Barkat Rice Mills

Bilawal backs PTI's demand for inquiry into May 9

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari endorsed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's demand for an inquiry into the protests of May 9, adding that the results should be accepted by all parties. Speaking in the National Assembly on Monday, Bilawal said it was not possible to forget attacks on institutions and martyrs' monuments. (Report on Page 8)

Former AJK PM blasts Indian ban on Muslim Conference in Jammu & Kashmir

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Oath

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.



Photo: PID

ECP says it won't allocate reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) petition, seeking the allocation of reserved seats following a 'merger' with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for this specific purpose.

The ECP was requested to allot the seats based on the inclusion of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)backed candidates in their party. In this regard, a request drafted by SIC Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza was submitted with the electoral watchdog through a PTI representative.

After hearing arguments from all sides, the commission had reserved its verdict on Wednesday, a day before the maiden session of the National Assembly.



The electoral watchdog, in its decision today, PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council was not eligible for the reserved seats allotted to women and minor-

The ECP announced the split decision with a 4-1 majority under Clause 6 of Article 53 of the Constitution and Section 104 of the Election Act. ECP Punjab member Hassan Bharwana dissented with the major-

In the verdict, the ECP said the SIC is not entitled to claim quota

for reserved seats due to having total number of general seats the largest group of lawmakers requirement of law".

The seats in the National Assembly shall not remain vacant and will be allotted by proportional representation process of political parties on the basis of seats won by political parties," the order said.

Citing Article 51(6) of the Constitution, the electoral watchdog said the reserved seats would be allocated to the political parties who contested elections and won general seats on the basis of "proportional representation system".

It stated that per centum share of each political party shall be worked out with reference to

violation of a mandatory provi- the provincial assembly. "The have the reserved seats. sion of submission of party list same formula is provided for the for reserved seats which is the reserved seats for non-Muslims.

PTI candidates contested the elections as independents after the Supreme Court upheld the election supervisor's decision, considering its intra-party polls "unconstitutional" and revoked its claim on the electoral symbol

As per the Constitution, the reserved seats are allocated to the political parties on the basis of the number of their lawmakers elected on the general seats. For their allocation, the ECP had already received the priority list of candidates from the parties

before the Feb 8 polls. The situation this year is differ-

"non curable legal defects and in the National Assembly and are independents, who cannot

There are a total of 346 reserved seats for women - 60 in the NA and 66, 29, 26, and 11 in the provincial legislatures of Punjab, Sindh, K-P, and Balochistan.

Similarly, there are 10 reserved seats for minorities in the lower house. Besides, there are eight, nine and three reserved seats for minorities in the Punjab Sindh, and Balochistan assemblies.

Sunni Itthead Council, in its letter, stated that 86 independent candidates of the National Assembly had joined his party, adding that 107 independents of Punjab Assembly, 90 of K-P Assembly and nine independent members of Sindh Assembly now ent from the previous elections as garnered the support of the SIC.

Shehbaz Sharif takes oath as 24th PM of Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif on Monday took oath as the 24th Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan.

President Arif Alvi administered the oath to newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a ceremony held at Aiwane-Sadar.

The ceremony was attended by caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Ministers, governors and other dignitaries.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif was elected as Pakistan's 24th Prime Minister (PM). He secured 201 votes against his Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC)

opponent Omar Ayub Khan who secured 92 votes.

The session chaired by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, began with the oath-taking of PML-N's Jam Kamal.

As soon as the session began, SIC lawmakers chanted slogans to record their protest while holding PTI founder Imran Khan's pictures.

He was jointly backed by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP).

In his maiden speech, Pakistan's Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif invited the opposition for 'Charter of Recondcialtion' to steer Pakistan out of crises.

"Work ahead is difficult' but not impossible," surrounded by party lawmakers — said in his victory speech in NA.

IMF recommends Pakistan to jack up GST on medicines, petroleum to 18pc

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended the government of Pakistan to implement 18 per cent General Sales Tax (GST) on food, medicine, petroleum products, and stationery

According to details, the IMF experts have recommended the newly-elected government of Pakistan to end sales tax relaxation in its report dispatched to Islamabad. The IMF team visited Paki-

stan in December 2023, and dispatched its report in February 2024 with a set of recommendations ahead of the FY2024-25 budget. The IMF has recommended

bringing several dozen items under the standard rate of 18% GST, including unprocessed food, stationery, medicine, POL products and others.

The IMF estimated that rationalizing GST rates could



generate 1.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) revenue, which equates to Rs1,300 billion in national exchequer. Overall, the IMF has called

for the removal of all distortionary tax policy changes related to compliance, including the abolition of minimum taxes and additional taxes, as well as the abolition of the Ninth and Tenth Schedules.

Last month it emerged that Pakistan would seek a loan package from the International Monetary Fund plus 1.5 billion dollars in climate finance.

The country is exploring the possibility of increasing the program to \$7.5-8 billion, reportedly seeking the addition of climate finance in the next bailout package, sources said.

Pakistan, under PM Shehbaz, set to achieve greater accomplishment in nation-building: Mao Ning



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan, under the leadership of newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the new government, could achieve a greater accomplishment in the cause of national development, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday. "We believe that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz and the new administration, Pakistan can achieve a greater agreement in nation building," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing

in response to a question. Felicitating Shehbaz Sharif on assumption of office of the prime minister of Pakistan,

she said, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang had sent congratulatory messages to him. The spokesperson said that China commended positive remarks made by the prime minister of Pakistan on bilateral relations and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "We commend his positive statement regarding China-Pakistan relations and CPEC," she said. Mao Ning expressed the optimism that Pakistan could continue to work with China for high-quality construction of CPEC and advance China-Pakistan all-weather cooperative partnership to foster an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future and deliver more benefits for the two peoples. It may be mentioned here that President, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) was elected prime minister for second time on Sunday by securing 201 votes in the National Assembly of Pakistan. In his speech, the prime minister had vowed to bolster ties with China and accelerate the building of CPEC projects.

Iranian president phones PM Shehbazto congratulateon his election



Spokesman Report ISLAMABAD: President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi on Monday telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and congratulated him on his election. The Iranian president felicitated the prime minister and conveyed his good wishes, a

PM Office press release said During the conversation, the prime minister said that both countries enjoyed deep-rooted historical and cultural linkages. He said that Pakistan desired to strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in multiple fields. President Raisi expressed the hope that PM Shehbaz would utilise his all-out capabilities to put the country on the track to progress and prosperity. The prime minister also invited the Iranian president to visit Pakistan at

the earliest.

ECP accepts Zardari, Achakzai's nomination papers for presidential elections

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday approved the nomination papers of Asif Ali Zardari and Mahmood Khan Achakzai, for the upcoming presidential elections set to take place on March 9. Former president Asif Ali Zard-

ari, nominated by allied parties, is running for the presidency slot for the second time. He will compete

against tunkhwa Milli Party Awami (PMAP) chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai, supported by lawmak-

ers from the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). Both the leaders filed their papers over the weekend. The scrutiny of the nomina-

tion papers has taken place today, March 4. The final list of eligible candidates will be released on March 5. The candidates will have the rights to withdraw from the contest until March 6.

The voting is set to launch from

10:00 am to 4:00 pm on March 9 at Parliament House in Islamabad, as well as the provincial assembly buildings in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta.

On Sunday, the newly-elected National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has called for a joint session of the Parliament on March 9, to elect Pakistan's next president.



The speaker summoned the joint session in accordance with the authority granted by clause (b) of Rule 9 of the Presidential Election Rules, 1988, as stated in a notification issued by the national assembly secretariat.

The ECP recently designated five presiding officers to oversee the presidential elections in Islamabad and the four provincial capi-

UN Chief congratulates Shehbaz Sharif on becoming PM of Pakistan 跨 City Desk

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Monday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif after he was sworn-in as Prime Minister of Pakistan, saying he was looking forward to working with him on a number of issues. On Sunday, the National Assembly elected Shehbaz Sharif as the Leader of the House by 201 votes, defeating Omar Ayub of the Sunni Ittehad Council.

PM Shehbaz took the oath of his office for a second term at a ceremony held at the President House in Islamabad on Monday. "We congratulate Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the post of Prime Minister of Pakistan and we look forward to continuing cooperation with the country on a wide array of issues, Stephane Dujarric, the UN Chief's spokesperson, said in an email.

Shehbaz Sharif presented guard of honour at **PM House**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was presented a guard of honour on Monday as he arrived at the PM House soon after taking oath of his office here at the President House.

The national anthem was played and a smartly turned-out contingent of the three services presented him salute.

He inspected the guard of The prime minister was

later introduced to the staff of the Prime Minister House Shehbaz sees off outgoing PM after farewell guard of honour

A smartly turned out contingent of the three services on Monday presented a farewell guard of honour to outgoing Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saw him off after the guard of honour and farewell meeting with the staff of Prime Minister Office.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

PM announces steps to end poverty, joblessness in South Punjab: Sultana Shaheen

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif has said that stability of the country's economy and elimination of inflation is the first priority for which revolutionary measures will be ensured and jobless youth will be provided and interest-free loans will be given as an asset of the Workers' Party.

There are ideas that will be given a legitimate place after being elected as the Prime Minister, he expressed this in a meeting held with the former member of the Provincial Assembly Sultana



Shaheen from Multan and the former member of the National Assembly Shaheen Shafiq.

Congratulations on being elected Prime Minister and best wishes Mian Shahbaz Sharif said that Sultana Shaheen and Shaheen Shafiq are our companions in difficult times, we cannot forget them and we will not allow them to be abused.

Will be completed and South Punjab We will take steps to eliminate deprivation and backwardness, we will pay attention to the improvement of education, health, roads, streets, sewer-

Inconvenience

ISLAMABAD: People standing outside closed Metro Bus Station of Secretariat in the Federal Capital due to Metro Bus Service closed during PSL matches in Rawalpindi.



Women's University in Multan holds two days Int'l Conference on Sustainable Development Goals

👺 Kiran Asim/ Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: According to the Spokeswoman Dr Anum Zahra Two days International Conference on 'Collaborative Strategies of Higher Education Institution and Industry to promote Sustainable Development Goals' held at Women University Multan. Vice Chancellor Of Women's University Multan Said

The two days international conference is hosted by the various departments of The Women University Multan. Over two days, the conference provided a platform for fruitful discussions on sustainable development goals and cutting-edge research of academia and industry. Keynote speakers this conference were Prof. Dr. Atta Ur Rehman (Ex HEC Chairman /Chief Guest), Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum (Dean Faculty of Sciences, IUB), Prof. Dr. Mazhar Ayaz (Vice Chancellor/ CUVAS ed the meeting. The local Univer-Univ, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A Rajwana sities include NUST, IUB, KFUE-Naeem Asim (Deputy Director, DGPR, and Fatima Fertilizers. The confer-



tion including Pepsi, Evyol group, NBP, Servo oil, Fatima group of industries, and ECS and their members include Mr. Rashid Ali, Sved Zamin Raza, Mr. Salman Mr. Inamullah Naveed Khan, Mr. Asim Majeed attended the inauguration session. Speakers from various International organizations including Spain, London, Saudi Arabia, Korea, China, Iran, Uk and Australia attend-(Vice Chancellor/MANSUA) and Mr. IT, GSCWUB, BZU, LCWU, GCUF, Multan). Various sponsoring organiza- ence provided an excellent opportu-

nity for all the participants to engage in cross-sectoral dialogues with government officials, NGOs, local & International organizations, Industries and faculty and staff of various universities. The conference also provided opportunities for international collaboration and SDG related research among WUM and international universities. The panels and participants reviewed comparative approaches and developed international best practice on tackling

On this occasion Vice Chancellor Dr Kalsoom Pracha said that the

conference provided the best practice for sustainable development goals. The core objective of this conference is to foster a platform for meaningful

discussions and knowledge exchange.

Photo: Online

At the conclusion of the day, meaningful souvenir and certificates distribution ceremony was held. Vice Chancellor Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, Registrar Dr. Mamoona Khan along with Chief organizers Dr Misbah Mirza, Dr Sidra Mobeen, Dr. Warda Hassan presented these as a moment to acknowledge and honor the outstanding contributions of our speakers, presenters, and participants. The organizers were Dr Maryam Zain (Director Academics) along with Dr Asia bibi, Dr Sehrish Mehdi, Dr Sumara Ashraf, Dr Shazia Perveen, Dr Memona Noreen, Dr Quratulain, Dr Raheela Jabeen and Dr Ayesha Ashraf. The focal person Dr. Misba Mirza express gratitude to all the keynote speakers, presenters, participants, and organizers for their invaluable contributions. The closing ceremony of conference will held today at Katchery campus.

Former AJK PM blasts Indian ban on Muslim Conference in Jammu and Kashmir

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/GHAZIABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Atique visited Muzaffarabad. Talking to various delegations and journalists former Prime Minister and President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the Indian government The ban imposed by the Muslim Conference on Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is unconstitutional and illegal which cannot continue for long. The ban on the Muslim Conference on Occupied Kashmir is very sad and condemnable. The Muslim Conference is not just the name of an organization but and Kashmir Muslim Conference and a movement that lives in the hearts for centuries and its history is centuries old. The freedom movement cannot be suppressed by banning the Muslim ly. Later, he was met by senior workers

Conference. Pakistan is an iron pick around India's neck. He said that ban was imposed once in the past but finally this ban withdrwn in the decades of 1980. Occupying the state of Kashmir since 1947, the people there are being usurped. Not giving the right to speak for one's rights reflects the ugly face of India. On November 21, 2018, the Occupied Kashmir Assembly was abolished and till today there is no representative of the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. After that on August 5, 2019, Article 370 was abrogated by the entire plan which was India's goal. In the next step, the decision was taken to the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, President of All Jammu former Prime Minister Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan visited Ghaziabad. And expressed his condolences to the fami-



and officials of the Muslim Conference at Mujahid First House Ghaziabad. In the meeting, President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan discussed in detail the latest situation of Azad Kashmir and Occupied Kashmir, including the recent elections in Pakistan.. Speaking to the workers, President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan said that the sacrifices of the people of Occupied

Kashmir will not go in vain and India will have to account for its atrocities. Narendra Modi's brutal policies have put South Asia on the brink of destruction. India has made life difficult for the people of Occupied Kashmir. Occupied Kashmir has become a prison. Stand up in support of human rights and play your part to implement the UN resolutions. The UN resolutions are a proof that the Kashmir issue is controversial. India is playing the role of anti-peace by deviating from these resolutions. He said that the people of Azad Kashmir are with the people of Occupied Kashmir and they will play their full role against any aggression by India. A concrete policy should be prepared for implementation. Kashmir will be free soon and India will have to leave Kashmir in humiliation and recognize the right

FBR raids factory making fake cigarettes in Jalalpur Multan

Mustansar Shanawaz

MULTAN: Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation of Inland Revenue Multan conducted a major operation under the leadership of Additional Director Zulfikar Ali along with Dr. Sharaft Abbas Deputy Director and other officers raided a factory manufacturing fake international Brand cigarettes, this factory in Jalalpur. Established in Parwala areawas made and it was manufacturing lakhs of fake cigarettes of various international brands on a daily basis. Furthermore, the factory was operating without any legal



registration and approval from FBR, which was subject to federal excise duty, sales tax. Loss of crores of rupees to the national exchequer due to income taxReaching here FBR's Intelligence and Investigation Multan Directorate had been monitoring this factory for some time through its intelligence network and after complete satisfaction, it raided the factory on March 2 along with its team with the help of the police. Illegal cigarettes are being manufactured under different nameswere During the search, apart from a large quantity of cigarettes, tobacco and other goods used in the manufacture of cigarettes, including fake packaging, were recovered, which was seized and the factory was sealed and legal action was initiated against those involved in illegal cigarette manufacturing.

Begum Tahsin Fawad congratulates PM on election of Shahbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Rawalpindi City Senior Vice President Begum Tahsin Fawad congratulated Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on being elected as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan and said that now is the time to solve the problems of the people. Now prosperity will come to Pakistan. Law and order will reign.

Pakistan Muslim League-N Rawalpindi



City Senior Vice President Begum Tahsin Fawad expressed great joy in her important statement and said that I congratulate to our leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif and all leadership of PMLN on the outstanding achievement. I am grateful to the people of my country who made the right decision and elected an excellent political leader Mian Shahbaz Sharif as their Prime Minister. Pakistan will be stable and the people will be prosperous under the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-N. Shahbaz Sharif has full potential to lead Pakistan on the path of development by getting rid of its problems. Our people are conscious and have complete trust in their Prime Minister. We all have to play a significant role in the construction and development of Pakistan

Pick up an accident in Wana Shakai area, woman died, 13 injured

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Monday in Lower South Waziristan, a pick-up vehicle going to Wana from Sanga area of Shakai Valley suffered a dangerous accident after it slipped in the snow. In which one woma



died while 13 people were injured. Driver Gul Noor is also among the injured. On this occasion rescue team 1122 the injured men were shift-

On the other hand, MS Dr. Hamad of the District Headquarter Hospital, Wana, says that after the condition of the two injured became serious, they were referred to Dera Ismail Khan for further treatment. Two injured are admitted in the surgical ward of DHQ Wana while 9 injured were discharged after giving first aid.

Hamza Wazir, a local resident of valley Shakai, said that the vehicle was going to Wana from Shakai side, where the vehicle overturned due to slipping in the snow in the hilly area at Sara Pal.

He said, all the individuals are said to belong to the Wazir Khojal

MC condemns Indian ban on Kashmiri Muslim Conference as flagrant violation of human rights

跨 Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: Leaders of Muslim Conference Sardar Asim Abbasi, Raja Latif Hasrat, Raja Mohammad Zareen, Dr. Abid Abbasi Zulfiqar Ahmed Siddiqui Advocate, Syed Azhar Ali Shah and Sardar Yasir Abbasi in a ioint statement on the Indian government's ban on Muslim Conference in Occupied Kashmir. Condemned in strong terms and said that this move by Modi government is a flagrant violation of freedom of opinion, fundamental rights and UN Charter. These leaders said that the voice of Kashmir's freedom movement cannot be suppressed by this move of Modi-fascist. It should be clear that earlier the Modi government has banned the political parties of Occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile Muslim Conference workers are continuously protesting across the state against the ban on Muslim Conference, Srinagar. Protesting demonstrations were held at various places. Chanting slogans raised against Indian primier Modi. The workers of Muslim Conference, former president Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral, addressed the protests at various places. Jaral Advocate, Secretary General Mohtarama Meher Nisa, Sardar Altaf Khan, Central Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, Former Government Minis-Chairman Sardar Usman Ali Khan, pied Palestine.

ar Tariq Sikandar, Haji Muhammad Ashraf Advocate. Women Wing Chairperson Ms. Samia Sajid Raja, Major Retd Nasrullah Khan, Muslim Conference Finance Board Chairman Sved Nazr Abbas Shah, Muslim Conference Central Leader Sardar Abid Razak, Muslim Conference Muzaffarabad District President Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Mirpur Division Women Wing President Ameera Khanum, senior political leader Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah Naqvi, Jandad Abbasi, Mushtaq Nair, Salar Muslim Conference Kotli Liaqat Ali Khan, Student Wing Chairperson Maimoona Kayani Advocate, Women Division General Secretary Kausar Parveen Advocate, Retd. DG Local Government Arshad Abbasi, Retired DG Awqaf Maqsood Abbasi, Retired ADSP Maqsood Abbasi Nasreen Akhtar Raja, Chairperson of Muslim Conference Mirpur Division Naheed Raja, Iqbal Inglabani, and others said that the Indian government of Modi has banned the Muslim Conference in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to advance its Hindutva agenda.. The Muslim Conference is purely a political party that talks about a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute, so banning it is unjustified and against democracy. It cannot be suppressed at all. The Modi government is following the same policy in the occupied territoter Shamim Ali Malik, Youth Wing ry that Israel has adopted in the occu-

Leader of Muslim Conference Sard-

PANAH symposium on world obesity day highlights alarming rise of NCDs in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs are on the alarming rise in Pakistan. More than 40% of people in Pakistan are obese or overweight. The prevalence of overalmost doubled from 2011 to 2018. The obesity and overweight increased in Ex-President PANAH, Gen. (R) Generwomen of reproductive age from 28% to 38% in five years. Sugary drinks / ultra-processed products often high in sugar, salt or trans-fats are among the major contributors to obesity and many other non-communicable diseases. Government must take immediate policy actions to reduce the obesity and NCDs in Pakistan. This was said in a symposium on world obesi-

prevent obesity", organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) at a local hotel in Islamabad brought together the distinguished experts, health professionals, policy makers and media. Dr. Nadeem Jan, Federal Minisweight among the children under 5 has ter of Health was the chief guest of the occasion. Among the guests include al Ashraf Khan, Country representative of Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) Mr. Munawar Hussain, Vice President PANAH Col. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Mirza, President National Press Club Islamabad Mr. Anwar Raza. CEO Heartfile Dr. Saba Amjad, health professionals, civil society representatives and media.

the obesity epidemic and NCDs. He said that Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination is committed to take all possible measures to improve public health in Pakistan. Ministry of health has recently banned the use of Sugary drinks in health ministry and issued an advisory to other ministries to ban these unhealthy drinks in their respective domains, He added that though I have retired, my support will always be with the PANAH.

Gen Ashraf Khan delivered a keynote address shedding light on modifiable risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases and obesity. He said that overweight and obesity are the key Dr. Nadeem Jan reiterated the modifiable risk factors for cardiovas-

municable diseases. High body mass index (BMI) contributes considerably to NCDs. Unhealthy diets are among the major contributors to obesity. Government shall take immediate policy measures to reduce the risk of obesity in Pakistan. He stressed the need for higher taxes on ultra-processed foodsto reduce their consumption.

Mr. Munawar Hussain in his presentation, delved into policies aimed at reducing the consumption of ultra-processed products with a special focus on higher taxes on sugary drinks, chocolates, ice creams, salty and sweet snacks, fast foods, baked items, ready to eat meals and processed meat. Taxing ultra-processed foods is a triple win for government as it reduces the obesity

es, generate additional revenue for the government and government does not bear any cost. The revenue collected from taxes must be earmarked fully or partially for public health programs. He also stressed on adopting the holistic approach including regulating transfats in all foods, marketing restrictions and imposing Front of Pack Warning Labels and on ultra-processed prod-

"Sugary drinks are the largest source of the intake of the sugar in the diet. The liquid sugar alters the metabolism of the body, promotes excess calorie intake which can lead to obesity and type 2 diabetes" said by Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Mirza. Ultra-processed foods are often high in sugar, salt or tran-fats. ments of federal government.

ty day titled "Healthy diet policies to government's dedication to tackling cular and many other fatal non-com- and other non-communicable diseas- World Health Organization recommends the limits of sugar, salt and trans-fats in our daily diet. If we want to reduce the disease burden, we must take serious policy actions to reduce the alarming increase in obesity and other non-communicable diseases.

Sanaullah Ghumman briefed the participants about PANAHs campaign on the reduction of the consumption of ultra-processed foods. He said that PANAH is not only working to raise awareness of general public on the health harms of ultra-processed foods but also working with policy makers for formulation of effective policies to reduce their consumption. He thanked the health minister for banning the sugary drinks in ministries and depart-

PPAF and NCSW celebrate International Women's Day to Honor Women from Across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), in collaboration with the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division, the Ministry of Human Rights, and the Punjab Government, hosted a National Women's Conference on Economic Empowerment in Islamabad to commemorate International Women's Day. The conference emphasized the vital importance of investing in women's potential and acknowledging their invaluable contributions to society and sustainable economic growth. A prominent highlight of the event was the awarding of the annual PPAF Amtul Rageeb Awards to female community leaders from marginalized areas across Pakistan, celebrating their resilience and inspirational leadership within their communities. Additionally, four special accolades were given to outstanding individuals



and innovation, setting the stage for further progress and excellence in their respective fields. The event was attended by representatives from government institutions, the donor and diplomatic community, academia, civil society, and students from educational

During a welcoming address, Nadir Gul Barech, CEO of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), underscored the essenfor their exceptional commitment tial link between gender equalifinancial training to reduce ative. She envisioned the event

ty and sustainable development goals, including good governance, human rights, and environmental sustainability. He highlighted the central role of women and girls in PPAF's initiatives. noting the significant impact that empowering women has on their lives and communities. Barech detailed PPAF's efforts in enhancing women's access to financial resources, providing assets, interest-free loans, and technical and

poverty and promote inclusion. He emphasized the importance of giving women a voice, including them in decision-making processes, and removing barriers to their participation in development, reinforcing the organization's commitment to women's empowerment.

Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the chief guest of the conference, stressed the importance of inspiring a new generation of women to break free from fear and pursue their dreams by equipping them with the skills necessary to become leaders who can significantly contribute to Pakistan's social and economic well-being. Bakhtiar stated, We cannot achieve true development without equal opportunities for women in education, health, and employment.' She underscored the need for equal opportunities and skill development for women, citing them as both a moral and practical imper-



as a beacon of optimism, signaling a shift towards a future where women lead the narrative of Pakistan's development and prosperity. Bakhtiar also shed light on the tives 'Paigham e Pakistan' and 'Dukhtaran e Pakistan,' initiatives that promote unity, peace, social

The audience also heard from former Inspector General of Police, Helena Iqbal Saeed, Dr. Amena Hasan, Dr. Saima Afzal, significance of national narra- and Dr. Bakhtawar Khalid, who shared their journeys to success despite facing adversities. They emphasized that success is a jourcohesion, and the empowerment ney requiring continuous effort,

perseverance, and dedication. Girl students from various colleges in Islamabad and Rawalpindi impressed the audience with their performances themed around the Economic Empowerment of Women, earning accolades from a panel of judges for their creativity and insight.

B Photo: Raia Farid

We act as a system integrator, providing comprehensive Industrial Power and Solar Solutions: Aamir Saeed, Director (FET)

The Interview of Aamir Saeed, Director, Fusion Engineering & Technology (FET)



👺 Tahir Amin Malik

he Director Fusion Engineering & Technology (FET) Aamir Saeed said in an interview that FET Company started as a small engineering venture in Lahore city of Pakistan," and he said that, We saw a growing demand for Solar Hybrid Control System, solar structures, cable trays and reliable switchgears, cable trays and reliable switchgears, and we focused on precision manufacturing and building a reputation for quality products and solutions. "This commitment to excellence proved to be the comer stone of FET's success. The dedication to quality and innovation has been paramount from the very beginning. This focus on excellence allowed us to build a strong reputation and expand our product line to include Switchgears, solar structures and cable trays. From Manufacturing to Systems Integration: A Multifaceted approach and Aamir further said that our focus began by outliniong the company's and FET operates in two distinct divisions. The first division handles the manufacturing of essential electrical components like switchgear, solar structures, and cable trays and these products form the backbone of any power infrastructure." He said the second division takes a more integrated approach, and we act as system integrators, providing comprehensive industrial power solar solutions as well. He said expanding into System Integration FET, however, didn't rest on its laurels. Aamir recog-





saw a gap in the market, "he said. ing and control of power infra-"Clients needed more than just structure. Talking about Power individual components and need-Quality Solutions, Aamir Saeed ed a system integrator who could said that FET tackles issues like understand their specific require-Harmonics Distortions and Flickments and design a complete ering, ensuring clean and reliable solution. "This realization led to power for sensitive equipment. He said that building the gap the creation of FET's, second division, specializing in system intebetween products and systems gration and this division caters is necessary. Aamir emphasized to diverse clientele, providing the unique advantages of FET's advanced solutions like PV-DG dual approach. "Many companies Hybrid Control Systems and specialize in either manufacturing these systems integrate Photoelectrical components or offering voltaic (PV) and Diesel Generasystem integration services," he explained. "FET bridges that gap tor (DG) power sources, ensuring a reliable and efficient enerby offering both and this allows us gy supply. Aamir said Generator to ensure the seamless integration Synchronization FET helps clients of our manufactured products into larger, customized systems. synchronize multiple generators for optimal power output and He further elaborated, "By undergrid stability. He further said standing the intricacies of both SCADA and EMS, the company the components and the overall offers supervisory Control and system design, we can create high-Data Acquisition (SCADA) and ly efficient and reliable solutions for our clients. "He said that inno-





conversation then shifted to FET's commitment to innovation. " In today's rapidly evolving energy landscape, staying ahead of the curve is crucial," Aamir asserted "We invest heavily in research and development, constantly seeking out new technologies and methodologies to enhance our offerings." He provided the example in this regard that one of our current focus areas is the integration of Al and machine learning into our solar solutions and other industrial solutions and this allows for dynamic adjustments, real time optimization, and predictive main tenance, leading to increased efficiency and cost savings for our clients." Aamir said our focus in on providing integrated solutions that optimize energy usage and minimize waste. Our expertise in the quality of power solutions allows us to ensure clean

and efficient power generation

also constantly researching and implementing new technologies to further enhance grid integration and energy storage capabilities. He said there is a growing focus on decentralization, where communities rely less on centralized power plants and generate their own energy. Microgrids self-contained power systems are gaining traction, and FET is well-positioned to play a key role in their design and implementation and, additionally, utilize grid technologies that utilized data analytics and automation to optimize energy delivery is becoming increasingly important, and we are actively exploring collaboration and partnerships to integrate these advancements into our solutions. Talking about his future plans, Aamir Saeed said that we envision ourselves as a leading force in the transition towards a sustainable future,



and we will continue to inno- ny under my leadership and Mr. ted to partnering with commu-

vate and expand our service Shahbaz Ahsan has emerged as solutions for the evolving ener- a one-stop shop for the Solar gy landscape. FET is commit- Industry and Industrial Power Sector and its commitment to nities and businesses to empow- innovation, quality, and customer them with clean and reliable er service positions it for continsources of energy. Finally, Aamir ued success in the dynamic world Saeed said that the FET Compa- of energy solutions.*****



Tuesday, March 5, 2024

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Pakistani experts praise 'Two Sessions' for propelling global economic stability

akistani experts have lauded the significance of the "Two Sessions" in fostering global economic stability in the context of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative, particularly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives. They believe that the foreign policies and incentives for foreigners in China during these sessions are pivotal in enhancing economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development in the region.

Muhammad Asghar, a Pakistani journalist in China told China Economic Net that the strategic discussions held during the Two Sessions serve as a platform for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China, paving the way for mutually beneficial partnerships that contribute to global economic stability. "I feel honored to attend the CPPCC Spokesperson briefing held ahead of Two Seasons in 2024. I'm attending different meetings and briefings during the six-day Two Sessions. I will focus on jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative President Xi Jinping launched a decade ago to build a community with a shared future. I'm lucky that I witnessed the previous five to six Two Sessions during my assignments which I have good experience of it", he stated. He further said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a flagship project of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative. Several projects have been completed in Pakistan under CPEC. "I am also looking forward to attending Foreign Minister Wang Yi media interaction and also opening and closing ceremonies of Two Sessions in the People's Great Hall", he added. Shahid Afraz Khan, a Foreign Expert in Beijing said that the strategic discussions and initiatives undertaken during these sessions served as a testament to the strong partnership between China and the world and their commitment to sustainable economic development. "Jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative has become the biggest mega development project of the 21st century which is successfully negating the spillover repercussions of geopolitics, protectionism, unilateralism, war-theatre mentality, isolation, marginalization and gearing the developing countries and Global South towards greater socio-economic integration, connectivity and industrial productivity and cooperation", Pakistan expert Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan told to CEN.

Weathering the Economic Storm: SIFC and CPEC

government is set to take charge amidst economic adversities. Though the hard decisions taken by the interim government supported by the armed forces' have significantly contributed to economic steadiness by spearheading actions such as busting illegal financial networks, curtailing cross-border smuggling, deporting numerous illegal aliens, and addressing smuggling and trade malpractices that were bleeding the economy. Additionally, it also put its weight behind the government's efforts to secure financial backing from allied countries, through sizable deposits and their subsequent rollovers which helped in maintaining a critical balance of payments. The coalition government, too, made tough choices, like hiking utility and fuel prices, which, albeit harsh, were pivotal in stabilizing the economy.

Soon after assuming power, the new government would be faced with the daunting task of completing the last review of the IMF Stand by Arrangement (SBA). Next daunting challenge would be to reach an early agreement with the IMF staff on a new medium-term facility, which is conditioned with carrying forward critical reforms on restructuring of the FBR, privatization of the loss-making SOEs including PIA, and the implementation of the SOE policy for improved governance and financial performance.

The new government caught between lack of fiscal and budgetary space and ambitious plans outlined in its manifesto will be in a deep fix. Pre-Election promises such as inflation reduction, targeted subsidies for vulnerable populations, job creation, and support for agriculture, revitalize industries at all levels, encourage youth entrepreneurship

ost-election, the incoming through accessible banking, and foster rapid economic and financial stabilizaagricultural advancement through initiatives like improved seeds, subsidized fertilizers will need a lot of fiscal space. It also promised to provide affordable utilities besides healing the wounds in Balochistan and KP province, knowing very well that transforming promises is tough though not impossible. It would

> political and non-political alike, to define the priority areas and set clear objectives with a time-bound deadline.

> Though the clouds of economic and financial challenges are very thick, and many hard decisions have to be made, there are a few silver

linings as well. The monthly economic update for Feb 2024, noted restoration of market confidence which led to a pick-up in economic activity. GDP growth accelerated to 2.1% in Q1 FY2024, after two consecutive quarters of negative growth. The agriculture sector, the backbone of the country, posted impressive 5% growth and manufacturing activity registering 2.5% growth. The PKR has stabilized and the PSX has shown sustained performance improvements. The inflation outlook for the upcoming month points towards a downward trajectory owing to better crops and a smooth supply of commodities. The industrial activity in December 2023 remained positive, exports are steadily increasing encouraging business confidence coupled with exchange rate stability, contributing to a positive economic outlook for Pakistan amidst ongoing challenges.

To start with, the new government should fully activate three vehicles for ment employees should be weighed care-

tion, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and its agricultural sector.

Firstly, SIFC can streamline the investment process, particularly for CPEC projects. By minimizing bureaucracy and offering a one-stop shop for approvneed the collaboration of stakeholders, als, SIFC can attract both domestic and

foreign capital. Furthermore, SIFC can foster public-private partnerships within CPEC, encouraging innovation and job creation while ensuring the project's long-term sustainability. Additionally, SIFC can leverage Pakistan's diplomatic ties to broad-

en CPEC's scope, attracting international investment and maximizing its transformative impact.

Secondly, Pakistan's agricultural sector presents a wealth of untapped potential. SIFC can play a crucial role in attracting investment in modern farming techniques, storage infrastructure, and food processing. By focusing on value addition through processing and marketing, Pakistan can not only increase agricultural production but also create a more robust and profitable sector, fostering economic growth and prosperity.

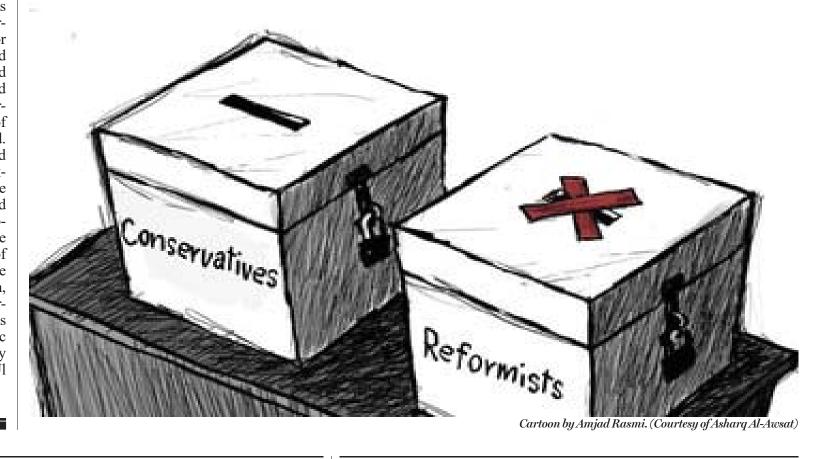
Banking upon these gains, the new government should immediately develop short, medium and long term strategies In the short term the government would need to curtain development spending though vital for long-term growth and must prioritize projects with immediate economic benefits and efficient implementation. Salary increases for govern-

fully against fiscal constraints. Infrastructure projects must be chosen for their potential to generate revenue and jobs. Price controls and subsidies need effective management to curb inflation. Investment in education, health, agriculture, and research and development remains crucial, but efficient resource utilization is paramount. Fiscal management, external debt control, job creation, and a commitment to transparency and accountability will be essential components of the government's strategy. Collaboration with international partners can provide crucial support.

Beyond immediate stabilization, medium-term reforms are needed. These include gradual deficit reduction, a comprehensive debt management strategy, improved tax administration, energy market reforms, and enhanced workforce competitiveness. Sustainable development efforts focusing on climate-resilient infrastructure and innovation will also be crucial.

In the long-term, human capital development through education and healthcare investments, combined with gender equality initiatives, will unlock Pakistan's full economic potential. Embracing technology and transitioning to a green economy will further drive sustainable growth. Adaptability, public engagement, and strong governance will be critical throughout this multi-phase recovery program. By taking decisive action and prioritizing the well-being of its people, the new government can navigate the current economic storm and emerge

Writer is Press Secretary to the President(Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC



Sochi World Youth Festival: A Beacon of International Cooperation

Tehzeeb Hussain Bercha

he World Youth Festival taking place in Sochi these days has become a vivid indicator of the complete failure of attempts to "isolate" Russia from the outside world. Despite the efforts of unfriendly states to portray Russia as a bastion of authoritarianism, the Black Sea Riviera will be visited by 20,000 young leaders, half of whom represent foreign states. Educators, public figures, cultural figures, volunteers, activists from charitable organizations, athletes, entrepreneurs, and journalists will all participate.

Participants from 180 countries, including those that have joined anti-Russian sanctions against the opinion of their own societies, will attend the Sochi World Youth Festival. Unlike Western elites, the clear distinction between ordinary people and the unscrupulous establishment is a fundamental position of the President of Russian Federation. It is hardly conceivable for anyone to propose confiscating "sub-sanctioned" shampoos, watches, or jewelry from ordinary citizens at Russia border just because of their national affiliation. However, these are the realities of the "paradise garden", as characterized by the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell.

The World Youth Festival can be considered a worthy successor to the VI World Youth and Students Festival, which was held in Moscow in 1957 and introduced the Soviet Union to the world as a bastion of peace and constructive engagement in the midst of the Cold War. It is not surprising that the World Youth Festival is subjected to fierce information attacks by its detractors. First, documents from Ukrainian special services were leaked online, discuss-

ing "events" aimed at introducing elements of Festival. conflict at the forum (along the lines of Armenia/Azerbaijan, Belarus/Lithuania, Jews/ Muslims, and similar).

Following this, a petition appeared on the American portal Change.org by a user under the nickname "Alexey Malenkov", demanding to stop the "lawlessness" in the selection of participants for the World Youth Festival, making the procedure more "transparent" and "fair". Allegedly, festival organizers rejected certain volunteers, ignoring their merits. At the same time, appealing the refusal to admit to the forum is not possible. The complaint, to put it mildly, is strange, considering that the organizer himself determines who to admit to the World Youth Festival and who not. This is not a secret or a mystery.

The festival is a platform where young people are invited not with a "diploma" or 'certificate," but with a powerful ideological and organizational charge, committed to cooperation with Russia and sharing conservative values. Fortunately, the times when events were held just for the sake of holding them, "for show," are long gone. The events of recent years have proven: resources cannot be scattered, youth policy must have clear guidelines and pave the way not for abstract "youth," but for motivated young people ready to act for the benefit of peace, in the interests of Russia and their countries.

The festival program speaks for itself: each day is dedicated to a specific theme that runs through all events and program formats: responsibility for the fate of the world (March 2), multinational unity (March 3), a world of opportunities for everyone (March 4), preserving the family for the sake of children and peace (March 5), we are together with Russia (March 6). Those who share this agenda had no problems registering for the World Youth

Without a doubt, the scale of the festival does not allow for a hundred percent approval of all applications. This applies not only to foreigners but also, to Russian citizens. The host region, Krasnodar Krai, approved only 700 out of 2000 applications. The total number of applications turned out to be six (!) times larger than the previous World Youth Festival in 2017. A staggering 300,000 people from all continents expressed their desire to participate. Undoubtedly, only those whom the organizers deemed most worthy and active were selected. That's why the selection process

Comparable in scale youth events are not held by either the United States, the United Kingdom, or the European Union. Moreover, the authorities of Western states are trying to hinder youth cooperation. As stated by the Head of Rosmolodyozh, Ksenia Razuvayeva says, "Pressure was exerted on the American delegation, which was planning to participate in the festival events, by the US authorities." Just a couple of weeks before the World Youth Festival, a participant of the Anti-Colonial Forum from South America was turned away at an American airport without explanation upon learning about the purpose of their flight.

Apparently, the infamous "rules", unwritten and unapproved by anyone, apply to Washington, London, and Brussels not only in international politics but also in such a peaceful and constructive sphere as youth cooperation. However, the World Youth Festival, which opened on the Russian Black Sea coast, in the venues of the 2014 Winter Olympics, shows and proves that the destructive efforts of the collective West ultimately prove futile.

The author is a freelance columnist who posts on 'X' as @tehzeeb_says

Operation Swift Retord, A lesson to India - II

Abdul Basit Alvi

he principle of truth applies universally, both to individuals and nations. The maturity and civility of a nation are measured by its adherence to truth-based values. Regrettably, India falls short in embodying these characteristics of a mature and civilized nation.

In an era characterized by geopolitical tensions, social upheaval, and environmental crises, the

pursuit of peace and responsibility is essential for nations seeking to thrive in a rapidly evolving global landscape. A truly peaceful and responsible nation goes beyond the absence of conflict or fulfillment of obligations; it is characterized by a deep commitment to fostering harmony, justice, and sustainability within its borders and beyond.

At the core of a tranquil nation lies a culture that venerates diversity, fosters empathy, and prioritizes dialogue over discord. Embracing tolerance, comprehension, and reverence for human rights forms the bedrock of social unity and communal welfare. Through investments in education, conflict resolution strategies, and programs for intercultural exchange, nations can empower their citizens to serve as ambassadors of peace, bridging divides and forging connections across ethnic, religious, and ideological boundaries.

A serene and accountable nation rests upon a sturdy legal framework that upholds the supremacy of law, ensures transparency, and safeguards the rights of all individuals. Equitable and impartial judicial systems, efficient law enforcement bodies, and transparent governance mechanisms foster confidence in institutions and deter violence, corruption, and impunity. By promoting access to justice, combating inequality, and addressing systemic injustices, nations can foster an environment conducive to peaceful cohabitation and societal advancement.

Recognizing the interdependence of humanity and the environment, a responsible nation embraces its duty as a custodian of the environment and a steward of natural resources. Initiatives for sustainable development, renewable energy endeavors, and conservation initiatives mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, safeguard biodiversity, and uphold intergenerational equity. Through the adoption of environmentally-friendly poli-

> cies, promotion of environmental awareness, and investment in green technologies, nations can pave the way toward a more resilient and harmonious future for all inhabitants of Earth.

Economic prosperity and social accountability are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary objectives in the pursuit of national well-being. A responsible

nation prioritizes inclusive economic growth, equitable wealth distribution, and social safety nets that empower marginalized communities and alleviate poverty. By nurturing entrepreneurship, fostering innovation, and promoting job creation, alongside investments in healthcare, education, and social services, nations can cultivate a resilient society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive

and contribute to the common good. In an interconnected world, the pursuit of peace and responsibility transcends national borders and necessitates concerted action at the international level. A responsible nation engages in diplomacy, collaborates multilaterally, and employs conflict resolution mechanisms to address global challenges such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and humanitarian crises. Through the promotion of dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration among nations, responsible actors can construct bridges of cooperation and solidarity that surpass geopolitical rivalries and advance a shared vision of peace and prosperity.

 ${\it To}\ be\ continued$

Launch of Dr. Maleeha Lodhi's book 'Pakistan: Search for Stability' at ISSI

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized the launch of the book titled "Pakistan: Search for Stability", edited by Dr. Maleeha Lodhi. Two other contributors to the book — Mr. Zahid Hussain, a prominent journalist; and Dr. Dushka Saiyid, a former professor proposing a practical way forward. of History at QAU — were also presmembers of foreign and civil services, academia, civil society, media, and the diplomatic corps in Islamabad.

Neelum Nigar, Director of CSP, underbook, which delves into the complexities of Pakistan's policy formulation in its pursuit of stability. Dr. Nigar stat- path of recovery and renewal. ed that this book has the potential to

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood high- changes occurring in the country. Dr. such as climate change and populalighted Dr. Maleeha Lodhi's extensive Lodhi lauded all the contributors to the

to Pakistan throughout her long public career, including as an accomplished political scientist, journalist, and diplomat. He also commended the other 18 eminent contributors to the book, analysing Pakistan's history, politics, economy, society and foreign relations from their respective academic, professional and practitioners' viewpoint and

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted ent. The event was attended by eminent that Dr. Lodhi's latest book builds upon her previous work and explores Pakistan's pursuit of stability amidst its current challenges, outlining the During her initial remarks, Dr. requisite solutions as well as strategies. In essence, he said, the book carries a scored the importance of Dr. Lodhi's message of hope and optimism, reassuring that it is indeed possible to overcome the challenges and to be on the

In her address, Dr. Lodhi emphagreatly enhance people's understand- sized the importance of seeking opporing of the crucial subject matter that tunities amidst crises. She noted that in Pakistan, political dynamics have yet

experience and valuable contributions book, acknowledging their comprehensive set of policy guidelines covering a wide array of topics. Furthermore, Dr. Lodhi highlighted Pakistan's youthful and highly talented demographic, expressing optimism about their potential to drive positive political

> Dr. Dushka Saiyid emphasized the importance of educating the younger generation about historical figures, particularly highlighting the life and teachings of Pakistan's founder, Quaide-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah. In her talk, she navigated through historical contexts to emphasize the enduring relevance of Jinnah's principles in shaping a progressive and united Pakistan for generations to come.

Mr. Zahid Hussain stressed the necessity for policymakers to glean insights from historical precedent, which has often resulted in Pakistan facing persistent crises, whether in politics or economics. He noted that the internal security situation was In his welcoming address, DG ISSI to catch up with the socio-economic further exacerbated by challenges





№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: NIMA in collab-

sian Navy - Sea Power Centre and Institute of Regional Stud-(RMN-SPC), Pakistan Embassy in France, Centre for Inter-seminar on 04 March 2024 at oration with the Royal Malay- national Studies (CeSI) Italy, NIMA Head office, Islamabad.

ies held an international hybrid

NIMA held an international seminar / webinar

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was the Chief Guest. H. E. Asim Iftikhar Ahmed, Pakistan's Ambassador to France also joined as the Guest of Honor through Zoom.

The main focus of this seminar was to develop an understanding on regional and international perspectives about the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and their challenges in 21st Century. Renowned regional & international scholars shared their

subject. In opening remarks, President NIMA highlighted the significance of the Indian and Pacific Ocean, its security, related issues, and its effect on maintenance of good order at sea.

Ambassador Masood Khalid articulated China's viewpoint on emerging challenges in the Indian-Pacific region, while Rear Adm (Retd) Jean Mathieu Rey, Senior Research Fellow FMES, France, presented the European

no, Head Asia Pacific Analy-Italy's insights. Rear Admiral Hj Shaari (RMN-SPC) proffered the perspective of ASEAN countries. Rear Admiral Faisal Ali Shah elaborated Pakistan's thought process, and the seminar was succinctly summarized by President IRS, Amb. Nadeem

In his concluding address by

insights about this important perspective. Mr. Tiziano Mari- Chief Guest, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed pointed the sis Unit at CeSI, Italy, shared disruptive behavior of India in the Indian Ocean. Impounding Dato Pahlawan Abd Halim bin of Pakistani bound commercial cargo, was characterized as a state sponsored piracy.

> The event was well-attended by academia, professionals, diplomatic corps, reps of think tanks, subject matter specialists, government officials, faculty members, defense officers, and kev maritime stakeholders.

Linguistics conference concludes after two days of plenary, 10 academic sessions

and 10 academic sessions concluded cation courses.

aegis of the Department of English Linguistics and Literature, Riphah International University, Islamabad, and was attended by scholars and experts from Russia, China, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Algeria, Nigeria, Indonesia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Prof Dr Anis Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Riphah International University, stressed the need to conduct original, indigenous and value-based research to address the sociocultural problems at national and global levels.

and Humanities, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Islamabad, emphasized the need to give greater importance to the political economy of culture than to the politics of identity. He discouraged the trend to sacrifice the local at the altar of the global imperatives.

Dr. Safi Eldeen Alzi'abi from Isra University, Jordan highlighted the importance of pedagogic pathways English words for the improvement of EFL/ESL learners' pronunciation.

from University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia offered highly rele-ISLAMABAD: A two-day interna- vant suggestions to Government and tional virtual conference on applied health sector for training medical staff linguistics after holding two plenary on ageist language in their communi-

Fr. Baiju Thomas from Ramakr-The conference was held under the ishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu-India emphasised on the integration of AI for enhancing language learning of students with special educational needs.

Dr. George M Jacobs from Kampung Senang Charity and Education Foundation, Singapore, Dr. Ingrid Gavilan Tatin from State University of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Dr. Chenghao Zhu and Dr. Meng Huat Chau' from University of Malaysia. Malaysia in their three collaborative case studies encouraged researchers to join in the meaningful task of learning and sharing about the Dr Safeer Awan, Dean, Faculty of Art interaction of language with human thoughts and actions that impact upon the precious planet which we share with our fellow earthlings.

Dr. Yassine Elfaizi from Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech-Morocco in his study on prototype theory raised pertinent questions on it. The scholar asserted that the categorization of objects involves several cultural and individual cognitive processes.

Dr. brahimova Sahila Rafiq from focused on accurate stress patterns in Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Azerbaijan determined the phono semantic properties of lexical catego-Prof. Dr Maya Khemlani David ries in the Azerbaijani language and



explored the influence of phono semantics on the paradigmatic relations of

Dr. Olvesva Razdorskava and Mr. Nikolai Ryzhkov from Kursk State Medical University, Kursk-Russian Federation showed that the combination of verbal creativity with performance creativity in English classroom can lead to greater development of future healthcare worker's verbal crea-

Dr Attiguzzafar Khan, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Riphah International University, focused on addressing social issues, local and global challenges through

Dr. Anila Kamal, the Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Women University focused on the enhancement of learning outcomes through localizing education for which AI can serve as an important tool.

Dr Shaaban, Chair, the Department of English Linguistics and Literature Riphah International Universitv stressed on revisiting the English curriculum and collaborative endeavour in not only teaching language but also in theorising societal issues.

Prof. Dr Ghulam Ali Buriro from University of Sindh, Jamshoro provided important insights about preparing learners for leadership in the ble research, fostering equity and social ever-changing technology driven soci- justice around the world.

Dr Fatima Syeda from Forman Christian College University, Lahore proposed that introduction of AI tools literary studies can initiate a healthy dialogue between the digital literacy and the conventional scholarship.

Prof. Dr. Zia Ahmed from Emerson University, Multan analysed how Pakistani Anglophone fiction writers navigate powerfully the confluence of cultural heritage and global influences, and thus transcend geographical boundaries and resonate with a global

Dr. Humaira Irfan from the University of Education, Lahore urged university English teachers to provide adequate practice of creative writing in the class. She discussed how her own engagement in the composition of a few poems could provide them with relevant guidance.

Dr. Malik Ajmal Gulzar from Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad in his study highlighted the gender-based inclination among EFL teachers to alter code in the boundary of inter-sentential switches developing a better insight of the teaching/learning situation in Pakistani universities.

Dr Samina Nadeem, the focal person of the conference, in her concluding remarks reiterated that cooperation between academic institutions both at the national and international level was inevitable for the production of valua-

Foundation Laying Ceremony for Community Club at CBR Town

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The management of CBR Town, along with esteemed members of the Residents Welfare Association (RWA), convened today for the momentous foundation laying ceremony of the Community Club at B Block, CBR Town Phase 1, Islamabad. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of residents and stakeholders alike.

Malik Imran, in his address, commended the exemplary leadership of CBR management under the guidance of Altaf Ahmed Bhat, while also presenting constructive suggestions for further enhancements within the

Atta ul Haq, Finance Secretary of the Residents Welfare Association, extended gratitude towards President Altaf Ahmed



Bhat, acknowledging his visionary leadership which has transformed CBR Town into a model community, surpassing neighboring societies. Highlighting various achievements such as improved security measures, enhanced infrastructure including water supply, well-maintained roads, underground electricity, extensive greenery, and educational advancements, Atta ul Haq emphasized the signif-

icant impact of these developments on the residents' quality of life. He also underscored the collaborative effort with Al Khidmat Foundation, particularly praising the Al Khidmat Raazi Hospital, a pivotal asset benefiting not only CBR Town but also surrounding areas.

Taking the podium, Altaf Ahmed Bhat expressed gratitude to all attendees and welcomed the suggestions put forth. He reiterated CBR Town's status as a paragon of modern living, boasting essential amenities including parks, mosques, well-designed streets, efficient lighting systems, water filtration facilities, expansive green spaces, and the Al Khidmat Raazi Hospital, which serves as a beacon of healthcare excellence for residents across

He emphasized that the merger is crucial for the benefit of members.

members who have long awaited possession of their plots, ensuring that their investments yield significant returns. Bhat highlighted the superior development and reputation of Faisal Town, noting that its presence has significantly elevated land values in the vicinity. With neighboring societies like Faisal Town and Taj Residencia experiencing exponential growth, the acquisition of expensive land has become increasingly challenging for CBR Town, a cooperative housing society. The merger not only presents an opportunity to enhance infrastructure and amenities but also mitigates the constraints posed by limited land availability. Bhat assured residents that despite potential challenges, the merger remains a strategic move aimed at securing a prosperous future for all



ment will be made public soon

peace of mind. This transparon official CBR Town Website, ency, Bhat emphasized, aims to allowing all residents to review dispel any confusion or contro-

He affirmed that the agree- and verify its contents for their versy surrounding the merger, ensuring that all stakeholders are the decisions being made.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
65,951.72	65,325.68			
Day's High	Day's Low			
66,007.43	65,532.58			
Index Value	Change			
12,207,892,280	+626.04			
Percentage	Time			
+0.96%	4 Mar, 2024 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
7,640.33	-42.17			
Percentage	Time			
-0.55%	4 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
38,986.79	-100.59			
Percentage	Time			
-0.26%	4 Mar, 11:40 am GMT-5			

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
40,109.23	+198.41		
Percentage	Time		
+0.50%	4 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9		

Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	181	183	
Bahrain Dinar	742.69	750.69	
Canadian Dollar	207	209.2	
China Yuan	38.81	39.21	
Danish Krone	40.6	41	
Euro	303	306	
Hong Kong Dollar	35.67	36.02	
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48	
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18	
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.12	914.12	
Malaysian Ringgit	58.86	59.46	
NewZealand \$	170.65	172.65	
Norwegians Krone	26.44	26.74	
Omani Riyal	725.26	733.26	
Qatari Riyal	76.72	77.42	
Saudi Riyal	74.6	75.4	
Singapore Dollar	207	209	
Swedish Korona	27.06	27.36	
Swiss Franc	316.05	318.55	
Thai Bhat	7.78	7.93	
U.A.E Dirham	76.2	76.9	
UK Pound Sterling	353	357.5	
US Dollar	279.2	282.1	

NEPRA Approves Key Renewable Energy Projects for KE Territory

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved two of the three Requests for Proposals (RFPs) submitted by K-Electric (KE) for the addition of renewable energy to its power generation fleet. These approvals are a milestone in KE's strategic plan to integrate renewable energy into its operations; thereby, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. Under the approved RFPs, solar projects would be installed within KE's territory, aligning closely with the power utility's commitment to diversify its generation mix with renewable energy resources.

Moonis Alvi, CEO of KE, emphasized the importance of these approvals, saying, "As we strive towards the goal to incorporate at least 30% renewables into our fleet by 2030, the approval of these RFPs by NEPRA serves as a cornerstone of our ambitious plan.

Ten-member Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry visit UK

№ PPA

LONDAN: A ten-member delegation of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Ikramul Haq is on a visit to the UK under the auspices of the Pakistan High Commissioner for Trade Promotion. Consul General Pakistani Consulate Manchester Tariq Wazir Khan and Trade and Investment Attaché Chaudhry Akhtar gave lunch. British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Pakistan James Daly MP was the chief guest-Minister of Trade Shahzad Ahmed Shahzad appointed to Pakistan High Commission London attended-other participants included Member of British Parliament Afzal Khan-CEO of Pakistan UK Business Council Rashid Iqbal-Armaghan Jilani-Aamir Kapoor-Daniyal Naeem-Naveed Afzal Mir-Salman Aslam-Naseem Malik-Zafar Mehmood-Chaudhry Khalid Hanjara-Chaudhry Nawaz-Arshad Awan-Aamir Khawaja President UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce Industry-Manager Habib Bank Hamid Saleem-Dr. Dawood-Minister Press Irfan Qazi - Hasan.

PTI should accept PM's offer of national reconciliation: Mian Zahid Hussain

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the elevation of Shahbaz Sharif as Prime Minister is good for the economy and the masses

The PM will continue the process of reforms, which will stabilize the economy, increase the value of the rupee, and make the business atmosphere favorable

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Shahbaz Sharif has been a successful Chief Minister before, and the current IMF program results from his efforts as the Prime Minister.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Shahbaz Sharif understands the economic issues and their importance. He enjoys the support of

Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari and has good relations with friendly countries.

He added that many people in his party are experts in economic affairs, and with their advice, the country can be removed from the current whirlpool of problems.

The business leader said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif invited all the parties for the charter of the economy as soon as he was elected, and he also offered reconciliation, which all the parties should welcome.

PTI should take advantage of this offer and formulate a comprehensive strategy on both these issues in the national interest. A mechanism should be created to ensure continuity in economic policies, as frequent policy changes tend to confuse investors.

Mian Zahid Hussain said it is essential to sign a new agreement with the IMF, while the focus should be on reducing energy costs on a priority basis.

The repeated increase in the price of elec-



tricity, gas, and oil temporarily relieves this sick sector but takes a lot away from the masses.

According to the PM, the energy sector is causing a loss of more than 1000 billion rupees annually. The electricity tariff in Pakistan is higher than that of all the countries in the region, and the industrial sector is suffering because of this.

Due to the high cost of electricity, production is expensive, demand is low, and exports are being damaged. High power tariffs also harm the process of reducing imports and increasing employment through local produc-

Expensive energy has become a significant obstacle to industrialization and investment

The government is putting all the burden of unused electricity payments on the consumers. Similarly, the masses are made to pay for theft of electricity and gas, cross-subsidy, line losses, and reduction in recovery on the public and the industrial sector, thereby increasing poverty and weakening the industrial sector.

Preparing

KARACHI: Labourers are busy in preparing wooden boat at Fish Harbour, in the Provincial Capital.



Faysal Bank complements State Bank's efforts for enhancing financial literacy

faysalbank (s)

KARACHI: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL), a leading Islamic financial institution of Pakistan, has partnered with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for 'Pakistan Financial Literacy Week 2024'.

Committed to fostering financial education and inclusivity, FBL furthers its pledge to complement the SBP efforts for

this resourceful initiative of empowerment. Bahawalnagar, Mirpur, Okara and Gilgit, Expressing his views on the occasion, Yousaf Hussain, President & CEO, Faysal

Bank said, "Financial literacy is the stepping stone to financial inclusion especially amongst the vulnerable communities. We are also cognizant of nurturing sustainable development through our expansion highlighting the digital future of financial strategy. At Faysal Bank, we stand reso- institutions.

lutely committed to the cause of financial education especially Riba-free Islamic Banking and will continue to complement the Government and Regulator's focus on deepening financial inclusion."

During the Pakistan Financial Literacy Week 2024, Faysal

Bank teams will be conducting educational camps across five districts of Pakistan, including Abbottabad,

for three consecutive days, starting 5 March 2024. To further the impact of the Pakistan Financial Literacy Week volunteers from the Bank will also be conducting sessions with the children from underprivileged schools on how to save money as well as

SECP organizes workshop on new regulatory framework of Voluntary Pension **Schemes**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a capacity-building workshop for journalists at its head office, focusing on enhanced scope of Voluntary Pension System (VPS) regulatory framework. The event aimed to raise public awareness and understanding of Voluntary Pension

Khalida Habib, Executive Director, Specialized Companies Division explained the participants that the regulatory framework has been amended to allow employers to offer fully funded defined contribution pensions to their employees in a fail-safe environment. This change was made through amendments in the VPS Rules, 2005 and NBFC&NE Regulations, 2008. This allows Group Companies, Holding Companies, Federal Governments, and Provincial Governments to provide comprehensive post-retirement income

Significant amendments in VPS rules:

Evolve and Enhance the scope of Voluntary Pension System (VPS) Framework by allowing Employers, both in the public and private sectors, to offer fully funded defined contribution pensions in a fail-safe environment to their work force.

Introduction of professional management of post-retirement savings of the (employees), both in the public and private sector, by SECP licensed/registered entities with minimum rating of "AM2".

Graduating away from the Pay-As-You-Go traditional Pensions with Defined Benefit structure, which have remained a burden on the Government exchequer, largest employer in the country in terms of funding the pension bill out of current expenditure.

Ensuring that pension liabilities in the future are fully funded with benefit of accumulation through regular contributions in order to avoid defaults directly hurting the old-age beneficiaries.

Transforming the regulato-



ry framework to steer the overall pension savings paradigm of the country towards global best

Aligned the regulatory framework with SECP's vision to meet the evolving financial needs of modern work force.

Amendments in the VPS Rules,

2005 along with corresponding

amendments in the NBFC&NE Regulations, 2008 have been notified after a careful assessment of the needs for a vibrant and futuristic pension landscape Extensive engagements with

sector and global experts prior to introducing flexibility for the Employer Based Pensions within the framework of VPS which is the only Defined Contribution Based Pension Platform in Paki-

Allowing flexibility to the workers/employees to save and grow their investments according to their individual risk profiles and old age income needs.

Further strengthen the overall risk framework of VPS to ensure quality of services and investment management, a minimum Asset Manager Rating criterion of 'AM2' has been introduced for Asset Management Companies, Life Insurance Companies and newly allowed Investment Advisors who wish to offer Employer Pension Funds under the VPS.

Enhanced inclusiveness of the VPS Framework by allowing Non-Resident Pakistanis holding Pakistan Origin Cards to save for retirement in Pakistan and benefit from what is offered to the resident Pakistanis.

Bring Pakistan at par with the well-established pension solutions like 401(k) retirement plans in the USA.

Revolutionizing but also preserving the inherent spirit of VPS to allow self-employed or informal sector work force to save for their retirement age financial needs while formally including the formal employment sector.

The Interview of Yasir Bin Tahir, Director, Supreme Solsun Energy Pvt Ltd. (Renewable is the Future)



he Supreme Solsun Eergy Pvt Ltd, Director Yasir Bin Tahir said in an interview that I have done Bachelor of Business Administration from Lahore School of Economics.

He joined his business in 2008, he is a third generation in business. His grandfather Malik Sultan Mahmood (Late) is a founder of the business. They also deals in Steel sector as Supreme Steel Forming Pvt Ltd situated at Lahore.

He said that I started my business in 2008, While Supreme Solsun Energy Pvt Ltd was established in 2020 and this is the only manufacturing which is preparing the Solar Panels and this company also prepare the automation panels from 170 wt to 410 wt and now this company is also preparing the panels of 540 wt to 540 wt and further more 710 wt panels are also available. He said that we are also the distributor of INVT and we have available the invertor of INVT and our products warranty is 10 year and 25 years life time-waranty.

He further said that Supreme Solar products respond is an excellent in the market. Talked about the Solar Pakistan Exhibition he said that this was excellent Solar exhibition and their were huge visitors watched this 3 days exhibition and achieved many things on discount and such kind of event should be organized 4 or 5 times in a years he said that Solar and Energy Companies got much advantage





from Solar Pakistan Exhibition and they just as an eco-conscious choice but as sale out their products on the spot and exhibition are also the part of awareness. He said that due to the extendable

prices of electrical products the demand f has been further extending day by day of electrical products and market is going up from the last year now to triple. He talked further about the Supreme Solsun Energy company that this is a joint venture created by Pakistan Company and Korean holding grou (IntroMedic-Seoul-South Korea to manufacturing A Grade Photovoltaic Modules in Pakistan.

He said that Experience the trans-

a practical investment with the capacity to significantly lower your electricity bills over the long term, offering both environmental sustainability and financial relief.

He said that our comprehensive suite of professional services caters to a diverse clientele, ranging from homeowners to commercial developers and experience the fusion of imagination and expertise with Etudes Architectural Solutions. At last he gave the message to public that come in the Solar and Energy side and get the advantages of Electricity bills which will be less if you get the Solar and formative power of Solar Panels, not energy system and save your money. *





HBL PSL 9th Edition

All-Round Shadab Khan sinks Peshawar Zalmi despite Aamir's heroic effort with the bat

S Asim Tanveer

RAWALPINDI: On the back of a brilliant all-round performance by skipper Shadab Khan, Islamabad United edged out Peshawar Zalmi by 29 runs at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Monday night. Shadab, player of the match, scored 80 with the bat and claimed three vital scalps with the ball.

United with this triumph also the points table. This was Peshawar Zalmi's third loss in HBL PSL9.

Zalmi's pursuit of the challenging 197-run total began dramatically as they lost their opening batters in the first over. Babar Azam was run out for a golden duck trying to steal a single after nudging the ball toward mid-on where Alex Hales took no time to hit the stumps.

Naseem Shah induced an edge from Saim Ayub's bat a ball later removing him cheaply. Naseem returned an over later to bowl his first-ever maiden in his 35-gamelong HBL PSL career.

Mohammad Haris (1, 4b), batting at three, was caught at short fine leg by Imad Wasim trying to flick one off Rumman

A double-wicket maiden by Hunain Shah left Zalmi reeling at 18-5 at the end of the powerplay as he removed Tom Kohler-Cadmore for 12 off 14 balls while Rovman Powell returned for a three-ball duck.

Aamir Jamal and Paul Walter crept up to the third position on joined forces to put on the highest-ever sixth-wicket partnership in HBL PSL history, scoring 107 off 62 balls. Aamir. aggressor in this partnership, brought up his maiden T20 fifty off just 27 balls on the back of five boundaries and three sixes.

Zalmi required 77 off the last five overs when Shadab brought himself on and broke the threatening partnership when he dismissed Walter (33, 29b, 5x4s). In the following over, Aamir struck Naseem for three boundaries in a bid to keep his team in the game.

Shadab returned in the 18th over to seal the game for United

as he brought an end to Aamir's glorious fighting knock of 87 from 49 balls comprising eight fours and six towering maximums. Shadab also reached the 300 T20 wickets milestone, becoming only the sixth Pakistan

Zalmi's innings for 167-9, winning the game by 29 runs. Shadab led the way with three wickets while Hunain and Rumman chipped in with two scalps. Naseem bagged one wicket.

Earlier, Peshawar Zalmi won

Zalmi, took Hales by surprise on the very first ball, as he rattled the stumps of the United opener with a vicious carrom ball pitched on a teasing length.

Salman Ali Agha joined Colin Munro in the middle and the toss and elected to bowl first. announced his arrival with style United bowlers wrapped up Saim, opening the bowling for as he smashed Luke Wood for a

Saim returned to bag his third HBL PSL 9 scalp in the next over as he duped Munro into playing the third big shot of the over only to be caught by Babar, leaving United 28-2.

Shadab, batting at four, showed intent from the get-go to help his team finish the powerplay with 46-2 on the board. The duo of Salman and Shadab added a substantial 65 off 44 balls for the third-wicket partnership.

In the 11th over, Salman Irshad struck to remove his namesake Salman (37, 25b, 4x4s, 2x6s), who in his bid to attempt a scoop

Shadab brought up his seventh HBL PSL half-century off 34 balls in the 13th over. The following two overs, delivered by Mohammad Zeeshan and Aamir respectively, were ransacked for Raees 2-28) 15 runs each as Shadab continued to wield the willow aggres-

Jordan Cox stitched a 68 on the back of 39 balls with pindi (7pm)

Shadab (80, 51b, 4x4s, 6x6s) before Wood struck to eke out the scalp of the United skipper courtesy of a diving catch by Saim.

Azam Khan's (29 not out, 14b, 4x4s, 1x6) belligerent stay on the crease meant that United scored 35 off the last three overs notching a total of 196-4 in the allotted 20 overs.

Saim was the pick of Zalmi bowlers as he returned with two wickets while Wood and Salman bagged one each.

Scores in brief:

Islamabad United beat Peshawar Zalmi by 29 runs

Islamabad United 196-4, 20 overs (Shadab Khan 80, Salman shot edged the ball to the keeper. Ali Agha 37, Azam Khan 29 not out; Saim Ayub 2-15)

Peshawar Zalmi 167-9, 20 overs (Aamir Jamal 87, Paul Walter 33; Shadab Khan 3-41, Hunain Shah 2-25, Rumman

Player of the match - Shadab Khan (Islamabad United)

Tomorrow's fixture: Multan Sultans vs Peshawar Zalmi at fourth-wicket partnership of Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawal-

Islamabad United beat Peshawar Zalmi to move to third position

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Islamabad United grabbed the with Babar getting dismissed third position in the points on a first-ball duck as a result table of the Pakistan Super of Alex Hales' run-out in the League (PSL) season 9 after securing a 29-run victo- Naseem Shah. Following ry over Peshawar Zalmi at that, Naseem also eliminated the Pindi Cricket Stadium Saim Ayub on the final ball Rawalpindi late Monday. of the over, with Rumman Despite both United and Raees getting rid of Moham-Zalmi having accumulated mad Haris, leaving Peshaseven points each in seven war at a precarious position matches, the former hold a superior Net Run Rate Play's final over, Shadab (NRR). Multan Sultans Khan brought in Naseem's currently lead the table with brother, Hunain Shah, who 12 points, followed by Quet- snatched two crucial wickets ta Gladiators in second place with 9 points.

the beginning of their chase, opening over delivered by of 3-3. During the Power - those of Tom Kohler-Cad-

196/4. Peshawar encoun- chase. Aamer Jamal particutered challenges right from larly contributed a remarkable innings of 87 runs off 49 balls, including six sixes and eight fours, while Walter scored 30 off 29 deliveries. Earlier, Peshawar opted to field and got off to a good start as Saim Ayub sent Alex Hales back to the pavilion on the very first ball. Despite Colin Munro's initial aggression with a six and a four in the subsequent over, Ayub had the final say, dismissing him as well in an attempt to score another boundary.

At 28-2 in three overs Shadab Khan and Salman Ali Agha formed a vital more and Rovman Powell. 65-run partnership for the United Aamer Jamal and Paul third wicket in 44 balls.

and two sixes, interrupted the momentum. Shadab continued his attacking display, joining forces with Jordan Cox to raise a 68-run partnership on 39 balls. Shadab's explosive innings of 80 runs off 51 balls, which included 10 boundaries and six sixes, came to an end when Luke Wood dismissed him, with Islamabad's total reaching 161 runs.

Azam Khan provided an undefeated cameo of 29 runs from 14 balls, propelling the team to a total of 196-4 in their allotted 20 overs, with Cox also remaining unbeaten on 26 from 20 balls, including two boundaries and a six. Peshawar Zalmi

PAF, WAPDA teams reached National U20 Engro Volleyball Championship finals

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: WAPDA and PAF teams have qualified for the final in the Engro U20 Volleyball Championship being organized by Pakistan Volleyball Federation and KP Volleyball Association here at PSB Coaching Center on Monday.

The final will be played on Tuesday at 3.30 pm. The third position match will be between the teams of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan Boards at 12.30 pm on the same day.

In the first semi-final, the WAPDA team won against the Pakistan Education Boards by 25-15, 25-23, and 25-16. On this occasion, Secretary K. P. Olympic Association Zulfigar Butt was the chief guest along with Vice President Volleyball Federation Irfan Nawaz, Khalid Waqar of KP, and other personal also present. In the second semi-final, PAF defeated KP Greens after a tough fight by 17-25, 25-20, 27-25, 25-27, 15-13. On this occasion,

managed to restrict Pesha- Walter initiated a strong However, Agha's departure are now set to face Multan Deputy Secretary General PTI Malik Shahab war Zalmi to 167/9 after _sixth-wicket _partnership _after a gutsy 37 off 25 balls. Sultans at the same venue Khan was the special guest who congratulated both teams for the excellent game. setting a formidable total of for Zalmi during their run comprising four boundaries on late Tuesday. Barcelona lose Frenkie de Jong, Pedri ahead of

Napoli Champions League clash Sports Desk

Barcelona midfielders Pedri and Frenkie de Jong are expected to miss the Champions League clash against Napoli after the Spanish club confirmed on Monday.

Dutch international De Jong suffered a right ankle sprain with Spaniard Pedri picking up a new injury to his right hamstring in Sunday's goalless draw in La Liga clash against Athletic Bilbao.

 $Barcelona\ did\ not\ specify\ the\ duration$ of the pair's absence, but they could be out for more than a month and miss the Champions League last 16-second leg clash against Napoli next week.

The five-time European champions will host the current Italian champions on March 12 with the tie finely poised after a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

De Jong was sidelined earlier this season with a right ankle injury, while Pedri has been plagued by right thigh problems with the latest being his third of the campaign.

Pedri is also expected to miss Spain's international friendlies against Colom-



bia in London on March 22 and Brazil at Santiago Bernabeu four days later.

"They are two very influential players

We will miss them," said their coach Xavi in our game, two very important players. Hernandez on Sunday, after the third-p

Karachi Kings include Zahid Mehmood as full replacement for injured Saad Baig

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Karachi Kings included leg-spinner Zahid Mehmood in their PSL 9 squad as a full replacement for wicketkeeper batter Saad Baig.

Baig suffered a groin strain and has been advised to go through rehab by the medical panel.

The rehabilitation process of the young wicketkeeper has been started, owing to the medical panel's advice that without complete rehab, there is a risk of

this injury getting worse. Saad Baig will remain with the Karachi Kings squad and continue his rehab process.

Meanwhile, Zahid Mehmood, who was included in Karachi Kings' squad for the PSL 9 as a partial replacement initially, will now replace Baig in the squad for the complete season.

Mehmood has played two games for Karachi Kings and picked two wickets in the ongoing season.

Karachi Kings are currently sitting in the fifth position in the points table with four points in five matches after their 20-run defeat against leaders Multan Sultans at the iconic National Bank Stadium yesterday.

The 20-run victory meant

team to qualify for the Playoffs in the ongoing ninth edition of the marquee league. Chasing a mammoth 190, the

Kings could accumulate 169 for the loss of seven wickets in the allotted 20 overs. The home side got off to an

unwanted start to the pursuit as they lost two wickets — Tim Seifert (1) and James Vince (7) inside the batting powerplay with just 28 runs on the board. Following the slump, skipper

Shan Masood partnered with Shoaib Malik to anchor the run

The pair batted sensibly and

Multan Sultans became the first added 53 runs for the third wicket before Usama Mir dismissed Masood in the 10th over to dent Kings' recovery.

Masood scored an anchoring 36 off 29 deliveries, hitting five boundaries.

Malik then put together a brief partnership with Leus du Plooy (12) before both fell in successive overs, resulting in the Kings slipping to 99/5 in 13 overs.

Veteran all-rounder Malik top-scored for the Kings with a 28-ball 38 which featured five boundaries.

The Kings then lost another wicket in the 17th over when Muhammad Irfan Khan

returned after scoring a 19-ball 23. Hasan Ali and Mohammad Nawaz offered valuable resistance in the death over with a brilliant 41-run partnership which lasted on the penultimate delivery but the Kings fell short of tasting their third victory in the

Hasan scored a brisk 17 off eight deliveries while Nawaz remained unbeaten with a 17-ball 27, featuring three boundaries

For the Sultans, Usama Mir bagged two wickets while David Willey, Chris Jordan, Khushdil Shah and Mohammad Ali struck out a batter apiece.

Ongoing Badminton finals at GYM Khana Dadu have won the Moro team



Azad Baloch

DADU: In the 8th All Sindh Badminton Tournament going on in GYM Khana Dadu, Mehran Badminton Moro team won the final after defeating Dadu team. A grand prize distribution ceremony was held at the final of the tournament.

On this occasion Deputy Commissioner Dadu Fayaz Hussain Rahoojo, SSP Dadu Shabbir Ahmed Sethar, PPP MPA Dadu Pir Mujeeb ul Haq, PPP leader Zubair Junejo, Assistant Commissioner Johi Muneeb Soomro, President Dadu Press Club Sabir Bhand, Principal Degree College Johi Zulfiqar Laghari, including others participated as special guests

In the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Dadu gave a on lakh cash prize, motorcycle and a trophy to the Moro team that won the final. While SSP Dadu gave 50 thousands cash prize, motorcycle trophy to the second position Dadu team. Prizes were also awarded to the teams that reached the third and fourth positions in the finals

The Shield of Media Partner Dadu Press Club was presented to President Sabir Bhand and Secretary GYM Khana Shahzaman Malkani was also awarded a shield for best arrangement the prestigious final.

PCB to observe breast, childhood cancer awareness days in HBL PSL 9

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to make use of the platform of HBL Pakistan Super League, as part of its corporate social responsibility, to raise awareness regarding breast



cancer and childhood cancer. In this connection, match between Peshawar Zalmi and Multan Sultans scheduled on March 5 at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi will be marked by the Pink Ribbon Day creating awareness regarding breast cancer, said a news release issued here on Monday.

The teams will wear pink ribbons and pink caps while the commentators will also put on pink ribbons. Meanwhile messages regarding breast cancer awareness will be displayed on the big screen and also announced during the commentary.

On March 12, Gold Ribbon Day will be observed to raise awareness regarding childhood cancer in the game between Quetta Gladiators and Multan Sultans at the National Bank Stadium, Karachi. The venue will turn gold as players and commentators will don gold ribbons and caps. The PCB has also invited four cancer patients on this occasion to attend the Gold Ribbon Day in Karachi and they will be presented with signed shirts from both the teams.

Women's Day weightlifting competition held

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Nida was adjudged the best weight-lifter of the Women's Day 2024 Weightlifting Invitational Cup tournament was held at the Railway Stadium here on Monday.

90 kg was the heighest weight lifted by Saima in the tournament while Rida lifted 85 kg in the Clean & Jerk category. General Secretary, Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF)

Nuzhat Jabeen was the chief guest at the event held to commemorate the international Women's Day 2024.

The weightlifting tourney was held under the auspices of the National Weightlifting Club Punjab Stadium.

Iman Fatima, Hira Niaz, Ayesha Aslam, Farkhunda Mustafa, Anam, Hadiqa Nasir, Rida, Sahar, Arefa, Khadija Yusuf, Noor Tahir, Kiran Iqbal, Anam Iqbal, Madeeha, Noor, Nida, Saima, Neelam, Zainab, Fatima, Fatima Sharif, Araf Fatima, Larib Kamal, Shahzadi Nazer, Muniba Imtiaz, Zara were among the weightlifters who won prominent positions in the tournament.

A large number of fans were present on the occasion.

The Spokesman

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir shakes hands with Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the oath taking ceremony of Prime Minister Mian Muhamaad Shehbaz Sharif at President House in the Federal Capital



Bilawal backs PTI's demand for inquiry into May 9

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari endorsed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's demand for an inquiry into the protests of May 9, adding that the results should be accepted by all parties.

Speaking in the National wal said it was not possible to forget attacks on institutions and martyrs' monuments.

He referred to Ali Amin an inquiry in May 9's protest, adding that a judicial commissurface.

all parties should agree to Islamabad High Court. accept the commission's find-

Bilawal said that it was hard to 'take our politics issue was resolved. He called cipher code at risk. on PM Shehbaz Sharif to set up a commission led by Chief Justice Faez Isa.

"I endorse this [...] if the Assembly on Monday, Bila- PTI assures us that it will accept the decision of the judicial commission [...] it is not possible that someone attacks our institutions, the martyr's Gandapur's speech asking for memorials and we forget it,"

The PPP chairman also mentioned the cipher case in the assembly, adding that leaking the confidential docuforward' unless the May 9 ment could have put Pakistan's

> As Sunni Ittehad Council's lawmakers burst into protest, Bilawal continued to mock them for not being able to handle criticism, even referring to them at one point as 'cartoons'.

Bilawal also referred to the dissolution of the assembly just before the vote of no-confidence in 2022, adding that Violent protests had broken it amounted to a violation of Imran Khan was sentenced in last year, minutes after Imran violations of the constitution election. Khan was arrested from the would have to be condemned

Referring to the PTI's antics, he turned to the opposition to ask 'Who the hell are you to ask me about the constitution?'

However, as the clamour grew, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq assured the opposition that the offensive remarks would be expunged. At this Bilawal said that he should not have used the words he did and asked them to be expunged as well.

Asad Qaiser asks for commission on cipher

In response, PTI leader Asad Qaiser told the house that the cipher was a 'reality' and

sion must be formed to investigate the cipher and demanded that the government should set it up immediately.

He added that a grade-19 officer had challenged the honour of Pakistan by threatening a diplomat.

Qaiser added that the members of his party who had made it to the house were beyond intimidation as they had braved all sorts of persecution after May 9.

He added that he had been asked to leave PTI, join Pervez Khattak or even form his own

Qaiser speech was taken off sion should bring facts to the out across Pakistan on May 9 the constitution. He added that the case to keep him out of the air while he was still speaking, similar to Omar Ayub's speech on Sunday

Israel is deliberately creating massive chaos in the Gaza Strip

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Day after day, Israel's true intentions and goals regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip are revealed, not only what is related to the escalation of the genocidal war against our people and imposing the choice of death by killing, starvation, thirst, or displacement on them, but also what is related to the day after the war. In this context, the Ministry strongly condemns the statements of the extremist fascist Minister Ben Gvir regarding the appointment of thousands of police officers in the Gaza Strip, as well as the statements of Israeli Prime false pretexts and pretexts, and Palestinian civilians to strike Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a number of his war leaders regarding the creation of an administration tailored to the size of the occupation in the Gaza Strip, which have one meaning and essence, which is to perpetuate the Israeli occupation. To the Gaza Strip under



at best to beautify it to replicate West Bank, including incursions, invasions, arrests, and

what remains of the Palestinthe nature of the situation in the ian social fabric and create a state of internal conflict, in an attempt to impose its declared orgies in the Gaza Strip. The and undeclared agenda and Ministry notes that the Israe- arrangements on the major li government, in its pursuit of powers and the international this goal, deliberately creates a community, so as to preserve state of complete chaos among The rift and separation between

the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and perpetuating the attack on the geographical unity of the Palestinian state and the unity of its legitimate leadership frameworks.

At the same time, the Ministry expresses its extreme astonishment at the continuation of some countries and international officials in directing demands and appeals to the occupying state to protect civilians and secure the entry of aid and their basic humanitarian needs, in a miserable gamble that has proven to fail over 150 days.

When will the international community and the countries that provide protection to Israel be convinced that the latter Do you not pay any attention to these claims, the resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly, and the precautionary order issued by the International Court of Justice? For these countries to get out of the circle of diagnosing and betting on Israel and its positions towards imposing the measures prescribed by international law and deterrent sanctions to force it to protect civilians and secure their basic human needs, not as a moral generosity or favor on its part, but rather as a duty that the occupying power must follow.

Gaza war could ignite broader Mideast crisis: UN rights chief warns

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, said on Monday it was imperative to avoid any exacerbation of the war in Gaza, warning that any conflagration could have broad repercussions across the Middle East and beyond the region. Addressing the UN Human Rights avoid a further spillover of conflict in Council in Geneva, he said the war in Gaza, which had been raging since October 7, had already spilled over in neighbouring countries.

"I am deeply concerned that in this

warned. "This would have implications for every country in the Middle East, and many beyond it." In a scheduled update on global crises to the Council's 47 member states, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights insisted that the international community should do "everything possible" to Gaza. His comments came amid calls for an "immediate ceasefire for at least the next six weeks" to facilitate the release of Israeli hostages from United States' Vice President Kamala Harris, while powder keg, any spark could lead to international negotiations for a ceasefire

a much broader conflagration," Turk continued in Egypt on Sunday, reportedly involving the US, Qatari and Palestinian envoys but not so far, Israeli representatives. The risks to regional stability were already apparent in southern Lebanon, Turk said, emphasizing that militia fighters sympathetic to the Palestinian cause were now engaged in an "extremely worrying" uptick of hostilities and exchanges of fire with Israel, along the UN-monitored Blue Line that separates both countries. Almost 200 people had been killed in Lebanon since war erupted in Gaza, the High Commissioner continued, with children, paramedics and journalists among the victims. Some 90,000 (UNICEF) warned on Sunday.

people in Lebanon had been displaced by the violence, Turk said, amid "extensive damage to health facilities, schools, and vital infrastructure". Israeli communities had also seen 80,000 people uprooted from border areas because of the violent escalation, the UN rights chief noted. In a related development, the enclave's health authorities announced that at least 15 children have now died from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in Gaza City. "Many more youngsters will likely die in the coming days, unless aid is ramped up without delay," the UN Children's Fund

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AJK President recalls late Maulana Bashir **Ahmad Mustafavi**

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir State President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Maulana Bashir Ahmad Mustafavi, a well-known theologian and religious scholar of Jammu and Kashmir state. President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry paid rich tribute to late Maulana Bashir Ahmad Musta-Islam. President Azad Jammu and members.



Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that I pray that Allah Ta'ala may grant late Maulana Bashir Ahmad Mustafavi a high place in Jannat al-Firdus and give favi for his efforts for the world of patience to all the bereaved family

Action demanded against mobile company for tax fraud

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Monday, Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Chairman Brigadier (retd) Aslam Khan urged action against a cellphone company for a Rs98 billion tax fraud.

He said that despite freezing its bank accounts and sealing its vital business hubs in the past, the corporation still defrauds the government and the public.

People are sick of inflation, and the country is near insolvency, but some greedy corporations refuse to pay taxes and discharge their national obligations.

Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan stated today that some mobile phone providers deduct more taxes from consumers than they transfer to the government, and this seems to be ongoing as authorities prefer to go gentle on the telecom sector for obvious reasons.

They also overcharge subscribers, and tax collectors' inability to monitor cellular companies contributes to economic crime.

He informed that some taxes don't apply in impoverished areas, but some companies exploit this chance to ille-

gally tax consumers in the region, earning hundreds of millions of

NAB accused five cellular businesses of evading sales tax and federal excise duty of Rs 47 billion in 2012. One significant corporation earned Rs 80 billion to Rs 85 billion annually and paid only Rs 2.5 billion in taxes

over the past five years. He revealed that certain telecom businesses used 'transfer pricing' and exaggerated machinery imports to evade taxes. Federal Board of Revenue in Islamabad sealed Jazz's main business facilities in October 2020 for non-payment of Rs 25.393 billion in income tax.

He noted that Pakistan welcomes international investors who benefit society and the economy. Still, robbery in the business's name shouldn't be forgiven while the economy is tank-

FBR disburses Rs 65 bln refunds to exporters

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued all outstanding refunds to exporters amounting to Rs 65 billion as on March 03, 2024.

According to an FBR press release issued on Monday, the refunds were issued after directives given by Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during his first speech on the floor of the National Assembly on 3rd March 2024 after being elected to the office of the prime minister.

The refunds issued to exportan increase in the forex reserves of the textile industry.



Trade bodies and export-oriented sectors have welcomed the move by the prime minister and said that the move will lead to economic prosperers will lead to better exports and ity and the creation of more jobs in

FTO committed to address complaints of taxpayers: Asif



Example 2 Commerce Desk

MULTAN: Federal Tax Ombudsman Asif Mahmood Jah Monday said that Federal Tax Ombudsman Office was committed to facilitate taxpayers in order to improve business friendly environment in the country. Addressing a ceremony at Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said that complaints pertaining to FBR taxes were being resolved as early as possible. The access to Ombudsman Office

He said that some sub-judice cases were pending for years and depending upon nature, were also processed. FTO is offering equal facility either small businessmen or giants, he added. Quoting example of a single minor complain, the FTO has resolved not only that particular complain but also others were also present.

resolved the same problem faced by 1.4 million taxpayers, he hinted. Asif Jah informed that billions of rupees were refunded to the taxpayers. He maintained that FTO was taking every possible steps to provide maximum facilitation. He urged businessmen and others to file complaints in case of any concern. It will not only facilitate them but also lead to benefit to many other people, he maintained. He stated that FBR was bound to follow orders to FTO. In case any officer did not follow the order, then he was punished. He also informed that the department had resolved over 94 percent complaints of people during last year. On this occasion, President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rashid Iqbal, Officers from RTO Office, Customs Department, Lawyers and many