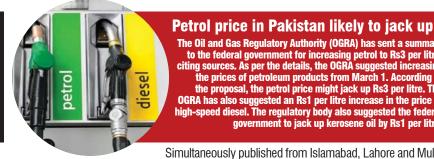
Barkat Rice Mills

Mushaal Hussein Mullick commences International Women's Day celebrations

Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick has underscored the indispensable role women play in society through their significant contributions to the social, economic, and cultural spheres globally. (Details on Page 3)



The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has sent a summary

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opreciation

Chief of Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir met with ASP Syeda Shehrbano Naqvi who recently saved a woman from a violent mob



Caretaker PM disapproves PTI's move of writing a letter to IMF

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday expressing his disapproval over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership's latest political salvo of writing a letter to International Monetary Fund (IMF), termed it as 'highly irresponsible'. Appearing in a talk show of a private Tv channel (SAMAA news), the prime minister said the letter was sent at time when the caretaker government had worked significantly for the economic revival with the relevant indicators showing positive trends, besides it achieved different financial targets.

The negotiations with the IMF were in the process for \$6 billion dollars agreement which was important for the econom-



ic health of the country, he said, terms, the letter would have no adding moreover, different multilateral agreements were also dependent over it. He said that there were appropriate forums for the electoral disputes and the PTI's gesture of writing letter to IMF was unjustified and high- in the Baloch missing persons' ly irresponsible. However, he case to show that the interim maintained that in the tangible

effects, but it would have political costs for the PTI that had a narrative in this regard. To a question, the caretaker prime minister said that he had appeared before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) set up was functioning under a

constitutional order. The courts' orders should be respected and he appeared before it to reiterate the same stance and set a precedent, he added. The prime minister further said that the court had been apprised about the number of missing people traced so far under its orders and the IHC judge appreciated efforts in this regard. Prime Minister Kakar also termed the number of missing persons as 'highly exaggerated'. To a query about terrorist incidents in Balochistan, he said that non state actors had been spreading violence in the society to achieve their designs and also misusing human rights platforms. "They wanted to create an echo chamber for themselves," he said, adding that such banned outfits often continued their violence spree and on the other hand, attempted to

get sympathies by using a section of society. The prime minister said neither the UN standards nor the international procedures accept mere allegations. If you had leveled allegations, you would have to provide data. There were general sweeping statements to malign state institutions, he said, adding that terrorist groups unleashed violence as a tool. The caretaker prime minister, to another question, said that various efforts were made in the past to engage with the families of missing persons; it was reiterated that commissions in this regard had been formed where they could take up these cases. There was an existing mechanism to address such grievances, he emphasised. He reiterated that use of violence as tool would have no acceptance

ECP appoints five presiding officers for presidential election

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday appointed five Presiding officers to conduct election to the office of President of Pakistan, in Islamabad and four provincial capitals. According to Spokesperson ECP, these officers will receive nomination papers from candidates and chair meetings of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) at Parliament House, Islamabad, and the Provincial Assembly of the respective province during the scheduled polling for the Presi-

dential Election. According to the notification, the Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court will oversee the elections in the Senate and National Assembly in Islamabad. A Member of the Election Commission-I, Election

Continued on Page 8

PTI asks IMF to audit 30% seats from general election

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A letter to International Monetary Fund (IMF), which according to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was written on directives of party founder Imran Khan, has surfaced, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

In the letter written to IMF Managing Director Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, the Imran Khan-led party noted that a government without "legitimate representation, when imposed upon a country, carries no moral authority to govern, and, in particular, to carry out taxation meas-"In the last interaction held

between Imran Khan and IMF representatives in 2023, PTI had agreed to support IMF's financing facility involving Pakistan on the condition and reassurance of a free and fair election in the country," stated the letter.

In the foregoing backdrop, the PTI said, it is noteworthy that the general elections conducted in Pakistan on February 8, 2024, on which public expenditure of about Rs50 billion (or US\$ 180 million) was incurred, were subjected to "widespread intervention and fraud in the counting of votes and



compilation of results".

"This intervention and fraud have been so brazen that the IMF's most important member countries including the US, Great Britain, and countries forming part of the European Union have called for a full and transparent investigation into the matter", ne letter noted

"In view of the policies and principles the IMF stands for, there should be no doubt that the abuse of power by a small number of holders of public office to impose their likes and dislikes on Pakistan's populace adopt the role of an investigative as aforesaid, and thus to ensure their continuing personal gain, would not be promoted or upheld by the IMF,"

The letter further stated that not only PTI, but several other political parties in Pakistan, have called for an independent probe into claims of intervention and electoral fraud in the country on and after February

"These calls have, however, gone unheeded for more than two weeks now suggesting that there is no fear of accountability or rule of law with respect to the subversion of the exercise by the people of Pakistan of their right to elect a government," it added.

Imran Khan, in the letter, called upon the IMF to give effect to the guidelines adopted by it with respect to good governance as well as conditionalities that must be satisfied prior to the grant of a finance facility that is to burden the people of Pakistan with further debt.

"An audit of at least thirty percent of the national and provincial assemblies' seats should be ensured, which can be accomplished in merely two weeks," it added.

"We do not call for the IMF to agency. There are at least two indigenous organisations in Pakistan namely the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) and PATTAN-Coalition 38 that have proposed comprehensive methodologies to conduct an audit of the General Elections 2024 which, with some modifications, could be implemented locally to the satisfaction of all stakeholders," it concluded.

Six terrorists gunned down in North Waziristan IBO: ISPR

and justification

跨 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: At least six terrorists were gunned down during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) North Waziristan, ARY News reported on Wednesday, quoting the military's media wing.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in North Waziristan on reported presence of terrorists.

During the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and the terrorists, as a result of which six terrorists were gunned down, while one

soldier also got injured. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also Continued on Page 8

COAS lauds ASP Shehrbano for her selfless devotion to duty and professionalism

跨 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Sved Asim Munir on Wednesday lauded Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Syeda Shehrbano Naqvi for her selfless devotion to duty and professionalism in diffusing a volatile situation. The fearless police officer, who called on the Army Chief at the General Headquarters, had extricated a woman from the difficult milieu of Ichra Bazaar in Lahore on February 26, an Inter Services Public Rela-

tions (ISPR) news release said. The COAS acknowledged the vital role Pakistani women are playing in all walks of life. "Since independence, the Pakistani women have distinguished themselves at home ment agencies to ensure the and abroad, by virtue of their talent, tenacity and commit- zens of the country.

ment," he said. The COAS highlighted that the women were an invaluable part of Pakistan's society and their respect was enshrined "in our religion as well as our social ethos". He also underscored the importance of social harmony and the need for nationwide consensus on curbing intol-

He emphasized upon the rule of law and advised against taking the law in one's hands when legal avenues were available for addressing concerns and grievances. Noting that arbitrary actions on the basis of heresy undermine the outlook of the society, the COAS underlined Islam's eternal message of kindness and benevolence. He appreciated the sacrifices rendered by the law enforcesafety and security of the citi-

PML-N, PPP to make appointments with mutual understanding

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) decided to make administrative appointments in Puniab with mutual understanding.

According to the sources, both parties agreed to form a joint committee for making decisions in the appointment of administrative officers of Puniab.

The PPP has already given names to the committee. The sources privy to the development said that the PML-N and PPP during their talks for government formation in centre, Punjab and Balochistan had decided to form the committee for the purpose.

Meanwhile, the preparations for the formation of the cabinet in Punjab have accelerated and many names are being considered in this regard.

According to sources, Rana Sanaullah would be made the chief minister advisor on Home. In the first phase, Rana Sanaullah will sworn in as the advisor and later he would also contest the by-election from Sheikhupura or Lahore.

The PML-N sources said that provincial ministers and advisors are likely to be taken from various divisions and districts of Punjab.

The sources privy to the development claimed that Marriyum Aurangzeb, Malik Ahmad Khan, Rana Iqbal, Khawaja Salman Rafiq, and Khawaja Imran Nazir are also being considered for the Punjab cabinet

Besides, the names of Faisal Khokhar, Yawar Zaman, Bilal Yasin, Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Zakia Shahnawaz, Uzma Bukhari, Hina Pervaiz Butt are also under consider-

Independent assembly members joined PML-N unconditionally: Shehbaz

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that independent elected members of assemblies had joined the PML-N without any condition. Addressing the PML-N's Parliamentary Party meeting at the Parliament House, Shehbaz, who is also PML-N's nominee for prime ministership, said that with the addition of independents, his party's representation in the National Assembly had increased to 104 members.

He said that Raja Khurram Nawaz, who won as an independent candidate from Islamabad was now part of the PML-N. Similarly, Barrister Aqeel Malik and Waseem Qadir, who contested NA election as independ-

ents from Rawalpindi and



Lahore respectively, had also joined the PML-N. Shehbaz Sharif recalled the problems faced by the party over the past few years.

He also highlighted the accomplishments of the PML-N governments under Nawaz's leadership, pointing out motorway projects and elimination of power power loadshedding throughout the country. He said the country today needed sacrifices and hard work to get out of the crises. The PML-N president criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for alleging that the February 8 general elections were 'rigged'.

Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan says Azad Kashmir High Court doing proud job of delivering justice



MIRPUR: Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan has said that the High Judiciary of Azad Kashmir is doing a proud job

are commendable. He expressed District Council Raja Naveed these views while addressing the annual prize distribution cere- businessman Chaudhry Rasib

mony of Akab School for Blind Children as a special guest. Azad Kashmir Government ex Minister Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, Bar President Mirpur Chaudhry Shakeel Zaman Advocate, Commissioner Mirpur Chaudhry to deliver justice and can never Shaukat Ali, President Chamber compromise to uphold the rule of Commerce Syed Sabir Hussain Shah, Seven Star CEO Chaudhry The services of Prof. Ilyas Ayub Rizwan Anwar, Chairman Akhtar Goga, Eminent British

Hussain, Chaudhry Mehmood Advocate, and former Justice Sheikh Masood Advocate and large number of representatives of the city. Chief Justice of Azad Kashmir Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan said that for me today is a great and memorable evening which I will never forget.

He said that I wish to spend all my time with these children whenever I get free time from work. Addressing the children of Akab School he said that

there is no lack in you, if Allah has deprived you of one sense In return, Allah has blessed you with countless additional qualities.

The Chief Justice mentioned the services of the principal of the school, Prof. Ilyas Ayub, regarding the education and training of blind children, said that Ilyas Ayub is a role model for the state. There is no substitute for services. I am with you and I pay trib-

The Chief Justice of Azad

Kashmir mentioned the quota of government jobs for blind people and said that he will see it from the eyes of the law, Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan said.

He said that the children of Akab School are rare diamonds. Addressing the ceremony, the principal of the school, Prof. Ilyas Ayub, said that I myself am blind and as such, I have a good understanding of the problems of blind

He added that if the quota of

ment institutions is implemented, then these special people will also be able to be counted among the dignified people of the society. Professor Ilyas Ayub suggested that every member of the legislative assembly gives a job to one special person in a year, 48 special people will be employed in one

Chief Justice Azad Kashmir Iqbal at the event.

year and two hundred and forty

special people will be employed

jobs for special people in govern- Raja Saeed Akram Khan and other honored guests presented shields to the school children for receiving various awards, while Prof. Ilyas Ayub thanked Chief Justice Azad Kashmir Raja Saeed Akram Khan for participating in the event and encouraging the children.

Presented by SHIELD, the children of Akab School for Blind Children enthralled the audience by presenting a song and Kalam

Work in progress

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way on newly constructed overhead bridge sector E-11 in the Federal Capital.



Pakistan Army has made country's defense invincible on 27 February: Sardar Attique

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALPIN-DI: President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the Pakistan Army has made the country's defense invincible.

He paid tribute to the courage and bravery of the Shaheen's Pakistan Air Force. The Shaheens of the Air force destroyed 2 Indian aircraft and destroyed the pride of India.

He expressed these thoughts while talking to the Muslim conference delegation and met him in Mujahid

He said 27th February 2019 is the day in history when the Shaheens of are always ready to defend the Kingthe Pakistan Air Force responded to the enemy and told the world that we



dom of Allah.

Indian pride was crushed. Pakistan destroyed two Indian aircraft and By giving a historical surprise, captured pilot Wing Commander

The historic success of Operation Soft Retort is Pakistan's crowning glory and India will never forget February 27. Sardar Attique said February 27 has become an unforgettable day in the history of Pakistan Air Force. Shaheens of Pakistan Air Force also destroyed two enemy fighter planes on the same day.

The memorial of 27th February will always be a reminder that the people and the forces of Pakistan are always ready for the defense of the country.

This monument is the shining star of the morale of our armed forces and people. The Pakistani army not only defended the borders but also protected Abhinandan from the wrath of the local population according to international laws.

PTCL Group announces Shoq TV Box Powered by Android TV at Mobile World Congress

ISLAMABAD/BARCELONA: Pakistan's largest telecommunications PTCL Group, is set to launch in Pakistan a cutting-edge Shoq TV Set-top Box powered by Android TV, to transform the TV viewing experience for its customers. It was announced by the President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf, and Karen Teo, VP Android Partnerships APAC, Google during Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2024 in Barcelo-

na, Spain. The Android TV Set-top Box will feature multiple Google apps, including the Play Store, in addition to a sleek

graphics to provide a transformative user experience.

Designed for optimum conveniand integrated ICT services provider, ence and seamless control, the new Android TV Set-top Box will offer the ultimate entertainment experience.

With pre-installed apps like YouTube and Netflix, users will be able to have an immersive big-screen experience with their favourite entertainment content.

Users will be able to smoothly navigate between TV and other compatible Android apps to make the most of their leisure time.

Commenting on the development, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf said,

User Interface (UI) and captivating "I am thrilled by the launch of this late the PTCL Group on the launch innovative Shoq TV Box powered by Android TV in Pakistan in collaboration with Google. It feels like we're bringing back an exciting gift from the MWC for our customers. For the past couple of years, PTCL Group has steadfastly focused on enhancing the quality of content and entertainment options for our valued customers. I hope that with a transformative blend of television and Android apps, the new Shoq TV $\,$ box powered by Android TV will be a paradigm shift in entertainment for our customers."

Also sharing her thoughts, Karen Teo, VP Android Partnerships APAC, Google said, "I'd like to congratu-

of Shoq TV Box, which will provide customers in Pakistan with access to the TV apps ecosystem and elevate their TV viewing and entertainment experience. Google is happy to be partnering with PTCL Group to continue driving innovation and growth of the Android TV platform in Pakistan."

The new Shoq TV set-top box powered by Android TV will continue to offer more than two hundred television channels with a diverse array of Full HD channels. The new Set-top box bolsters PTCL Group's continued focus on providing high-quality news and entertainment content in Pakistan

Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party in Punjab Assembly again demand for making Saraiki Province

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Syed Ali Haider Gilani, the parliamentary leader of Pakistan People's Party in the Punjab Assembly, once again called for the establishment of Saraiki Province at the forum of the Punjab Assembly has demanded and has demanded from the speaker that a committee should be established immediately for the establishment of Saraiki province in which all parties are represented. In his first address in the Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gilani said that In the previous House also, he made one for the establishment of Saraiki Province.

The resolution was approved, but it was not implemented. This time, the people of Saraiki Wasaib have given more mandate to the Pakistan People's Party and given 21% more votes. Again raising the voice of their rights in this houseBecause Punjab is a big province and it is not possible to solve the problems of the people of such a big province, therefore, for $\,$ the establishment of the province, it is necessary to establish a competent committee of the Punjab Assembly consisting of all the parliamentary parties to establish the province. It can be made possible.

Syed Ali Haider Geelani in his first address MsHe congratulated Maryam Nawaz Sharif on becoming the first woman Chief Minister of Punjab and said that Pakistan People's Party also got this honor that our party made Ms. Benazir Bhutto the first woman Prime Minister, our party made the first Speaker of the National Assembly and the woman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. These women successfully made their iournevResolved Sved Ali Haider Gilani also congratulated the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly on assuming the duties

Faisalabad traffic police stage walk against kite flying in city center



FAISALABAD: On the direction of Chief Traffic Officer Magsood Ahmed, City Traffic Police Faisalabad organized a walk against kite flying in which Pakistan Mini Mazda Association, Anjuman Tajran, Saylani Welfare and well-known personalities of the city participated. The aim of the walk is to discourage blood sports like kite flying with metal killer strings. The participants of the walk reached Ghanta Ghar from Kachari Bazar via TO office and were led by DSP Circle City Muhammad Khalid Aleem while on the other hand DSP Circle People's Colony by Malik Muhammad Javed.

Faisalabad to hold second job fair to boost vocational skills of women

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Job Fair and Expo aims to build linkages between Academia and Industry so that students can have continuous training while studying and they can apply their experience without wasting time. Chairman Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed expressed these thoughts while participating in the second job fair of Government College Women University online. Industry exists in the city to gain practical experience. Prof. Dr. Zal Huma Nazli said that all these responsibilities are imposed on us as a women's university in the education, training and practical life of the students. It has been organized so that in the future all these degree-seeking students will not face any difficulty and they can perform their duties in the best way.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan Vice-Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal Vice-Chancellor Baba Gurunanak University, Prof. Dr. Falahia Zahra Kazmi Vice-Chancellor Home Economics University Lahore, Dr. Mazhar Hayat, Dr. Rana Tanveer Qasim Dr. Nimra Deputy Commissioner FBR, CP O Faisalabad Ali Zia, Waqas Kashif Bajwa Chief Manager SBP and others said that

The discussion of gender division should end. Women are making their mark in science and technology as well as the chief executives of the world's trillion dollar companies. Women also have to fulfill their duties as half of the society, all men and women are equal on merit.

Extracurricular activities prepare students for practical life. It is the age of artificial intelligence and we all have to light our part. And said that we have to change the mindset for which the role of teachers is very important. There is a need to work on ethics and said that the information of social intelligence is necessary to be a decision-making force.

Thursday, February 29, 2024

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Rawalpindi	9270601-2
ENQU	IRY
Edhi Ambulance	11
PIA Flight Info	11

Edhi Ambulance	115
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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	I 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service 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 Tank0331-5022125

Youth across Pakistan joins **Transform** Pakistan Campaign to Demand iTFA Regulation

₿ PNP

ISLAMARAD: Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA) proudly announces the nationwide collaboration of youth groups under the banner of the TRANS-FORM Pakistan campaign, aimed at advocating for the regulation of industrially produced Trans-Fatty Acids (iTFAs). This movement signifies a crucial step toward ensuring a healthier and safer dietary landscape

for all Pakistanis. "Launched last year, the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign has gained momentum as PYCA engages with youth groups across diverse regions, fostering awareness about the adverse health effects of iTFAs," shared Huma Jehangir, Program Implementation lead at PYCA. "From Karachi to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, young leaders are now equipped with knowledge and advocacy skills, actively leading the campaign in their locali-

In Karachi, a dynamic youth group at the University of Karachi is conducting research to analyze the iTFA content in the most consumed foods within the university premises. "Our initiative not only sheds light on the immediate environment but also contributes valuable insights to the broader discourse on regulating trans fats," said Parkash Meghwar in the press statement by PYCA.

Simultaneously, the student group from NIFSAT, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, is making strides by rallying parents, school administra tions, and engaging with the Punjab Food Authority (PFA). "Our collaboration ensures that communities actively voice their support for regulation, emphasizing the fundamental right to a healthier food environment," shared Nagina Mehboob while talking about the work that she and her young fellows were undertaking in Faisalabad.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick commences International Women's Day celebrations

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick has underscored the indispensable role women play in society through their significant contributions to the social, economic, and cultural spheres globally. She was addressing the "Women Day Celebration" organized by Pak Gulf Construction Pvt Ltd. in connection with International Women's Day which is observed on 8th March every year. The event honored the achievements and resilience of women worldwide and served as a platform to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality in Pakistan and the challenges that still lie ahead.

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister stressed the importance of empowering women for the establishment of inclusive and equitable societies. She emphasized the imperative of invest- to SAPM Sabien Hussein Mullick also attended the event and along with SAPM distributed appreciation certificates and shields among the organizers of the event.

ing in women's education, healthcare, and overall well-being.

Mushaal said that the people, particularly women, in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were enduring the worst human rights violations inflicted by the Indian Occupation forces. She emphasized that amidst oppression, women in IIOK had assumed prominent roles in the Kashmiri freedom struggle.

Mushaal underscored the resilience and determination of Kashmiri women, suggesting that in the face of adversities, women globally could draw inspiration from their unwavering spirit.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick urged all to pledge their support for women's empowerment across all areas of life. Appreciating the organizers, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister said that the event served as a testament to our commitment towards empowering women and advancing their rights. Focal Person



Hardwork

RAWALPINDI: Feb28- Workers of WAPDA busy in repairing high voltage wires on a pole alongside double road, IN FRONT OF Pindi Cricket Stadium, in the city.



Mobilink Bank's 'Change to Sustain' program drives sustainability with Rs 2.5b

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, a leader in digital financial services, launched its sustainability program, "Change to Sustain," signaling a step forward in its journey towards operational transformation and promoting environmental stewardship within the banking sector. Fueling this initiative is the strategic allocation of PKR 2.5 billion towards renewable energy financing. Embedded with its sustainability strategy, fifteen (15) Mobilink Bank branches are slated to undergo solarization, harnessing solar energy and reducing carbon emissions. Across all 109 nationwide branches, the Bank will also spearhead a large-scale tree plantation drive, contributing to preserving local ecosystems and biodiversity. These initiatives underscore Mobilink Bank's dedication to tal impact while reinforcing its Chief Operating Officer (COO) ment Goals, we are steadfast in attainable for all.



in the industry

"At Mobilink Bank, we see to Sustain' initiative reflects our efforts to align the Bank with

we take is driven by a deep commitment to minimizing the winds of change as an our environmental footprint, opportunity to drive positive empowering unbanked inditransformation. The Change viduals, catalyzing positive social change and supporting the advancement of small busi-ESG principles for a future nesses nationwide. Recognizwhere progress and sustaina- ing the pivotal role of microfibility go hand in hand," shared nance institutions in realizing driving positive environmen- Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, the UN's Sustainable Develop-

harnessing our capabilities and resources to foster eco-friendly financing for individuals and small-scale businesses, with a particular focus on those led by women. We believe that supporting small businesses and female entrepreneurs can yield enduring benefits for both the environment and society at large," he added.

Mobilink Bank spearheads green financing by actively supporting individuals, particularly women, to address climate challenges while seamlessly incorporating sustainability into its operations. Through impactful initiatives like "Change to Sustain" and the Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program, the Bank empowers its borrowers with the necessary tools and resources to adapt and build resilience against climate change. The Bank also offers accessible green financing solutions, including solar financing, to ensure that sustainability is

All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association to the Feds: give time till 20 March to submit biometric/life

Aurangzeb Tanuli Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association and other officials appealed to the Governor State Bank of Pakistan and the Federal Secretary for Finance Islamabad to remove the condition of submitting the biometric / life certificate in banks before March 10. It will not be possible to submit biometric/life certificates of pensioners in time before March 10. If the decision is not revised immediately, pensioners will lose their rights around Ramazan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

He said this during an emergency meeting of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Associ-



Butt presided over the meeting. The leaders of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Associthat they request to consid-Bank of Pakistan for pension-

ation. Chairman Aslam Adil tric/life certificate done before March 10, otherwise their account will be deactivated and pension will not come. During ation said in their position the meeting it was unanimously decided to request the Goverer the circular issued by State nor State Bank of Pakistan that 10 days is too short. For this ers on 1st February 2024. In please give time till 20 March which the pensioners have been at least. So that the workload instructed to get their biomedoes not increase on banks

and pensioners who live in remote villages. They can also submit biometric/life certificates etc. On this occasion Aurangzeb Tanuli Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association along with other colleagues issued a statement on the decision of Governor State Bank of Pakistan and Federal Secretary for Finance Islamabad. Requested a review and said that railway pensioners will be greatly affected by this decision and will also lose their monthly pension. Ramazan Mubarak and Eid-ul-Fitr are near. It is very important to take quick action in this regard. The problem can be solved immediately.

NIMA BoA meets in Islamabad-highlights progress made on maritime affairs



ISLAMABAD: On 28th Feb, 9th BoA meeting of National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) was held at its Head Office, Islamabad. Chairman NIMA BoA, Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah, the former CNS chaired the meeting, while the board members were in attendance, (in person & online).

Vice Admiral Ahmed Saeed, President NIMA welcomed the participants and shed light on NIMA's contribution in undertaking research activities and creating awareness on Maritime Affairs. Moreover, a snapshot of major research activities and future undertakings was also presented in the meeting by the Director Islamabad.

Board Members gave pertinent input on the various agenda items. Detailed discussions on policy matters related to the fishing sector, ports & harbors, shipping, ship recycling industry, maritime tourism, climate change, maritime pollution, biodiversity, and sustainable use of ocean resources were held.

In his closing remarks, the chair appreciated the valuable input and suggestions provided by the eminent participants. He applauded the efforts of the NIMA team / researchers on the progress made by the institution.

Sheherazaad unveils 'Qasr', produced by Grammy Winner Arooj Aftab

₿ PNP

LAHORE: Following her critically acclaimed debut single "Mashoor" for Erased Tapes late last year, American composer and vocalist Sheherazaad unveils her forthcoming LP, "Qasr," produced by visionary artist and Grammy winner Arooj Aftab. This five-track collection, set to captivate audiences worldwide on March 1st on Erased Tapes, marks a significant milestone in Sheherazaad's musical journey.



Seeking to reclaim her lost connection, Sheherazaad dedicated herself to studying Arabic, Hindi, and Urdu. This exploration culminated in her 2020 self-released project, "Khwaabistan," which caught the attention of producer Arooj Aftab. Their long-distance collaboration during the pandemic resulted in "Qasr," a groundbreaking sonic exploration featuring international musicians like Basma Edrees (Egypt), Gilbert Mansour (Lebanon), and Firas Zreik (Palestine).

Qasr" is a powerful and evocative work that defies categorization. It is a testament to Sheherazaad's artistic journey and her unwavering pursuit of self-discovery. Featuring five tracks; Mashoor, Dhund Lo Mujhe, Koshish, Khatam, and Lehja, the album invites listeners to explore their own identities and forge their own unique paths.

Mars BPO named to the top 100 list of Pakistan's highest export remittance list



₿ PPA

ISLAMABAD:- Mars BPO, a trailblazer in the BPO landscape founded by Shoaib Akram, celebrates this significant milestone with the Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony, held graciously in Islamabad. The spectacular event recognizes the excellence of Mars BPO's top leadership, employees, and remarkable growth.

Gathering momentum and prestige with each passing year since its establishment in 2013, Mars BPO has become a leading name in the country, known for exceptional achievements, world-class offices, and notable standing. Mars BPO has a team of over 2000 dedicated professionals who have been instrumental in the company's success over the past decade.

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Prevent Israel from unleashing ground offensive on Rafah, **Pakistan urges UNSC**

akistan has called for preventing Israel's planned offensive on Rafah, saying it will further intensify the suffering of the Gaza Palestinians and risks widening the conflict.

"Israel's planned offensive in Rafah must be stopped," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN Security Council on Tuesday, while underscoring the threat of famine.

The Pakistani envoy also warned against the imminent threat of famine in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, pointing out Israel's ongoing 5-month genocidal military campaign in Gaza has killed 30,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and displaced the entire 2.3 million population of Gaza., with half a million people facing starvation.

Compounding the already dire situation, he said Israeli forces not only leveled Gaza's cities, they have also brazenly destroyed agricultural land and Gaza's fishing fleet.

Earlier, three United Nations humanitarian officials warned that there is a high risk of conflict-induced famine in the Gaza Strip if the war does not stop soon.

"If nothing is done, we fear widespread famine in Gaza is almost inevitable, and the conflict, which since October has claimed the lives of almost 30,000 people and injured more than 70,000, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, will have many more victims," said Ramesh Rajasingham, director of the coordination division in the U. N. humanitarian office.

Rajasingham said at least 576,000 people in Gaza — 25% of the population — are one step away from famine, and practically the entire population is relying on insufficient humanitarian food assistance to survive.

"Unfortunately, as grim as the picture we see today, there is every possibility for further deterioration," he said. "Gaza is seeing the worst level of child malnutrition anywhere in the world," said Carl Skau, the World Food Programme's deputy executive director. "One child in every six under the age of 2 is acutely malnourished."

Maurizio Martina, assistant director-general of the U. N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, explained how the entire food supply chain has been impacted by the war.

Farmers have been forced by Israel to evacuate their land or fled shelling that has destroyed crops; cattle and poultry are dying from hunger or killed in bombings; fishing is prohibited; and groundwater is contaminated.

In his statement, Ambassador Jadoon, said, "Israel's indiscriminate killing of civilians; its destruction of civilian objects indispensible for human survival; and the use of starvation as a weapon of war are gross violations of international humanitarian law, including 'plausibly' the Genocide Convention."

Proven Neutrality of Pak Army - I

Abdul Basit Alvi

dation of legitimacy lies in free and fair elections, which echo the collective will of the populace. Preserving the integrity of the electoral system is essential to upholding democratic ideals and preserving societal harmony. Across many nations, the military assumes a crucial role in ensuring the sanctity of elections, offering security, logistical support, and expertise to enable citizens to cast their votes without fear or interference.

During electoral periods, the primary duty of the military is to uphold security and stability, fostering a safe environment for voters, candidates, and election officials. This encompasses securing polling stations, safeguarding ballot boxes, and deploying personnel to regions prone to violence or intimidation. Through deterring threats and thwarting disruptions, the military fosters trust in the electoral process, allowing citizens to participate freely. Additionally, the military provides vital logistical aid to election authorities, including transportation, communication infrastructure, and distribution of materials, particularly in remote or inaccessible areas. Leveraging its organizational prowess and coordination skills, the military helps surmount logistical hurdles and minimize delays or disturbances.

In the face of emergencies like natural disasters, civil unrest, or terrorist threats, the military stands ready to offer swift crisis management support, ensuring the continuity of democratic governance by evacuating polling stations, securing critical infrastructure, or coordinating relief efforts. Often serving as impartial observers and mediators, military personnel monitor electoral proceedings to ensure adherence to laws and regulaelectoral process.

Moreover, the military safeguards electoral institutions, such as election commissions and polling stations, from external threats or interference, preserving their impartiality and transparency. In nations transitioning to democracy or undergoing post-conflict reconstruction, the military aids in the shift to civilian rule, bolstering democratic institutions through security, reconciliation, and adherence to the rule of

Ultimately, the military's involvement in elections is rooted in a commitment to constitutionalism, rule of law, and civilian oversight. Military personnel are bound by duty to respect the constitu-

tion and uphold the electoral process as a reflection of popular will, thus reinforcing their role as custodians of democratic

principles and institutions. In the ongoing struggle for power and influence, elements opposed to the state often view the military as a primary adversary. Motivated by ideological fervor, political agendas, or grievances against the state, these elements employ various tactics aimed at undermining the authority, effectiveness, and legitimacy of the armed forces. Understanding these tactics is vital for devising effective counterstrategies to uphold national security and protect the servicemen and women.

Such elements frequently resort to propaganda and disinformation to sow doubt, dissent, and division within both military ranks and the civilian population. Using channels like social media, extremtions. Their presence promotes transparist websites, and covert networks, they

ries, and unfounded allegations to weaken trust in military leadership, diminish morale, and incite unrest.

Violent tactics, such as terrorist attacks and insurgency, are common methods employed by these elements to directly challenge and destabilize the military. These attacks may target military installations, personnel, or civilians associated with the armed forces, aiming to cause casualties, damage infrastructure, and

undermine public confidence in the government's ability to provide

Psychological warfare is another key component of their strategy, with tactics including threats, intimidation, coercion, and propaganda aimed at instilling

fear, confusion, and compliance among military personnel and civilians.

In today's digital age, cyber warfare and information operations have become potent tools for these entities, allowing them to disrupt military operations, compromise sensitive information, and wage psychological campaigns against the military.

Furthermore, they exploit socio-economic grievances, political disenfranchisement, and extremism to recruit and radicalize individuals, offering them a sense of belonging and empowerment through participation in violent or subver

Subversion and infiltration tactics involve covert efforts to penetrate military ranks, institutions, and supply chains to gather intelligence, sabotage operations, and sow discord from within.

In Pakistan, recent elections were

support of the Pakistani Army. However, it has become a tradition in the country to reject election results in case of defeat. Certain political parties and anti-state elements resort to unfair means and immediately blame the army for rigging, continuing this trend in the recent elec-

In a recent development, Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chatta made shocking revelations during a press conference at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. He admitted to perpetrating injustices in Rawalpindi Division during the elections, stating that they manipulated the outcomes by ensuring losing candidates secured leads of 50,000 to 70,000 votes. Chatta declared, "I take full responsibility for election rigging in Rawalpindi Division and voluntarily surrender myself to the police, resigning from my post. I deserve the death penalty at Rawalpindi's Kachhari Chowk." He implicated the Election Commission of Pakistan, Chief Election Commissioner, and Chief Justice of Pakistan in the rigging, insisting they too should resign. Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chatta acknowledged the harm done to the country, declaring his resignation from both his post and service.

Expressing the pressure he faced from social media and overseas Pakistanis, he revealed a suicide attempt after Fajr prayer. However, he decided to disclose the truth publicly to unburden himself, rather than succumb to an inglorious death. He voiced his anguish over political figures seeking ministerial positions while betraying the nation's interests. Notably, Chatta absolved the Pakistan Army of involvement in the irregularities, instead implicating the Chief Justice, Election Commission, and Chief Election Commissioner.

To be continued



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

Uncovering and understanding Hemophilia in Pakistan

genetic disease that affects the blood's ability to clot, remains a misunderstood and unknown condition in Pakistan. The disease that remains hidden in the shadows, presents significant challenges to those living with it, highlighting the critical need for increased awareness, treatment facilities and support systems within the country.

Prevalence of Hemophilia varies globally. However, it is estimated that 1 in 5,000 to 1 in 10,000 males worldwide is born with hemophilia. In Pakistan, there are 18,000 patients with hemophilia by statistical projection. The registered patients are less than 10% due to reasons such as lack of awareness, diagnostic facilities, and underreporting (Hemophilia foundation Pakistan-https://hemophilia.org.

Hemophilia is a genetically inherited disease, passed down through generations. It is caused by mutations in genes, leading to insufficient or absent blood clot-

Hemophilia prevails in two primary forms in Pakistan-Individuals with Hemophilia A have a deficiency in clotting factor VIII, while those with Hemophilia B lack clotting factor IX. The prevalence of this disease in the country is substantial and poses a battle ing attention to the dire need for and adequate care.

emophilia, a rare increased awareness and improved healthcare facilities that ensure affordable access for quality treat-

Hemophilia is often confused with Thalassemia, as even though both of them are genetic disorders, they affect different components of blood. Hemophilia affects blood clotting, whereas thalassemia affects the production of hemoglobin (protein responsible for carrying oxygen in the blood). Both



require different types of disease management and treatment strat-

Hemophilia requires lifetime treatment and management as there is currently no cure. The treatment basically focuses on preventing and controlling bleeding episodes. Pakistan, like many other developing countries, faces different challenges in its healthcare system, including limited access to specialized services, diagnostic facilities, and treatment options. In such circumstances Hemophilia and other rare diseases face addifor those struggling with it, bring- tional hurdles in terms of timely

Individuals and families coping with hemophilia face extreme challenges associated with the severity of the condition. For individuals suffering from severe hemophilia, frequent and spontaneous bleeding episodes not only go through physical pain and discomfort but also emotional and psychological strain. The constant attention required to prevent injuries, alongside the financial burden of treatment, puts affected individuals and their families into a continuous struggle.

The resilient stories of Hemophilia patients like Shees, Umer, and Ali, aged 1, 4, and 7, respectively-echo the journey shared by a number of hemophilia patients across Pakistan. These young souls go through a number of obstacles, relying on consistent medication, family support, and emergency care access to lead normal, healthy lives. Extensive awareness and accessibility become extremely important for their well-being, providing them the space to explore without limitations and vigilance of their family. The prevailing ignorance, despite hemophilia prevalence delays diagnoses and hinder proper treatment access, in addition to inadequate healthcare infrastructure.

As a way forward, on this Rare Diseases Day and beyond, it is extremely important to advocate, amplify awareness and healthcare resources for individuals like Shees, Umer, and Ali and ensure they receive the empathy and care they rightly deserve.

Reasons and suggestions for declined tourism rate in AJK

Fatima Javed

JK is heaven on Earth, and Allah has blessed this heaven with hilly, towering mountains, lakes, valleys, and waterfalls. Despite its immense tourism resources, AJK has not fully capitalized on its tremendous tourism potential due to various reasons.

There are several factors for the declined tourism rate in AJK. Tourism rate has always fluctuated since the outset. However, tourism had been at its acme during 2017-19. Political instability has played a major role in this regard. One problematic factor is the neighbourhood dispute, from recurrent firing near Neelum Valley road, which results in frequent closure of routes to a series of armed clashes consisting of cross-border airstrikes and exchanges of gunfire between India and Pakistan during different times, such as 26 Feb 2019 at Balakot.

While mentioning reasons for declined tourism in AJK, the Covid-19 Pandemic has also had a detrimental impact on tourism due to lockdowns and travel restrictions. Inadequate infrastructure and lack of connectivity have deterred tourists from visiting many places in AJK. Previous road accidents have instilled fear and hesitation among people about visiting the region's beautiful locations. Addition-

ally, there is a lack of proper tourism ty measures and initiatives to prevent management and guidance, with no dedicated websites or organizations providing information and assistance to tourists, and no proper setup or guidelines for tourists.

Limited service facilities such as guesthouses or restaurants further discourage tourists from visiting AJK. There is no proper tourism training and educational programs to involve local people in tourism promotion as well, which can contribute to improving their attitude towards tourists.

Natural disasters such as heavy rainfall trigger landslides, which disrupt transportation and pose risks to both locals and tourists. Due to unpredictable rainfall and floods, tourists do not visit these beautiful areas to protect themselves from any unforeseen inci-

To enhance tourism in AJK, several steps can be taken: infrastructure development, safety and security, promotion and marketing, diversification of attractions, community involvement, preservation of natural and cultural heritage, government support, and tourism training and education.

Steps should be taken for infrastructure development to improve roads, transportation, accommodation facilities, and basic amenities to make it easier for tourists to visit and explore the region. Ensure a safe environment and become a thriving tourism destifor tourists through effective securi-

any security threats. Launch targeted marketing campaigns domestically and internationally to showcase the unique attractions and experiences

offered in AJK. Travel bloggers/YouTubers should be invited to visit these places and do promotions. Moreover, they can give their points of view, reviews, and suggestions. Develop a diverse range of tourist attractions, including cultural sites, adventure tourism opportunities (such as hiking, mountaineering, and water sports), and eco-tourism initiatives. Involve local communities in tourism development projects to empower them economically and ensure sustainable tourism practices. Preservation of natural culture and heritage implement conservation efforts to preserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of AJK, ensuring that future generations can also enjoy these assets. Government support provides financial incentives, tax breaks, and regulatory support to encourage private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services. Tourism training and education offer training programs for residents to enhance their skills in hospitality, tourism management, and customer service to improve the overall tourist experience. By addressing these areas, AJK can attract more tourists

nation in Pakistan and in the world.

IFRC Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific Calls on PRCS Chairman

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) was honoured to welcome Ms. Juja Kim, Deputy Regional Director Asia-Pacific, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), on her inaugural visit to Pakistan. Kim's visit culminated in a significant meeting with Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari at the PRCS national headquarters, where they discussed strategies to enhance humanitarian efforts and strengthen PRCS's operational

During the meeting, Chairman Laghari extended a warm welcome to Kim, expressing gratitude for IFRC's unwavering support to PRCS. He underscored PRCS's response to the 2022 monsoon floods, which provided assistance to over 2.8 million affected individuals, and emphasised the crucial role of IFRC and ICRC in facilitating PRCS's humanitarian efforts.

Highlighting the ongoing commitment of PRCS teams in the field, Chairman Laghari stressed the importance communities.



of sustained efforts in the recovery phase and appealed for continued support to bridge resource gaps. He specifically requested IFRC's assistance in providing model shelter houses, livelihood opportunities, and ensuring the well-being of the flood affected

In response, Juja Kim appreciated PRCS's humanitarian efforts to help the affected people under the dynamic and forward-thinking leadership of Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari. She and reaffirmed their mutual commitassured IFRC's continuous support to PRCS. Kim outlined forthcoming initiatives such as the Strategic Devel-

opment 2030 of the national society, partnership meetings, and operational planning, as well as support for peer-to-peer support through the IFRC network.

According to Juja Kim, "Climate change is unpredictable now, leading to an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. IFRC is supporting PRCS for climate change adaptation efforts to build the resilience of communities to climate change. In response to the 2022 monsoon floods, IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to provide shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and health support, food rations and cooked meals, and livelihoods for the flood affected communities in Pakistan. We are committed to working hand-in-hand with our host national society (PRCS) for the implementation of the flood recovery plan."

Kim's visit underscored the strong partnership between IFRC and PRCS ment to alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities and enhancing disaster response and recovery efforts.

Of opposition in democracy not just's lander'-Pakistan Muslim League

Marif Chaudhary

BIRMINGHAM: Where there is politics of slander in the opposition or institutions, the economic process slows down, the effects of which are clearly visible in the misery of the country, the nation and the people, and the negative thoughts and actions in the society, Dr. Shaukat said. Ali Sheikh, Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League QA Overseas England, said this while talking exclusively to journalists at a local hotel during his recent visit to Pakistan.

He further said that the misfortune of our country is that the loser often goes to such an extent that he neglects or tramples moral values and relationships and reaches the extent of ruining his own beautiful relationships. He is touched by the drunkenness of the seat of power. He should remember that the eternal chair belongs to the true owner

of Allah Ta'ala Here I want to say that the loser often does not refrain from breaking

the law and is ungrateful for the pleasure of Allah. In a democracy, the rule of law prevails, but in the drunkenness of

the chair, they start to consider themselves above the law, unfortunately, this is their fate. With reference to the recent election, Dr. Shaukat Ali said that for the sake of the wider interest of the country and for the eradication of

poverty, for the sake of the basic economic attainment of the people, they should put their personal interests at the top and get the country out of

In the end, he led the leadership of his party Muslim League-Q, especially Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, Chaudhry Shafe Hussain, Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Bashir Cheema Chaudhry Sarwar Sahib and the respected women candidates of the party who swept into action from Bhadi Aksirit, on victory. On behalf of myself and the party members who are present in large numbers in foreign countries, I offer my best wishes.

Minister Dr. Al-Maliki discusses with his Spanish counterpart the international efforts made to achieve a ceasefire

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki, met with his counterpart, Mr. Jose Manuel Albarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, as part of his meetings on the sidelines of the work of the Human Rights Council, currently held at its 55th

The meeting discussed the movement regarding the possibility of reaching a ceasefire and the international and Arab efforts to achieve that. Al-Maliki briefed his counterpart on the latest developments, the humanitarian catastrophe and the war of genocide against our people, especially in the Gaza Strip and their forced confinement and displacement to the city of Rafah, where more than a million and a half Palestinians gathered..

Dr. touched on Al-Maliki pointed to Israel's crimes in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the invasions of cities, mass murder, and colonial terrorism, and the need for countries to take steps for accountability, including placing settlers on terrorist lists and imposing a system of sanctions on Israel and its officials.

Minister Al-Maliki expressed that the crimes of Netanyahu and his government are the problem and the obstacle to the ceasefire and aggression against our people, and that security cannot come through war, and that security comes through peace, and that Netanyahu and the Israeli governments are not governments of peace, and the international community has duties to end the occupation. Israeli colonialism immediately.

Minister Al-Maliki also referred to the Israeli government's plans during the month of Ramazan and its intentions to deprive our people of their right to worship during the holy month.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also thanked Dr. Al-Maliki, Spain, for its positions and its important participation in the oral arguments at the International Court of Justice, and for all the efforts it is making. Minister Al-Maliki stressed that Palestine will present a set of resolu-

tions, and looks forward to their support. In turn, the Spanish Foreign Minister stressed their positions that are consistent with international law and supportive of the rights of the Palestinian people.

AIOU hold Int'l moot on Research and Practices in Education

ISLAMABAD: A two-day 7th International Conference on Research and Practices in Education with the theme "Transforming Education: Empowering Learning for Life" started yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Chairman, Akhuwat Foundation, Dr. Amjad Saqib was the chief guest at the opening session while Dr. Kiichi Oyasu, from Tokyo Healthcare University, Japan, and Dr. Fatima Rehan Dar from Karachi were the keynote speakers of the inaugural session. A large number of scholars from different universities of Pakistan were present at the session while foreign scholars joined the session online.

Dr. Amjad Saqib said that the beauty of the universe is hidden in knowledge and that knowledge is useless which does not help us to explore hidden things around us. He emphasized the need to expand the canvas of thinking. Dr. Amjad Saqib explained in detail the factors and attributes of knowledge, practice, sincerity and intransigence for research. Dr. Saqib said that making the universe beautiful should be the focus of our research. He stressed the need for collaboration in research and education. Dr. Amjad said that our attention has been drawn towards these sustainable development goals by the Holy Quran and Hadiths.

WaterAid Unveils Key Health Study on WASH in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: WaterAid's latest Health Study, "Determining the Health Cost of Inadequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Pakistan," was unveiled in Islamabad today, marking a significant step towards addressing critical public health challenges.

Led by Dr. Abid Aman Burki from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), the study sheds light on the economic burden of illnesses such as malaria, diarrhea, and typhoid due to inadequate access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. Key findings underscore a staggering household cost of PKR 116.13 billion, with lower-income households bearing the brunt of the burden.

Esteemed guests, including Professor Dr. Meher Taj Roghani, Member of Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations, Pakistan emphasised the urgency of addressing the nexus between health

The insightful panel discussion featured experts such Dr. Masood Jogezai, Technical Consultant, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination; Itsuro Taka-M&E, Health Department, Govt of one of the major cause of morbidity and



Sindh; and Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, mortalities in Pakistan that requires all change's impact on WASH and public Executive Director, SDPI.

Muhammad Fazal, Head of Program Strategy and Policy at WaterAid, hashi, WASH Manager, UNICEF; Dr. emphasised that recent research stud-Shahzeb Mirza, Assistant Director, ies have highlighted that poor WASH is

of us to take collective actions to ensure access to safe WASH for better health and nutrition of people of Pakistan.

Furgan Ahmed, Interim, Country Director of WaterAid Pakistan, emphasized the urgency of addressing climate

health, stating, 'Together, let us continue our collective efforts to prioritise WASH interventions from a health perspective and work towards achieving universal access to sustainable and

Eighteen Signs MOU with Joint Ventures Cell of GHQ for Future Projects

ISLAMABAD: The Defense Housing Authority (DHA) and Eighteen by Elite Estates Pvt. Ltd. (EEPL), a subsidiary of ORA developers which is a renowned international real estate development organization, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering collaboration in the development of properties. The MoU signing ceremony took place between the Joint Ventures Cell of GHQ Rawalpindi, Defense city Karachi and Elite Estates Pvt. Ltd.

Muqeem Ahmed Subhani, Director of Joint Ventures Cell at GHQ, Brigadier Imran Naqvi, Executive Director Business Planning, DHA City Karachi and



The MoU was signed by Brigadier Mr. Tarek Hamdy, CEO of Elite Estates Pvt. Ltd. Brig. Sohail Imtiaz, Administrator DHA Karachi and other kev

officials were also present at the event. The partnership signals a commit-

initiatives for the development of residential cum commercial apartments, shopping malls, golf courses, community clubs, hotels, and entertainment

Brigadier Muqeem Ahmed Subhani, Director of Joint Ventures Cell at GHQ

remarked, " Our shared vision for sustainable development and excellence in real estate will drive positive outcomes for our communities. Through this partnership, we aim to create iconic spaces that enhance the quality of life for residents and contribute to the economic growth of the region."

arenas within DHA, Defense City Kara-

While Commenting this latest devel-

opment, Tarek Hamdy, CEO of Elite

Estates Pvt. Ltd., stated, "We are excited

about the opportunities that this MoU

brings forth. We are committed to lever-

aging its expertise in real estate develop-

ment to deliver projects of the highest

standards by joining forces with DHA.

chi and Askari Housings.

British Trade Delegation Visits Pakistan to Bolster Bilateral Trade

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of 15 UK business representatives is visiting Pakistan to build links in the textiles, agrifood, handicrafts and home decoration sectors.

The delegation, led by the Presidents of the Birmingham, West and North Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce, and the Asian Chamber of Commerce, will meet members of chambers of commerce in Karachi, Lahore, and Sialkot.

The mission is organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC)

and funded by the UK Government. Delegates will also travel to the "We Exhibit" trade fair-a trade-expo of women-led businesses in Sialkot which is funded by the UK Government. The delegation will be in Pakistan until 03

British Deputy High Commissioner and Director of Trade Pakistan, Sarah Mooney, said:

Trade between the UK and Pakistan is already growing at an impressive rate. This delegation clearly shows the interest in growing that, and the opportunities that lie ahead for

increased trade and investment. The UK will continue to work with the Government of Pakistan, supporting changes that make trade fairer and easier for

Delegates will gain insights into Pakistan's business environment, and specific market requirements for importing from Pakistan. The mission will establish direct contacts between UK companies and potential suppliers in Pakistan, enhancing awareness of the vast business linkages possible

between the two countries. ITC will also launch an export

readiness handbook and two export guides to help access the UK market, available in both English and Urdu, to support Pakistani exporters in understanding UK market guidelines.

The UK is Pakistan's third-largest trade partner, with total trade being £4.3 billion, and the third biggest source of foreign direct investment. The UK's Development Countries Trading Scheme has opened up new avenues of trade between the UK and Pakistan by reducing tariffs and simplifying trade terms for 94% of Pakistani exports.



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
63,703.44	63,219.09		
Day's High	Day's Low		
63,929.57	63,042.14		
Index Value	Change		
11,514,378,328	+484.35		
Percentage	Time		
+0.77%	28 Feb, 2024 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
7,624.98	-58.04		
Percentage	Time		
-0.76%	28 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
38,859.26	-113.15		
Percentage	Time		
-0.29%	28 Feb, 1:11 pm GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
39,208.03	-31.49		

Open Market Forex Rates

Percentage

-0.080%

Time

28 Feb, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181	183
Bahrain Dinar	743.11	751.11
Canadian Dollar	207	209.2
China Yuan	38.82	39.22
Danish Krone	40.69	41.09
Euro	303	306
Hong Kong Dollar	35.7	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	907.32	916.32
Malaysian Ringgit	58.49	59.09
NewZealand \$	173.05	175.05
Norwegians Krone	26.36	26.66
Omani Riyal	725.68	733.68
Qatari Riyal	76.74	77.44
Saudi Riyal	74.3	75.1
Singapore Dollar	207	209
Swedish Korona	27.04	27.34
Swiss Franc	317.76	320.26
Thai Bhat	7.76	7.91
U.A.E Dirham	76	76.7
UK Pound Sterling	352	355.5
US Dollar	279.2	282.1

CBD Punjab Showcases Grand Souk Lahore at the Dubai International Property Show 2024

LAHORE: The Dubai International Property Show 2024 witnessed the participation of CBD Punjab as they showcased their flagship project, Grand Souk Lahore, to property investors from around the

CBP Punjab seized the opportunity to acquaint investors worldwide with Grand Souk Lahore, garnering significant interest from property investors attending IPS Dubai. While expressing his views COO CBD Punjab Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua said, "CBD Punjab's projects have received acclaim from the international business community. We are hopeful that international investments will pave new paths for progress."

Investors highlighted the potential economic impact of projects like Grand Souk Lahore and Axis Punjab, particularly in transforming Lahore's economic landscape positively.

Youth are nation's future but overlooked: Mian Zahid Hussain

Example 2 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that it appears that the opposition is not ready to play a positive role.

It will be good if a person holding a constitutional position avoids negative actions in politics for the sake of the interests of a political party.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the new government should be allowed to work as it will be difficult for the government to manage the opposition or the economy at the same time.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that it seems that the opposition is not ready to play a positive role in the national interest and that it wants

to see the country in a political and econom-

He said that a letter to the IMF was an attempt in the said direction, while not calling the meeting of the National Assembly by the President is also equivalent to not accepting the system.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the new government should be allowed to work and unnecessary obstacles should not be created; otherwise, how will the affairs of the IMF move forward and how will the economic situation improve?

The business leader said that international institutions and friendly countries are fed up with giving loans to Pakistan, and we have no other option but to become self-reliant.

Now the practices and policies of the past will not work, and the matter will have to be looked at in the commercial sphere. Doling out incentives worth billions of rupees to some



groups should be stopped, and the policy of putting the entire burden of running the country on the people has to be ended.

The poor could not be squeezed further, as

it would result in massive unrest and lawlessness in the country. Crimes and corruption have increased to the extent that no one's life, property, or capital is safe.

He said that all over the world, youth are considered the future of the country, but our future has no opportunity.

There is no employment for the youth, so they are trapped by terrorists, robbers, drug dealers, separatists, and failed politicians, which is a big threat to the future of the country. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that currently, more than 25 million children are not going to school in the country, while those going to school are wasting their time in the name of education.

In these circumstances, those who keep the government away from the reforms by entangling them in unnecessary matters are doing a disservice to their petty interests, which must be avoided.

Utilize the full potential of the mining sector for economic growth: Atif ikram sheik president FPCCI

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Atif Ikram Sheik said Pakistan's mineral sector, valued in billions of dollars. Himalayan pink salt was the identity of Pakistan all over the world and its export in international markets will be a welcome sign. He was talking to a delegation of Miracle Salt Collective Inc which called on Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI & Mr. Karim Aziz Malik Chairman FPCCI Capital Office, Mr. Ch Naseer Chairman Building Association Islamabad is also present on this occasion.

During the meeting the President FPCCI Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh hoped that the salt export from the country would increase after the signing of a joint venture between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) and Miracle Salt and it will also further strengthen the trade ties with the US. "This joint venture is a manifestation of the fact that Pakistan has the most suitable destination for foreign investment. "The scope of our endeavors should go beyond the pink rock salt project. We should utilize the full potential of the mining sector to become a new driver of salt mines in Jhelum is the second larg-Pakistan's economic growth." he added. est salt mine in the world but Pakistan is

kram Sheikh President of FPCCI request-

ed the Government to impose a minimum price on export Salt and also put a ban on Salt Raw Stone to export. should be added value-added for export to protect local industry and make employment.

Mr. Karim Aziz Malik Chairman FPCCI Capital Office said that Pakistan possesses one of the world's largest salt deposits stretching over 350 km area lying between Jhelum and Kohat districts and the Khewra, Kala Bagh area (KP & Punjab) Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI Atif remained on 20th place in the list of salt exporting countrie

On the occasion, the President of Miracle Salt Collective Inc. USA Mr. Ahmed Khan who is a non-resident Pakistani told the President FPCCI Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that after the formation of the company in Pakistan, it will be listed on major stock exchanges around the world, which will benefit the government of Pakistan and local investors.

Mr. Ahmed Khan also apprised the President FPCCI about the plan of action prepared regarding economic improvement, education and health, and employment provision of the local population in the salt mining areas.

Energy experts laud KE's renewable expansion plan by 2030

organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Tuesday, titled 'Emerging trends in Pakistan's renewable energy sector: charting the agenda for 2030 and beyond, energy experts commended K-Electric for its strategic plan to incorporate 1,182 MW of renewable energy into its grid by FY30. This initiative is a significant part of K-Electric's broader efforts to enhance its generation capabilities, in line with the national Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) aimed at fostering sustainable and optimal growth in power generation.

During the event, Sadia Dada, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at K-Electric, provided a use of green energy sourcseven years.

Abubakar Ismail, Head of Energy & Sustainability ISLAMABAD: At a webinar at Amreli Steels Limited, contributed to the discussion by emphasizing the increasing interest among industries in solar, wind, and biomass energy sources. Despite the enthusiasm, he noted the significant investment challenges posed by the prevailing economic

> Dr. Khalid Walid-Research Fellow at SDPI also endorsed Sadia Dada's point of view and said "K-Electric is going for sustainable initiatives and the company wants to invest in these practices which is a right direction."

> Dr. Irfan Ahmed – Energy Consultant added that renewable energy projects were 'front-loaded' and required heavy investments in the first two years.

In his speech Fozan detailed overview of the Waheed highlighted the utility's Investment Plan, risks that abrupt reducalready submitted to the tions in wind power projects regulatory authority. The pose to the grid, increasing plan outlines K-Electric's the likelihood of blackouts. commitment to reducing its He pointed out that, as an reliance on imported fuels example of commitment to 51% while boosting its to energy security, China invests as much as USD 75 es to 49% within the next billion in its grid infrastruc-

Multan Chambers strongly condemn to govt increased Rs 7.52 per unit for fuel adjustment in electric bills

MULTAN: President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Mian Rashid Iqbal has strongly condemned the decision of Nepra to allow an increase of Rs 7.0562 per kilowatt in the fuel charges adjustment for January 2024, which is not acceptable under any circumstances. Because it will not only increase the business cost but also the common manDifficulties will also increase who are barely trying to make ends meet in the current era of inflation.

Mian Rashid Iqbal said that it is very unfair to allow an additional amount of Rs 7.0562 per unit Of Electric Bills from all categories of consumers for January 2024 on account of fuel charges have already paid so NEPRA one of the March 2024 bills.

Under a separate head, the change in fuel charges has been directed from January 2024, which will not only affect



the budget of almost all households, but also increase the expenses for the month of March for all types of manufacturing units across the country. will go

The business community is already

struggling to survive due to cost overruns as Pakistani goods have become uncompetitive in international markets and unaffordable for the common man. Demanding to take notice said that the regulator is fearless and Tariffs are being mercilessly hiked regardless of the impact their actions will have on the economy, trade and industry and the lives of the poor people as they find it impossible to pay the heavy electricity bills. Done.

He further said that the revolving credit has continuously increased to over Rs 5.73 trillion only due to the fact that no real efforts are being made to deal with pilferage and line losses.

Trying to stop the increase which is not a wise move because of the huge bill countryHe appealed to the government to stop Nepra from taking such anti-people and anti-business decisions that have brought businesses to the brink of collapse. And has put the poor people in danger.

PSX turns bullish, gains 484 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 484.35 points, a positive change of 0.77 percent, closing at 63,703.45 points against 63,219.10 points the previous trading day

A total of 461,390,885 shares valuing Rs 16.000 billion were traded during the day as compared to 409,962,895 shares valuing Rs14.675 billion the last day.

Some 355 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 180 of them recorded gains and 149 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 26 remained unchanged. The three top trading compa-

nies were Cnergyico PK with 62,181,107 shares at Rs4.39 per share, K-Electric Limited with 45,494,078 shares at Rs 4.79 per share, and Hascol Petrol with 30,485,000 shares at Rs 7.98 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 655.00 per share price, closing at Rs 21.800.00, whereas the runner-up was Premier Sugar Mills with a Rs 33.75 rise in its per share price to Rs 483.75. Pakistan Services Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 50.00 per share closing at Rs 740.00, followed by Bata Pakistan Limited with Rs 25.00 decline to close at

ICCI demands ease of doing business for the retail sector

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Saqib Raza Aslam, Commissioner Malakand lauded the D. Watson Group for opening its new superstore in Swat and hoped that it would provide a good shopping experience to the consumers, create jobs in the area, and make a useful contribution to the local economy. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest the grand opening ceremony of D. Watson Superstore in Swat.

Commissioner Malakand said that Swat is a very friendly trading center and the people of the area warmly welcome the tourists. He said that the opening of D. Watson Super Store will not only be beneficial to the consumers of the area, but it would also provide a good shopping experience to the tourists. He said that the Malakand administration has always supported investors and it would also fully cooperate with D. Watson Group in promoting business activ-

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islama-

bad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) his business and added that the opening of D. said that the retail sector is the third largest sector of the economy after agriculture and manufacturing, contributing 20 percent to the GDP and the second highest employer of the labor force, but is facing many challenges. He stressed that the government should promote ease of doing business for the retail sector to facilitate its better growth and revive the economy.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Chairman, D. Watson Group said that D. Watson is already running its chain of stores in Islamabad and Punjab and the opening of its superstore in Swat is another great step towards its journey of growth and expansion. He said that D. Watson is providing quality products to its customers and hoped that its opening in Swat would start a new trend of quality shopping experience for the consumers of the area.

Waqar Bakhtawari, President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and host of D. Watson Superstore Swat said that providing great shopping experiences to customers is a priority of

Watson branch in Swat would prove to be a great gift to the people of the area.

Abdul Rahim, President, Swat Traders Federation said that the opening of D. Watson Superstore in Swat is a positive development and assured that the traders of Swat would fully cooperate with its management.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI, Ahmed Khan Group Leader Swat Chamber of Commerce, Abdul Raheem President Swat Traders Federation, Zahid Khan President Swat Hotels Association, Zahid Maqbool former President ICCI, Khawaja Arif and others also spoke on the occasion and congratulated D. Watson Group for opening its store in Swat.

Rahat Ali Khan President Swat Chamber of Commerce, former Presidents Swat Chamber of Commerce Ahmed Khan, Adnan Ali, Yousaf Ali, FPCCI Coordinator for KP Akbar Khan, Bakhti Karam, Khalid Khan, Ali Muhammad, Ali Sher Mian, M. Usman, Raja Muhammad



Imtiaz, Ameer Hamza, Khalid Chaudhry, Asad Aziz, Mehboob Ahmad Khan, Irfan Choudhry, Raja Fiyaz Gull, Zahid Qurashi, Nasir Choudhry, others were present on the occasion.

Saif ur Rehman Khan, Baber Choudhry, Yousaf Rajput, Zareef Ahmed Khan, Nadeem Malik and

10th J. A. Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship stands concluded

👺 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The competitive golfing activity in the allied events of 10th J. A. Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship stands concluded and from Thursday it will be a testing time for 100 top golf professionals of the country who have assembled at the historic Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course from all golf courses of the country for a grand show of their golfing expertise.

Some of the contenders like Shabbir Iqbal, Muhammed Matloob, Hamza Amin and Ahmed Baig are heralded and rated highly and predictions, assessments and statistics seems to favour them, as they tee off on Thursday, at the par-72 Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course.

As for the concluded segments like Senior Professionals Event and Junior Professionals, visible was ample rivalry amongst the top contenders and in particular in the senior professionals race it was Muhammed Tariq



and 72 and an aggregate of 143, one had to settle for a position behind M. under par.

Runner up position was achieved by Zulfiqar Masih of Lahore Gymkha-(Islamabad)who surfaced as the prime na who made a monumental effort to

performer with two rounds scores of 71 overshadow the victor, but in the end

Zulfiqar was beaten by one stroke and the loss was attributable to the last putt which ended up at the edge of the

hole without falling in. His scores for the two rounds were 73 and 71 and a total of 144 as against 143 compiled by M. Tariq.

Other notable performers of Senior Professional Section were Irfan Mehmood (Rawalpindi), Muhammed Akram and Muhammed Javed of Gymkhana. Irfan had a score of 146, while Muhammed Akram and M. Javed were bracketed at a score of 149. Those contenders who ended up at a score 150 were Abdul Hamid (Islamabad) and Aurangzeb Khan (Karachi).

Results of Junior Professionals Section; Ashaas Amjad (Airmen Golf Club) came first; M. Sahil (Peshawar) second; Umer Shahzad (Kharian) third; Rehan Babar (Garrison) fourth;

The grand golfing show of 10th J. A. Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship carrying a prize money of Rs 7.5 million tees off from Thursday at the majestic Lahore Gymkhana Golf

Second RUMANZA Open Prize Distribution Ceremony

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Second RUMANZA Open Golf Championship extended over Seven days of classy golf playing activity from 19th to 25th February 2024 at the most engaging Sir Nick Faldo designed first signature golf course of Pakistan, the RUMANZA Golf & Country Club. With striking attributes like, 340 acres spread, three zones,(desert, wetland and the woodland zone), this golf course has captivated the locals as well as yearning ones from major golf centers of the country, like Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Peshawar and foreign visitors to Multan including the golf playing English Cricketers. No doubt its lush green meadows, fruit filled orchards, classy fairways and 72 Eco Bunkers enthrall and dazzle the earnest, ardent and diligent ones who travel to RUMANZA Golf Club for rounds of golf that leave unfading impressions on their golf related experience.

Historically the city of Multar

center with links to 200 top golf cours-

The 2nd RUMANZA Open Golf Championship emerged as a history creating championship for this Sir Nick Faldo designed golf course of the country in this 2nd Edition 5 international golf professional appearance like Hamza Amin, Luke Joy, Timon Baltl, Florian Praegant and Bernard Neumayer from Austria and UK, they appreciated the RUMANZA Golf & Country Club is the best course of Pakistan. Through this grand championship RUMANZA played and host 350 national and international golfers, in different categories like lady golfers, veterans above 70 years of age, senior amateurs fifty five years and above, senior professionals, junior professionals 20 years and below, merited amateurs with handicap of nine and below and the 114 super golf professionalswho were loaded with motivation about competing at this magnificent and technically demanding 18 holes golf added to all this is illustrious notewor- covered romance, urge to excel, magnif- and Matloob Ahmed.

thiness as an international golf playing icence, aesthetic design, nature, zealous challenge and ardent ness. A few more features that augmented RUMANZA were GEO Certification, making it the first golf course in South Asia to achieve this and also significant were outstanding novelties linked to the golf course like, signature design, development by renowned international architects, worldwide golfing affiliations, plus the eco bunkers and a comprehensive golf lighting system in place. From the financial angle the huge attraction for eligible golf professionals was the cash laden purse of Rupees twelve Million and an alluring 2 cars(Honda Civic and Changhan Alsvin) for a hole in one and 3 Motorcycles for best junior and amateurs Players.

Spectacular effects were resisted and he cruised home to ultimate victory in unruffled style. Along the way his Director DHAM Brigadier Ahmad drills eased many a putt and at critical Rizwan Ghumman appreciate all the points he was seen taking water refills winners for their outstanding perforto steady his nerves. This huge effort mances, highlighting the event's success made him the RUMANZA model in and significance in promoting golfing known as a major cultural and econom- course. Additionally all of them felt spell and Pakistan established champions make this place for tourist attraction ic center of Southern Punjab and now bound by the name RUMANZA that like Shabbir Iqbal, Muhammed Munir and this will be the best place for golf-

In his post victory comments, Ahmed Baig stated that the playing arena, the RUMANZA Golf Course with course length extended to 7533 yards was an exacting examination for competing golf professionals that required meticulous shot placing accuracy due to the demanding fairways. The infrastructure was certainly top class and the organizing team at RUMANZA Golf and Country Club Fayyaz Ahmed Khan Sial (Secy RUMANZA), Asif Masood (Director RUMANZA), the Tournament Director Salman Abbassi, whole RUMANZA team deserve all the credit for holding this grand 2nd RUMAN-ZA Open Golf Championship which has enabled youngsters like Minhaj Magsood, Muhammed Shahzad, Salman Jehangir, Saad Habib Malik, Qasim Ali Khan, Chief Guest Project the presence of international golfers excellence in Pakistan. He said we will ing and leisure activities.

Munro, bowlers lift Islamabad United to beat Karachi Kings

82 after a combined bowling effort led Islamabad United to beat Karachi Kings by seven wickets in the 15th match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9 here at National Bank Stadium on Wednesday.

Chasing 166, openers Munro and Alex Hales gave United a flying start to the

pursuit with a century-plus partnership. The left-handed batter dominated the match-defining stand while Hales played an anchoring knock which lasted in the 12th over, bowled by Hasan Ali.

Hales struck seven boundaries on his way to a 35-ball 47.

Meanwhile, Colin Munro stood his ground firm and carried his bat till the 15th over before falling victim to Mohammad Nawaz.

He remained the top-scorer for the

KARACHI: Colin Munro's quickfire United with a 47-ball 82 with the help of Pollard and Irfan. eight boundaries and four sixes.

The United then lost another wicket in the pursuit when Tabraiz Shamsi struck in the next over to send Imad Wasim (0)

The back-to-back dismissals halted the flow of runs for the United but skipper Shadab Khan and Salman Ali Agha batted sensibly amid their unbeaten 30-run partnership and steered the two-time champions to an important victory.

Shadab scored a cautious 10 off 11 deliveries while Agha made a 17-ball 25 with the help of two sixes.

For the Kings, Nawaz, Shamsi and Hasan struck out a batter apiece.

Put into bat first, the Kings registered 165/5 on the board, courtesy of an unbeaten sixth-wicket partnership between

The hosts had an unwanted start to their innings as Imad Wasim dismissed Tim Seifert (8) in the third over with just 17 runs on the board.

Following the early debacle, skipper Shan Masood was joined by Leus du Plooy and the pair briefly bolstered the total.

They added a brisk 40 runs in just five overs before Salman Ali Agha cleaned up du Plooy in the eighth over. He scored 24 off just 15 deliveries with the help of four boundaries.

Kings' captain Masood attempted to anchor the innings before falling victim to Hunain Shah in the 10th over after scoring 27 off 30 deliveries, laced up with three boundaries.

in quick succession with Shoaib Malik and each.

Mohammad Nawaz, six each, perishing cheaply and bringing the hosts down to 89/5 in 13.1 overs.

With half of the batters back into the dugout, Kieron Pollard joined forces with Mohammad Irfan Khan and put together a gutsy partnership.

Their unbeaten stand yielded 76 runs and lifted Karachi Kings to breach the 160-run barrier.

Pollard, the core aggressor of the sixth-wicket stand, top-scored for the Kings with an unbeaten 28-ball 48 which featured two boundaries and a six.

Irfan, on the other hand, played a supportive role with 27 not out off 22 deliveries, hitting four boundaries.

For the United, Imad, Naseem Shah, The Kings then lost two more wickets Agha and Hunain Shah made one scalp

HEC Inter-Varsity Boys Tug of War Championship begins in City

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The High-Inter-Varsity Boys Tug of War mia College University Pesha-Sports Islamia College University Peshawar and former firstclass cricketer Ali Hoti, teach-Committee Muhammad Akram mad, officials, players and a large number of spectators were present on the occasion.

with the March Past, where all the participating teams paraded er Education Commission by. This was followed by a recitation of the Holy Quran by Qari Championship began at Isla- Zohail from Superior University mia College University Pesha- and the singing of the National war, with the participation of Anthem. Speaking on the occathe top 12 teams from across the sion, Dr. Gul Majeed announced country. Vice Chancellor of Isla- the championship opening and praised 12 University teams for war Professor Dr. Gul Majeed taking part in the champion-Khan formally inaugurated the ship. He stated that the soft Championship whereas Director image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be portrayed through the championship. He said Islamia College University Peshawar has ing staff, Chairman Technical been playing a key role in both academics and sports. He said Gujjar, President KP Tug of Islamia College produced world-War Association Taj Muham- class hockey Olympians, cricketers, and other international players. He said the management of the university is giving impor-

The colorful ceremony began tance to healthy sports activities as a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. He said there is no dearth of talent in Pakistan but needs a proper platform to come and exhibit. Dr. Gul Majeed said sports play a vital role in students' development along with promoting mental and physical health. Participating in athletics helps students build skills, gain experience, and develop confidence and character, he added. He stated that sports improve

cardiovascular health, promote healthy growth of bones. muscles, ligaments, enhance coordination and balance. He said sports allow greater physical relaxation and, consequently, help avoid complications from chronic muscle tension. He said, sports also help in devel-



oping discipline, dedication, and sity of Swabi by 2-1, Supericommitment, which are essen- or University got a walk-over tial values for success in life. It is also a great way for people to socialize and make new friends, he said. Earlier, on the opening day, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan defeated the Univer-Peshawar by 2-0.

against Fast Islamabad, Agri University Faisalabad defeated UET Taxila by 2-0, University of Management and Technology Lahore beat the University of

Auction

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Renowned host Noorul Hassan put to auction the famous bat used by cricketer Naseem Shah to hit two back-toback sixes to secure a memorable victory in the Asia Cup match against Afghanistan. Shahid Afridi and CEO of Green Crescent Zahid Saeed Trust were also seen on the occasion. This and other sports memorabilia were auctioned to fund the joint education drive of GCT and the Shahid Afridi Foundation.

Multan Sultans arrive in Karachi for PSL 9 matches

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Multan Sultans have touched down in Karachi to resume their campaign in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season

The team, Multan Sultans franchise, has arrived in Karachi to play their remaining matches of HBL



Their upcoming clash is scheduled against Karachi Kings on March 3. Multan Sultans made their journey from Lahore to Karachi via a commercial flight.

Muhammad Amir highlights importance of PSL, player welfare

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Fast bowler Muhammad Amir expressed his satisfaction with his stint with the Quetta Gladiators in the ongoing Paki-

stan Super League (PSL) Nine. In a recent media interaction at the National Bank Stadium, reflecting on his priorities, Amir underscored his current focus on the PSL, emphasizing that thoughts about a return to the national team are on hold for now.

Speaking candidly, Amir stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to player selection, advocating for a consideration of overall performance rather than solely relying on PSL achievements.

He commended the team's diligent preparation, affirming his

commitment to delivering his best on the field. Addressing the physical demands of cricket, Amir acknowledged the inevitability of player fatigue and advocated for investment in sports science to rejuvenate players.

He praised Sarfaraz Ahmed's leadership tenure with Quetta over the past eight years, highlighting the ongoing consultation with him on team matters.

Amir also lauded his rapport with Babar Azam, citing Azam's recent stellar performances. He suggested that replicating such form for the national team would be advantageous.

Looking ahead, Amir emphasized the necessity for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to devise a rotation policy to mitigate the workload on fast bowlers and prevent injuries.

National Kabaddi C'ship kicks off



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A total of seven matches were decided on the opening day of Sarsabz 43rd National Kabaddi Championship here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday. The 5-day championship was inaugurated by Secretary General, Pakistan Kabaddi Federation, Muhammad Sarwar Rana who is also the Secretary, World Kabaddi Federation.

In the matches played, Wapda beat POF Wah by 34-16 points; Higher Education Commission (HEC) outplayed Islamabad by 31-11 points; Pakistan Air Force (PAF) defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 36-19 points; Pakistan Army downed Sindh by 14-25 points; Police was victorious over Gilgit Baltistan by 12-26 points and POF Wah edged Balochistan by 8-25 points. Meanwhile KP and Punjab got a walkover against Railway and Sindh, respectively. The fixtures for Thursday include Pakistan Police vs Islamabad, HEC vs Gilgit Baltistan, Army vs Punjab, PAF vs Railway, Balochistan vs Wapda, Police Vs HEC and Islamabad vs GB.

PTF's National Training Centre achieves ITF White Recognition Status

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) said on Wednesday that its National Training Centre (NTC) in Islamabad had been officially recognized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) at the White Level. The ITF recognition comes after a thorough review of the facility based on established criteria and standards set by the ITF, said a press release.

The PTF NTC, which was inaugurated in 2019 and serves as the national tennis academy, has met all the necessary criteria to attain the prestigious ITF White Recognition status. This recognition signifies that the NTC in Islamabad meets the quality standards set by the ITF for tennis training centres worldwide. Executive Director of Development at the ITF, Luca Santilli, congratulated the PTF on achieving this milestone and formally recognized the Pakistan National Training Centre at the White level for four years, starting from the 27th

February 2024 until 26th February 2028. President of PTF, Aisam ul Haq Qureshi, and former President Salim Saifullah Khan expressed their gratitude to the ITF and Santilli for acknowledging the PTF's NTC. They also commended Head Coach NTC Asim Shafik, National Development Director, and the entire NTC team for their efforts in planning and implementing the programme as well as all the coaches and players associated with the NTC. Qureshi further emphasised the importance of expanding the NTC and improving the programme to benefit even more players in the future. The achievement of the ITF White recognition status is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the PTF in developing tennis talent in Pakistan.

The Spokesman

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: A view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Yadgar-e-Dastur and Bagh-e-Dastur 1st of their kind to reflect history and soul of constitution says NA Speaker

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: er National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that Constitution would continue to be a guiding document for Yadgar-e- Dastur (Constitugenerations to come to lead tion Monument) and Bagh-ethe country on path of devel- Dastur in front of parliament opment and progress. He lodges Islamabad undersaid, "it is constitution which creates strong link between ing commitment to democ-

monument would continue to remind about significance and sanctity of constitution. He expressed these views while inaugurating the scoring Pakistan's unwaver-

the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf also said that country's progress and development is interlinked

e-Dastur are 1st of their kind in constitutional and political history of Pakistan. Standing with the injunctions of Islam.

embodies the sanctity of the Constitution of 1973, with its towering plaques bearing the Preamble and fundamental

The Islamic motif framwith adhering to constitution. ing the constitution reminds Yadgar-e-Dastur and Bagh- of Article 227, binding that all existing laws shall be brought into conformity state and People." He also racy and steadfast adherence tall at the heart of nation, the As the national flag waves

said that this constitution to the principles enshrined in Yadgar-e-Dastur monument high, symbolizing a constant reminder of every citizen's solemn duty to uphold loyalty and obedience to the constitution and the law, a fountain nearby represents the balance of power. Amidst lush greenery, each tree planted in bagh-e-Dastur signifies an article of the constitution, while the parliament, at the center, echoes its pivotal role

Al-Shifa Trust annually saves 1500 premature babies from blindness

RAWALPINDI: The majority of premature newborns born weighing less than 1.5 kg are at a higher risk of developing retinal blood vessel disorganisation, which can result in visual issues, including lifelong blindness.

The development of the baby's eyes is one of the numerous challenges faced in those first few vulnerable weeks by prematurely born babies that are born before 266 days, according to Dr. Wajid Ali Khan, chief of medical services at Al-Shifa Trust Eve Hospital.

He told media representatives that the issue can be fixed with screening and surgery to help prevent major vision issues in children in the future.

ECP appoints

Commission of Pakistan, will super-

vise polling in the Provincial Assem-

bly of Punjab, located in Lahore. The

Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court

will supervise the Presidential Elec-

tions in the Provincial Assembly of

Sindh, situated in Karachi. Similar-

ly, the Chief Justice of the Peshawar

High Court will supervise the polls

war. Finally, the Chief Justice of the

Balochistan High Court will conduct

cial Assembly in Quetta. According to

the notification Chief Justice Islam-

abad High Court will supervise elec-

tions in Senate and National Assem-

bly, Islamabad. Member Election

Commission-I, Election Commis-

Lahore. Chief Justice, Sindh High

Elections in the Provincial Assem-

bly of Sindh, Karachi. Chief Justice

vise polls in the Provincial Assembly

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.

Chief Justice Balochistan High Court

will conduct the presidential polls in

the Provincial Assembly, Quetta.

Peshawar High Court will super-

Court will supervise Presidential

sion of Pakistan will oversee polling

in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab,

the presidential polls in the Provin-

Pakhtunkhwa, located in Pesha-

in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber

Continued from Page 1



He explained that an infant's eye development may be affected if delivered prematurely. The retina's blood months after conception and finish at the time of a normal

The smallest and sickest are most at risk of developing Retinopathy of Prematurity

(ROP), which is the prima- in Pakistan, over 900,000 kids ry cause of paediatric retinal

blindness, he said. This is because using extra oxygen to treat premature newborns in hospitals promotes aberrant vascular growth in the eyes, and research indicates that the rate of advanced retinopathy can be lowered by maintaining a lower oxygen saturation level.

He stressed that to ensure that their premature infant receives the ongoing care of an ophthalmologist due to their increased risk of developing amblyopia, eye misalignvessels start to expand three ment, and the need for glasses to develop normal vision, parents should incorporate a vision screening into their schedule between the ages of

six and twelve months. According to him, every year

are delivered prematurely, and 80 percent of them have vision

Over 40 highly skilled eye surgeons, including some of the most experienced eye specialists in the paediatric department, work at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi. With the hospital's current expansion, the paediatric department can now care for more than 500

informed. According to Dr. Wajid Ali Khan, we have MoUs with the administrations of the Benazir Bhutto, Combined Military, and Fuji Foundation hospitals. Under these agreements, we will provide all medical services, including screening and surgery, for newborns born

OPD newborns per day, he

at these hospitals and transportation.

He said that Al-Shifa is one of the few hospitals in the world and the only one in the SAARC region with the most up-to-date equipment and trained medical professionals to treat newborns with ROP.

Since March 2013, Al-Shifa has screened and treated newborns, focusing on those under seven months old. In the past ten years, the trust has successfully treated almost 15,000 babies.

He asserted that as awareness rises, the number will inevitably rise, and he said that with the use of teleophthalmology, we are offering free consultation to all stateowned and private health facilities, including those located

Hamas urges Palestinians to march to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Ramazan

Reuters

GAZA: Hamas urged Palestinians on Wednesday to march to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque at the start of stakes in negotiations for a truce in security needs, setting the stage for has said any deal with Hamas would Gaza, which U.S. President Joe

Biden hopes will be in place by The call by Hamas lead-

er Ismail Haniyeh followed comments by Biden, broadcast on Tuesday, that there was an agreement in principle for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas during Ramazan, while hostages held by the militants are released.

Biden said he hoped such an agreement, which a source said would also allow more aid into the stricken Palestinian enclave and bring the release of Palestinians prisoners, could be finalised by March 4. The Muslim holy month of Ramazan is expected to begin on the evening of March 10. Both Israel and Hamas have played

down the prospects for a truce and end Israeli attacks on Palestinian terri-Qatari mediators have said the most contentious issues are still unresolved.

Ramazan prayers at Jerusalem's Al-Aq-Ramazan next month, raising the sa Mosque but set limits according to was ready to continue fighting. Israel



possible clashes if crowds of Palestinians turn up and Gaza violence is still

'This is a call on our people in Jerusalem and the West Bank to march to Al-Agsa since the first day of Ramazan," said Haniyeh, who described Hamas's Oct. 7 rampage into Israel as a move to by Hamas.

In a televised speech, he said Hamas

Israel said on Monday it would allow was showing flexibility in negotiations with Israel but at the same time require the group to drop

"outlandish demands".

Hamas is weighing a proposal, agreed by Israel at talks with mediators in Paris last week, for a 40-day ceasefire, which would be the first extended truce of the fivemonth-old war. Both sides have delegations in Qatar this week hammering out

A senior source close to the talks said Israeli troops would pull out of populated areas under the agreement. But it did not appear to meet Hamas's demand for a permanent end to the war and Israeli withdrawal, or resolve the fate of fighting-age Israeli men among those being held

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PM Kakar appears before IHC in compliance of court orders

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday appeared before the Islamabad High Court in compliance of the court orders in the case of Baloch missing persons.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case pertaining to the missing students. Caretaker Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz Khan and Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan were also present on the occasion.

During the court proceedings, PM Kakar said the government was working in line with the constitution and

"Being from Balochistan, I have more knowledge about the situation where people face armed resistance in the province," he said.

The caretaker PM said the activities of non-state elements were reported in Balochistan, and added a former Chief Justice of Balochistan, who was heading an inquiry, was martyred by militants.

Balochistan, he said, had been authorities needed to be put on record.



facing terrorism for two decades and stressed that the issue needed to be addressed

"All political parties should come together and find a solution to this issue," he said.

Kakar said the Constitution assures the security of all citizens and in return binds them for demonstrating an unconditional loyalty towards the State.

Justice Kayani remarked that the court in two years held several hearings in the case of missing persons and pointed out that the arrests by the

PTI Spokesperson demands immediate release of all prisoners

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) stressed the need for restoring the constitution in its true sense and upholding rule of law by putting a halt on the ongoing series of reign of terror and releasing all unlawful incarcerated PTI's workers and leaders including its Founding Chairman Imran Khan forthwith.

PTI Spokesperson expressed its alarm over the unabated state coercive measures and open violation of the constitution and law in the coun-

He demanded that the public mandate must be respected and the political party having clear majority in the center should be allowed to rule the country instead of re-imposing the people rejected PDM-2

into the mire if the clique of certified of fair trial. criminals were imposed on the nation once again.

He said that the unstoppable series of massacres of the constitution and democracy in the country started from the regime change conspiracy to mandate theft completely exposed the already rotten system of the coun-

PTI Spokesperson recalled that all kinds of unconstitutional, immoral used during the past two years to deprive the people of their right to freedom of expression and right to

He stated that gravity of situation could be judged from the fact that the Founding Chairman of the largest and most popular political party of the country and former Prime Minister Imran Khan was given unconstitutional and illegal punishments in fake, frivolous and politically-motivated cases.

PTI Spokesman continued that the extra-constitutional and legal measures started against PTI on May 9 were further intensified even after the public clear and unequivocal decision in support of the PTI and people beloved leader Imran Khan on February 8.

He highlighted that over 10,000 in sheer violation of the constitution PTI's workers and leaders including women workers were still languish-PTI Spokesperson warned that ing in jails, who were completely he country would be plunged deep deprived of their fundamental right

PTI Spokesperson stated that after the failure of all high fascist and brutal tactics to dampen the courage of PTI Founding Chairman, his veiled and virtuous wife was being targeted by the state, who was unjustly imprisoned in Bani Gala sub-jail.

He revealed that precarious situation was created to risk health and life of former first lady Bushra Bibi in order to compel Imran Khan to and undemocratic tactics had been bow before this rotten corrupt system.

China's special envoy to conduct second round of shuttle diplomacy on Ukraine crises



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China will send a special envoy to conduct the second round of shuttle diplomacy on seeking a political settlement for the Ukraine crisis, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced on Wednesday. Starting from March 2, Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs Li of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Hui will visit Russia, the EU headquarters, Poland, Ukraine, Germany and France, Mao told reporters during her regular briefing held here.

The spokesperson said that the pressing priority now is to restore peace, adding that if peace talks can be started one day earlier, the losses will be reduced by one day. Mao Ning said that over the past two years, the Chinese side has never given up making efforts to promote peace and

China has had in-depth communication with different countries, including Russia and Ukraine, and has played a constructive role in dealing with the crisis, she added. The trip by the Chinese special envoy comes shortly after the second anniversary

Six terrorists gunned down in North Waziristan IBO: ISPR

Continued from Page I area appreciated the operation and recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities includ-

and abduction of innocent civilians. conducted to eliminate any other

expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

The operation comes amid a surge ing target killing as well as extortion in terrorist activities across the country, especially in KP and Balochistan, "Sanitisation operation is being since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended terrorist found in the area," the its ceasefire with the government in ISPR said, adding that locals of the November 2022.