



Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi