

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابو ایمان نے بیان کیا، میں نے کہا
ہم کو شیب سے خریدی، انہیں زہری سے،
ان سے ابو سلمہ بن عبد الرحمن نے بیان کیا اور
ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہر نبی کی
ایک دعا قبول ہوتی ہے تو میں چاہتا ہوں کہ اللہ
نے چاہا کہ نبی کا دعا تمام کسوں کی امت
کی شفاعت کے لیے منظور رکھوں۔
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President Biden says Netanyahu 'hurting Israel more than helping'

US President Joe Biden has said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "hurting Israel more than helping" with his handling of the war with Hamas, even as Biden stressed he would not abandon support for Israel. "What's happening is he has a right to defend Israel, a right to continue to pursue Hamas," Biden told MSNBC's Jonathan Capehart on Saturday. "But he must, he must, he must pay more attention to the innocent lives being lost as a



PTI founder's release imperative for uniting Pakistan, says Arif Alvi

Former president Dr Arif Alvi stressed the need for collaborative efforts to steer country out of crisis, saying that release of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan was imperative to unite Pakistan. Speaking to journalists in Karachi, he pointed out his longstanding efforts towards fostering national unity, saying that he had always endeavored to unite the country, as he believes that Pakistan's progress hinges upon unity. (Details on Page 8)

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Oath taking

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa, administering the oath of office of the President of Pakistan to Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Sunday. Former President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, were also present.



Photo: PID

Asif Ali Zardari takes oath as president of Pakistan for second term

He is only civilian president to be elected to office for a second term

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari took oath as president of Pakistan for a second term at a ceremony at the Aiwan-i-Sadr in Islamabad, a day after outgoing president Arif Alvi's term ended. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi

Faez Isa administered oath to the newly-elected president of Pakistan. Outgoing president Dr Alvi also attended the ceremony. A day earlier, Zardari was elected the president of Pakistan for the second time after winning the presidential election with 255 votes against PkMAP chief

Mahmood Khan Achakzai who got 119 votes in Parliament. He succeeded Alvi as the 14th president of Pakistan and became the only civilian president to have been elected to the Office for a second term.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, all three service chiefs, and the

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

Born on July 26, 1955, in Karachi, Zardari is the son of Hakim Ali Zardari, a tribal chief and prominent landowner.

He was married to Pakistan's

first female Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

Zardari served as the 11th president of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013 and was the first politician to complete a full term in office. He has been a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan since August 2018.

PM commends Peshawar police for foiling a terrorist attack

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday appreciated Peshawar police for thwarting a terrorist attack.

The prime minister said that they had saved the people from a huge loss and terrorists were sent to hell.

Police and security forces had always been standing like solid wall against terrorism, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

He also reiterated the resolve to eradicate scourge of terrorism forever.

Blast in Peshawar city kills two, injures one

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Two people were killed while one was injured on Sunday morning when a blast ripped through a busy road in northwestern Pakistan's Peshawar city, police and a rescue officials confirmed.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Rescue 1122 spokesperson Bilal Faizi wrote on social media platform X that the blast occurred at provincial capital Peshawar's Nasir Bagh Road, after which ambulances were dispatched to the area.

"Two people have been killed while one has been injured," Faizi wrote on X. "Rescue 1122 has shifted all persons to the hospital."



Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi confirmed the death toll, saying that as per initial investigations, the blast occurred due to explosives fitted into a motorcycle.

"Our Bomb Disposal Squad and investigative officers are inspecting the site of the blast," Abbasi told reporters. "As soon as they reach a final conclusion, we will let you know."

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in militant violence in its western KP and Balochistan provinces that share their border with the neighboring state of Afghanistan.

While no group has yet claimed responsibility for Sunday's blast, banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have carried out some of the

deadliest attacks against the country's security forces and civilians since 2007.

The surge in militant activities, including deadly suicide bombings, followed after the TTP, a conglomerate of armed factions, called off a fragile ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

Pakistani security forces have carried out several security operations in recent months to deal with militants hiding in the remote areas of the two provinces.

On Saturday, Pakistan Army's media wing said security forces killed 10 militants and injured three others in two separate operations in the country's North Waziristan tribal district.

Ramazan timings announced for govt offices

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Establishment Division has announced shortened working hours for government offices in the month of Ramazan.

According to a notification issued by the division, government offices which work five days a week will work from 9 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, the offices which work six days a week will have to work from 9 am to 3 pm.

All government offices will work from 9 am to 12 am on Fridays.

Offices across the country have shortened working hours in Ramazan to facilitate employees fasting in the holy month.

PM increases Ramazan Package to Rs12.5bn

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has increased the volume of Ramazan Package from Rs7.5 billion to Rs 12.5 billion, besides directed for enhancing its outreach in the country to facilitate the masses during the upcoming holy month.

Along with Utility Stores and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), mobile units would provide edible items at subsidized rates, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Sunday.

In the initial phase, a total of 1200 mobile points and 300 permanent package relief centers were being established.

The prime minister desired that maximum relief should be extended to the poor people.

During the month of Ramazan, the masses would be provided different edible items at lesser rates compared to market rates.

Besides, designated places, trucks would supply food stuff



to different places and GPS technology would be used for this purpose.

A video would be released for use of mobile app. A dashboard would be created to supervise sale of mobile flour with the help of digital technology.

On March 7, the prime minister had announced Rs7.5 billion subsidized Ramzan package.

A total of 39.6 million people would be provided food items during the holy month of Ramazan at subsidized 30 percent rates.

The items under BISP included, flour, rice, pulses, ghee, sugar, syrup and milk.

The subsidy on flour would be Rs77 per kg and on ghee Rs100 respectively.

Xi congratulates Zardari on election as Pakistani president



Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

In his message, Xi said China and Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners and good brothers, adding that the two countries' iron-clad friendship is a choice of history and a precious treasure of the two peoples.

Xi noted that the two countries have in recent years maintained close high-level exchanges, supported each other on issues concerning their respective core inter-

ests and major concerns, achieved fruitful results in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and maintained a high level of development of bilateral relations.

The world, Xi said, is confronted with accelerated changes unseen in a century, and the strategic significance of China-Pakistan relations has become more prominent.

The Chinese leader said he highly regards the development of China-Pakistan relations, and is ready to work with President Zardari to carry forward the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan, advance practical cooperation in various fields, push for greater development of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, so as to better benefit the two peoples.

PM thanks President Muizzu, President Wikremesinghe, PM Pushpa Kamal, PM Sheikh Hasina for their congratulatory messages

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday thanked President of the Maldives Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wikremesinghe, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal

'Prachanda' and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina for their congratulatory messages on his election as Prime Minister.

In separate posts on X, the prime minister thanked the President of the Maldives and said that Pakistan remained committed to deepening its relations with the

Maldives.

Similarly, in another post on his X account, the prime minister expressed gratitude to Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' for his letter of felicitations on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. "Look forward to working closely with

him to realize the true potential of cooperation between Pakistan and Nepal," he further posted.

In a related post, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in response to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's congratulatory message, said that he looked forward to working with her to further strengthen the Paki-

stan-Bangladesh relationship.

To a message of felicitation from President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wikremesinghe, the prime minister said that he was confident that relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka would continue to grow from strength to strength during the days ahead.

Majority of Karachi youth say they do not watch TV: survey

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Amid the widespread use of social media, seven out of 10 Karachi citizens say that they do not watch television, a survey by Gallup Pakistan revealed.

An Age-wise breakdown showed that youth between the ages of 18 to 24 years were also not interested in watching TV. Around 71% of them said that they did not watch TV.

People from Karachi aged 31-50 years are most likely to watch television with 32%.

The survey was carried out among a sample of 807 adult men and women in urban and rural areas of all six districts of Karachi division where the residents were asked if they watched TV yesterday.

Seven out of 10 respondents said they did not watch



TV the day before.

The survey carried out among adult men and women showed that 70% do not watch TV compared with 30% who said that they watched TV the day before.

The gender-wise breakdown showed little variation with 69% of women respondents saying they do not watch TV compared with their male counterparts, 70% of whom denied watching TV.

The survey showed that 72% of Karachi residents educated to intermediate and below do not watch TV, compared with educated citizens, 67% of whom said they did not watch TV.

PPP Azad Kashmir says president Zardari will bring about lasting peace in Kashmir

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir and senior parliamentarian Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that the president of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari is the name of a political institution and his presidency is the happiness of the people of Pakistan, so it will be a milestone for the solution of the Kashmir issue.

At a time when Pakistan is facing economic challenges, due to the changes in the region, there was a need for an experienced and uncontroversial figure in the presidency, and his success as president with an overwhelming majority was due to the approval of the parliament. But it is the result of unshakable trust.



He expressed these views while talking to journalists after felicitation meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday at Kashmir House Islamabad.

He said that with the presence of the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari in the Presidential Palace, where the prestige of the Kingdom of God will rise, the Muslim Ummah will rise.

He said that President Asif Ali Zardari will be the cause of political and economic stability as well as prosperity in Pakistan. Ali Zardari's blunt speech at the United Nations on the issue of Kashmir still warms the blood of Kashmiris.

He said that the Pakistan People's Party would have been founded on the issue of Kashmir he remarked.

PPP is a Symbol of Federation: Khawaja Rizwan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam. Divisional President Dera Ghazi Khan Mir Asif Khan Dasti. Secretary General People's Party Multan District Rao Sajid Khan met with newly elected President Asif Ali Zardari at Zardari House Islamabad and congratulated him on being elected President of Pakistan for the second time and presented a Flowers bouquet to President Asif Ali Zardari.



Talking to the newly elected President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari said That Pakistan is entering the democratic era. All of us and the entire Pakistani nation have to face the challenges that Pakistan is facing unitedly. Will be. In order to deal with other challenges from Pakistan, including poverty, inflation, unemployment, the whole nation has to play a practical role, now it is not politics, but it has to work for the state. They will try to meet the expectations of the people. Will stand up. Pakistan People's Party is the amin of politics of reconciliation, PPP is a symbol of federation, so it will solve the long-standing problems of the people of four provinces together. On this occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan People's Party is always bright, the manifesto of PPP is for the interpretation and prosperity of the common class, the trust of the people in the PPP in the recent elections is an honor for us. Khan Mir Asif Khan Dasti District General Secretary Peoples Party Multan Rao Sajid Ali Khan expressed good wishes to the newly elected President Asif Ali Zardari and expressed hope that PPP will raise its voice for South Punjab province.

President Zardari is bringing about needed reforms in Pakistan: Saleemur Rehman Mayo

Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: Former advisor to Governor Punjab and founding chief organizer Asif Ali Zardari Release Committee Salim-ur-Rehman Mayo has said that the election of Asif Zardari as the President of Pakistan and Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani as the Chairman of the Senate is equivalent to the stabilization of democracy, the constitution will get protection and reconciliation. He expressed these thoughts During the conversation with the journalists, he said that all political parties should agree on the national agenda to get the country and the people out of the economic crisis and problems above their personal interests. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani as Senate Chairman Begum Belam Hasnain should be made a member of the National Assembly on the reserved seat for women. People fed up with unemployment and poverty do not forgive the rulers And to keep the opposition's mouth shut, relief and facilities must be given to the people.



Multan. Ex-advisor to the governor of Punjab, Salim-ur-Rehman Mayo, is talking to journalists

Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab Arrested 23 Terrorists

Quratul Ain Asim / Mustansar Shah Nawaz

MULTAN: According to The Spokesman Of CTD Punjab Said The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 23 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 229 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 228 suspected persons were interrogated and 23 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.



Among the arrested terrorists are Abdul Karim, Ghofranullah, Kamran Ali, Shah Muhammad, Shakirullah, Muhammad Imran, Shahi Muhammad, Ansaif Allah, Samar Khan, Abdul Qudus, Muhammad Imran Abu Zarrar, Muhammad Aslam, Irfan Sharif, Muhammad Shahid, Ghulam Mustafa. Eid Muhammed, Hayatul-lah, Ziarat Gul, Muhammad Tayyab, Abdul Ghaffar, Nazer Hussain, Muhammed Ishaq, Sher Zaman, Muhammed Fayaz, Maladim Hussain, Shahid Hussain, Saifuddin, Muhammed Rafiullah, Qari Muhammed Athar and Muhammed Arabi, he said and added that they belongs to the banned Organization Al Qaeda, Tehreek Taliban Pakistan, Baloch Liberation Army, Lashkar Jhangvi, Sepahe Sahaba Pakistan, Tehreek Jafaria Pakistan and Jaish-e-Mohammed. He said that these alleged terrorists were arrested in Rajanpur, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Chiniot, Bahawalnagar, Faisalabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Lahore, Mianwali, Sheikhpura and Jhang during the intelligence based operations.

He said that the explosives 8502 gms hand grenades 2, IED bombs 01, detonators 20, safety fuse wire 51.04 feet, Prima Card 2.5' on 30 bore pistol with 10 bullets, prohibited books 11, pamphlets 170, 61 Stickers of banned organaization, 34 receipt books, 02 mobile phones and 127,770 rupees in cash have been recovered from them.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered cases against the alleged females terrorists and shifted them to an unknown location.

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference says will not let Kashmir be partitioned

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique 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. Has been put on the brink of destruction, India has made life difficult for the people of Occupied Kashmir, Occupied Kashmir has become a prison, in these situations, it is the responsibility of the international powers to stand up in support of human rights. Stand up and do your part to implement UN resolutions. The resolutions of the United Nations are proof that the issue of Kashmir state is controversial, India is playing the role of anti-peace by deviating from these resolutions. The conference is the only political party which is the most literate party of the Kashmiris as well as the Tehreek Azadi Kashmir and the Pakistan Tehreek Pakistan. The Muslim Conference is not a party of any clan and tribe, it is a collection of all casts. He said that the Muslim Conference is a representative party of Kashmiris, the workers should maintain unity in their ranks, the Muslim Conference has come out of difficult situations, the time is not far when The Muslim Conference will emerge once again across the state.

Celebration

ISLAMABAD: Panaflexes hanged on the Constitution Avenue to congratulate the President of Pakistan.



Photo: Online

Poetry competition organized between women's in the different languages of Pakistan

Kiran Asim / Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: In connection with the International Women's Day, a poetry competition was organized between women in the Different languages of Pakistan under the auspices of Academy Literature Pakistan, in which representative women poets were well represented did while women did university Prof. Dr. Shahida Rasool was the chief guest and Ms. Rizwana Malik was the guest of honor. Renowned poet Sahar Syal performed the duties of Nizam.



The poetry presented by women in Urdu, Saraiki and Punjabi languages received special appreciation. That women have a rightful place in society Men can also play an important role in encouraging and women can also make their high position by the side of men by using their attitude

and better skills.

Conducting of their abilities at the government level On this occasion, Ms. Rizwana Tabsum Durrani, Dr. Shahida Rasool, Komal Joya, Gul Nasreen Nausheen, Fatima Maleeha Farhat, Dr. Manal Siddiqui, Sadia

Rabab, Alia Anmol, Dr. Kushmala Geelani, Rukhsana Liaqat, Miss Amber and other female poets recited their poems and received great applause from the audience. Men and women in the gathering Ahl Qalam participated in full, including Shay-

reen Rana Amberin Umar Ali Khan Baloch Senior Producer of Radio Pakistan Multan Nasreen Farid Controller and Station Director of Radio Pakistan Multan Riaz Mailsi Jafar Baloch Renowned Poet Shakeel Patafi Akbar Hashmi Syed Qamar Abbas Hashmi Aamir Shahzad Siddiqui Noorul Amin Khakwani Manoor Khursheed Siddiqui Taj Muhammad Taj, Muhammad Yahya Bhatti, Ghulam Asim Bapi and others are included. On this occasion, women poets appreciated the organization of women's mushaira on International Women's Day with the special interest of Dr. Najiba Arif, President of Pakistan Academy of Literature and Director General Sultan Muhammad Nawaz Nasir. Mian Muhammad Ejaz in charge of Akademi Literatura Multan And Azhar Saleem Majuka thanked the participants of the event

PTI countywide protest call against election rigging

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Multan police arrested the President of Tehreek-e-Insaf South Punjab and members of Provincial Assembly Punjab Moin Riaz Qureshi and Malik Adnan on the call of nationwide protests by the top leadership of Tehreek-e-Insaf against changing and Rigging in results of the General Election 2024.



Other 8 of Tehreek-e-Insaf including Dogar and Bahar Hashmi The workers were arrested. Before the arrest, the members of Provincial Assembly of Punjab Tehreek-e-Insaf South Punjab President Moin Riaz and Adnan Dogar while talking to the media representatives said that on the night of March 8, a conspiracy was made to the candidates of Tehreek-e-Insaf from all over the country as part of a pre-planning. Lost in the darkness of the night.

Which Tehreek-e-Insaf strongly condemns. Moin Riaz Qureshi and Adnan Dogar said that international organizations including international media and foreign countries are clearly reacting strongly to stealing the mandate of Tehreek-e-Insaf in the

dark of night.

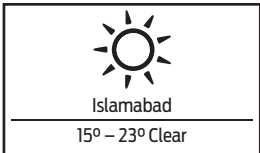
The members of Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Moin Riaz Qureshi and Adnan Dogar further said that in the results of the general election of March, the Election Commission and their followers spent 15 days altering

the results.

After losing the election, Nawaz League printed fake ballot papers in the printing press of Lahore, the videos of which are available on social media.

He further said that before the election, the Election Commission killed the country's largest party, Tehreek-e-Insaf, with the mark of a bat on the wish of a group, and during this time, the caretaker government kept the market of oppression on Tehreek-e-Insaf warm, which is still going on.. Moin Riaz Qureshi Malik Adnan Dogar said that the people of Pakistan have rejected the government formed with the blessing of America and fake mandate.

He further said that Imran Khan, leader of Tehreek-e-Insaf, has been arrested for planning, which is being protested all over the world including Pakistan.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:02 am
Zohr	12:18 pm
Asr	4:30 pm
Maghrib	6:12 pm
Isha	7:35 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7

Pakistani Film 'Wakhrī' Shines at SXSW with North American Premiere on International Women's Day



PNP

KARACHI: Pakistani cinema makes a remarkable mark on the global stage as 'Wakhrī' officially premiered in North America at the prestigious SXSW festival on March 8, 2024. This significant debut aligned perfectly with International Women's Day, adding a poignant layer to the film's narrative. Starring Faryal Mehmood in the titular role of 'Wakhrī', the film is written and directed by the visionary Iram Parveen Bilal and produced by Abid Aziz Merchant (Sanat Initiative), Apoorva Bakshi (Awedacious Originals), Bilal's Parveen Shah Productions, and executive produced by Aalia Mahboob Elahi. Earlier, the film premiered at the Red Sea International Film Festival in December 2023 and was released nationwide across Pakistan on January 5, 2024. 'Wakhrī' is Bilal and Merchant's second project at SXSW, the first being 'I'll Meet You There' which was a Grand Jury Award Nominee at SXSW 2020.

The North American premiere of the Pakistani film 'Wakhrī' at SXSW is a monumental moment for Pakistani cinema. As one of the most prestigious festivals globally, SXSW provides a platform for under-the-radar movies to shine, making it the perfect launchpad for 'Wakhrī'. With its compelling storyline, stellar performances, and exploration of universal themes, 'Wakhrī' represents a significant cultural export from Pakistan, showcasing the country's rich cinematic talent and contributing to the global conversation on women's empowerment and social change.

17th Degree Awarding Ceremony of Hamdard University Islamabad Campus

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The 17th Degree Awarding Ceremony of Hamdard University Islamabad Campus held on Friday. Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rehman was the chief guest of the ceremony.

The joyous ceremony was presided over by Ms Sadia Rashid, the Chancellor of the Hamdard University. Professor Dr. Syed Shabib Al Hasan, Vice Chancellor and Imtiaz Haider, Director General were also present on the occasion. Besides, senior faculty members and a large number of students participated in the degree awarding ceremony of Hamdard University, Islamabad.

Addressing the event, Chief Guest Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman said that we should remember the quest and efforts of Shaheed Hakeem Mohammad Said. He was a well-known scholar, writer, intellectual, philanthropist, an innovator and the founder of the Library Association of Pakistan.

Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman while acknowledging the unparalleled services of Shaheed Hakeem Mohammad Said, said that the family of Shaheed Hakeem Mohammad Said has been serving diligently to elevate the education, science and health sectors for

the last one-hundred years. The governor admired the efforts of Hakeem Mohammad Said for establishing institutions like Hamdard Pharmacy, Hamdard Foundation and Hamdard University.

Speaking on the occasion, Chancellor Sadia Rashid said that it is a moment of gratitude and elation – for the new graduates, and as well as for the parents and guardians who have invested significant care and made sacrifices to bring these students to this significant milestone of success.

She also acknowledged the efforts and hard work of teachers and the management, who generously and diligently served for the success of their students. Dr Sadia further said that it is crucial to acknowledge the indebtedness we owe to all those who have

In his speech, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Shabib Al Hasan said our Founder Chancellor, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, through his unique vision, served this country in many capacities and became a torch bearer of dedication and commitment. Hakim Said believed in the power of education to transform the society, he said.

In his address, Director General Imtiaz Haider said Hakim Mohammed Said was a visionary leader who dedicated



his life to the pursuit of knowledge and service to humanity. His unwavering commitment to education, healthcare,

and social welfare continues to inspire us to this day, he added.

The ceremony was attended by

students, graduates, faculty members, and representatives of the academia and industry.

BOP, NBP win CSR for women development awards

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's two prestigious financial institutions, Bank of Punjab and National Bank of Pakistan, were awarded "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for Women Development" awards here Saturday at a revered ceremony. The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) won two awards for its large CSR portfolio of women's education, and health and hygiene while the Bank of Bank (BOP) was conferred upon award for the comprehensive and inclusive women development, empowerment and engagement strategies and products.

The 'CSR for Women Development Awards' ceremony was a momentous part of the 10th edition of 3-day long 'Aurat Hunar Mela' (National Women-at-Work Festival) that kicked off on March 8 with a showcasing women's work, products and services includ-

ing an art exhibition "Herself" at the Lok Virsa, Shakarparian, Islamabad.

Earlier, a conference on the 'CSR for Women Development' was also organized. The panelists included the Bank of Punjab Head of Customer Services Rai Usman Mujahid, entrepreneur and Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) Vice President Sadaf Asim Abbasi, entrepreneur and human resource management expert Tahira Haider, Lok Virsa Director Research and Publications Dr. Zobia Sultana and, art and design mentor and Devcom-Pakistan Creative Director Riffat Ara Baig. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed conducted the panel discussion.

Rai Usman Mujahid said: The Bank of Punjab is a leading financial institution with 900 branches nationwide and is committed to creating a workplace that champions women

empowerment and inclusivity. Sadaf Asim Abbasi said: (CSR) plays a crucial role in the development and empowerment of women by promoting initiatives that address gender equality, access to education, economic opportunities, healthcare, and leadership development.

Tahira Haider education and skill development is very crucial for the community women where the CSR programs may be aimed at increasing access to education and skill development opportunities for women and girls. This can include scholarships, vocational training programs, and workshops designed to enhance their employability and entrepreneurship skills.

Riffat Ara Baig said: The CSR shall also be focused on empowering the community women with the skills to redesign their products to meet the market needs. It will increase their share in the market.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed urged the corporates to include women's leadership and decision-making roles within organizations and communities. This can involve mentorship programs, leadership training, and initiatives to break down barriers to women's participation in leadership positions.

In a separate ceremony on Sunday, the management volunteers from the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (ITHM) were also awarded certificates. The women artists who put their artworks on display were awarded with the festival mementos and certificates. They included Nigar Nazar, New York-based Nayer Iqbal, Shahnaz Akram, Riffat Ara Baig, Saima Tahir, Saima Amir, Hatice Omar, Ambreen Anjum, Salvat Hijazi, Sabahat Amir, Beenish Azam, Shehla Moazzam, and Ambreen Bilal.

Multan Sultans join forces with polio programme to end polio

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Super League titans Multan Sultans have joined hands with the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme to support the noble cause of polio eradication in Pakistan.

An initiative led by the Punjab Emergency Operations Centre Coordinator Mr Khizer Afzaal, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Multan Sultans and the National Emergency Operations Center for Polio Eradication at an event in Islamabad. Multan Sultans General Manager Ms Hijab Zahid and Coordinator of the NEOC Dr Shahzad Baig signed the MoU, while senior Polio Programme leadership and members of the Multan Sultans squad were in attendance.

"We are grateful to the Multan Sultans for partnering with us in this critical mission to eradicate Polio from Pakistan," said NEOC Coordinator Dr



Shahzad Baig, adding that this is a critical partnership for the Pakistan Polio Programme, especially at this time when we are close to eradicating polio from the country.

In the end, Ms. Hijab Zahid said that our polio workers are our true heroes and Multan Sultans are grateful for the tremendous work they do to make our generations healthy. With their unwa-

vering resolve and efforts, we will bowl out polio from Pakistan.

Under this partnership, Multan Sultans will be a rallying voice for polio eradication in Pakistan during the ongoing season of the Pakistan Super League. The Polio Programme's logo is being featured on the helmets of the team, while players will also be recording video messages advocating for vaccination.

IIU hosts closing ceremony of PM's Handball Talent League For Women



PNP

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University (IIU) organized the closing ceremony of the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt Sports Handball (Women) Federal League in Collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) at Liaquat Gymnasium, Islamabad Sports Complex.

The event, brought together teams from Islamabad, Skardu, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad, and Mirpur where students showcased exceptional talent and sportsmanship. In a fiercely contested competition, Islamabad emerged victorious, clinching the first position, followed by Muzaffarabad in second place and Skardu securing third place. The winning teams were honoured with cash prizes, medals, and trophies, respectively, for their outstanding performances. Guests of honor of the ceremony was Afsheen Akhtar, Project Manager HEC, Sadia Saleem Cheema, Female Student's Advisor and Incharge Sports & organizing Secretary Nadia Mukhtar were also present on the occasion.

Organizing Secretary Ms. Nadia Mukhtar, in her welcome note, thanked HEC adding the Prime Minister's initiative to promote sports among youth and giving them the platform to showcase their capabilities and talent providing bright stars to country. Dr. Sadia Saleem appreciated players and their managers for actively participating in league.

As a token of appreciation, shields were presented to Guests of Honors and officials for their unwavering support throughout the league. In a touching gesture, the HEC project managers extended their heartfelt gratitude to the IIU recognizing the invaluable contributions in ensuring the success of the event and nurturing the spirit of sportsmanship among the participating teams.

PIAF makes best use of platform to resolve business matters, economic uplift

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chief Fahimur Rahman Sehgal, in the lead of Pattern-in-Chief Mian Anjum Nisar, along with former Chairmen Muhammad Ali Mian and Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Lahore Chamber, Chaudhry Zafar, PIAF members, Malik Khalid, Sheikh Sajjad Afsil, Shaban Akhtar, Umar Sarfaraz, Ahsan Shahid, Ashfaq Ahmed and market officials visited the main commercial centers of Lahore, including Baden Road, Cooper Road and adjacent markets, and held meetings with the officials of the organizations. Addressing the meeting, PIAF chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol called for taking all steps to ensure a business and investment-friendly environment as it was imperative for economic progress and prosperity of the country.

Attock School celebrated learning and creativity through open day

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The city school Attock on Sunday welcomed students, parents, and educators to its annual Open Day, an extravaganza of educational exploration and creativity. The event showcased the school's commitment to holistic learning, innovation, and community engagement.

The Day kicked off with interactive learning activities designed to engage young minds. From puzzles to role-playing games, students embraced the joy of learning through play, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. The school's classrooms transformed into an art gallery, adorned with vibrant creations from budding Picassos. Students expressed their imaginations through various

mediums, from paintbrushes to clay, showcasing their artistic talents and unique perspectives. Curiosity sparked as visitors delved into the world of science. From captivating experiments to innovative projects, students showcased their scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills, igniting a passion for discovery and exploration.

During the event, the young entrepreneurs showcased their business acumen and creativity, presenting a range of innovative products and services. From handmade crafts to eco-friendly initiatives, these little entrepreneurs impressed with their ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit.

In an insightful panel discussion, Parents and students delved into the complexities of social media and its impact on mental health and society.

Parents and students gained valuable insights into navigating the digital landscape responsibly and cultivating healthy online habits.

Renowned psychologist Dr. Khubaib Head of Psychology department district headquarters hospital Attock delivered a thought-provoking lecture on nurturing mental well-being in children and adolescents. With expert advice and practical strategies, parents and educators gained valuable tools for supporting students' emotional resilience and psychological growth.

The head mistress Ms Rabia expressed gratitude to the school community for their unwavering support and commitment to excellence in education. "Our Open Day celebrates the limitless potential of every child and the transformative

power of education," she said. "Together, we cultivate a vibrant learning environment where students thrive and flourish."

The event was a testament to the school's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values to succeed in an ever-changing world. The event was concluded on a heartwarming note with adorable performances by early year students. From enchanting songs to charming dances, these young talents stole the show, spreading joy and laughter to all in attendance. As families departed with smiles and memories, the spirit of learning and creativity continued to resonate throughout the community, inspiring future generations of learners.



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Imran's misconstrued 'Truth and Reconciliation'

The PTI's current leadership is actively seeking to reconcile with the powerful establishment by extending an olive branch. However, the establishment, feeling betrayed and angered by Imran Khan and the PTI, appears reluctant to forgive and forget. This rift deepened notably after Imran Khan's aggressive criticism of the armed forces. His blatant and fierce onslaught on the armed forces challenged their alleged hegemony in civilian affairs, marking one of the most severe attacks on their rule since the 1971 criticism. The armed forces responded decisively, viewing Khan's aggression as akin to an enemy attack, and deployed all available resources to repel it, ultimately prevailing in the conflict.

Allegedly, the Establishment effectively manipulated the unfortunate events of May 9th, launching a relentless counterattack on the PTI from all angles and achieving several objectives. Imran Khan, once viewed as invincible due to his substantial public support, was ultimately arrested and imprisoned. Over 200 cases were filed against him, including prominent ones like the Cypher case, Toosha Khana Case, and illegal Nikah case. Consequently, Khan was disqualified from holding any public office. The entire top leadership of the PTI faced arrest, with some members going into hiding. Thousands of party workers were detained, cut off from communication with their families. Furthermore, numerous journalists who supported the PTI found themselves behind bars.

The concept of Truth and Reconciliation is a framework for addressing past injustices and human rights violations, particularly in the aftermath of conflicts or periods of repression. It aims to promote healing and societal reconciliation by acknowledging and addressing the truth of past wrongs, fostering accountability, and facilitating forgiveness and understanding among

affected communities. The concept gained prominence in the late 20th century, notably through initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa, launched following the end of apartheid under the leadership of President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The TRC provided a platform for victims and perpetrators to testify about their experiences, with the aim of uncovering the truth, promoting reconciliation, and preventing future atrocities.

The objectives of Truth and Reconciliation processes typically include: Establishing an accurate historical record of human rights violations and abuses. Providing a forum for victims to share their experiences and receive acknowledgment and recognition of their suffering. Holding perpetrators accountable for their actions through mechanisms such as public hearings or trials. Promoting reconciliation and healing among divided communities by fostering empathy, understanding, and forgiveness. Recommending measures to address the root causes of conflict and prevent future atrocities.

In line with this concept, the PTI Chairman has notably softened his rhetoric against the establishment, a departure from his previous stance, which often involved confrontational rhetoric. This change came after his arrest and media ban, prompting a shift in approach. The PTI leadership now maintains a clear and persistent stance that they are no longer in conflict with the establishment. They have ceased defending the events of May 9th and are instead advocating for an independent judicial commission to investigate the incident. Their demand is for thorough

scrutiny of evidence and testimonies, with individuals implicated to face legal consequences if found guilty, while those innocent should be exonerated.

The party has distanced itself from former army officers-turned-social media activists stationed abroad, who were critical of the armed forces. Rather than directly blaming the armed forces for alleged rigging, PTI now directs its criticism towards the Election Commission and interim government. They pledge to wage political struggle within the confines of constitutional rights and laws, vowing not to resort to vigilantism. Rather than issuing threats, PTI advocates for the establishment of a judicial commission to investigate rigging allegations and ensure justice for all victims.

Despite being victims of alleged rigging and experiencing setbacks to their mandate, PTI conducts itself responsibly in parliament, raising concerns about perceived injustices without directly implicating the establishment.

But there is a big problem: There are significant differences between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of South Africa and any hypothetical commission in Pakistan. In South Africa, the TRC was established under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, who had spent decades fighting for equal rights for black people and eventually became president. He initiated the commission from a position of strength, not while he was imprisoned.

In Pakistan, the feasibility of implementing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is highly questionable, particularly given the current political dynamics. With Imran Khan's party facing significant

challenges for survival and the entrenched power of the establishment, the likelihood of accepting the principles of truth and reconciliation, especially those involving accountability mechanisms, is slim. The establishment is unlikely to endorse procedures such as public hearings or trials for holding perpetrators accountable and addressing the root causes of conflict. Key components of TRC, such as public testimonies, documentation of atrocities, community dialogues, reparations programs, and educational initiatives fostering understanding and tolerance, would face strong opposition and resistance from the establishment.

Though this concept was copied by many countries including Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Canada. In some cases the Truth and Reconciliation commissions succeeded in uncovering the truth of past atrocities, promoting healing and reconciliation, and laying the groundwork for lasting peace and stability. In other cases, challenges such as limited political will, ongoing conflict, or resistance from perpetrators hindered the effectiveness of Truth and Reconciliation efforts.

Proposing the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the current Pakistani context is not only inappropriate but also misguided. The concept of TRC, as perceived by PTI and its leadership, appears flawed. Moreover, the timing couldn't be worse: The Establishment holds unassailable power, while Imran Khan finds himself incarcerated and PTI is in disarray. Frontline leaders have deserted the party, and second-tier figures are struggling for survival. Given these circumstances, PTI may need to wait for a considerable period until conditions become conducive for initiating a TRC.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

China's bridge construction willing to build infrastructure projects in Pakistan

China's renowned bridge construction has cooperation with many Belt and Road countries and hope to come to Pakistan to build more infrastructure projects, said Gao Zongyu, Deputy to National People's Congress (NPC) from Hubei province of China.

"We have built bridges in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Maldives, and Croatia and other European countries. We really hope, we can come to Pakistan and to build more infrastructure and transportation projects," he told APP during a meeting of the Hubei province held on the sidelines of "Two Sessions" in Beijing.

Gao, also chief scientist of China Railway Corporation Limited and chief expert of China Railway Bridge Survey and Design Institute Group Co., Ltd informed that China's bridge construction, with Hubei as a pacesetter, has taken the lead in the world, and it is now a well-recognized brand of Chinese construction.

He said, the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge built over 70 year ago marked the beginning of large-scale modern bridge construction in China and added, today, China boasts over one million bridges spanning rivers, lakes, seas, plateaus, and canyons, playing a vital role in underpinning economic and social development.

He said, the success of Chinese construction can be attributed to the following factors, including a collaborative innovation system among industry, academia, research, and application; a comprehensive supply chain encompassing theory, materials, design, construction, equipment, and operation and maintenance; a large number of dedicated engineers and highly skilled workers with sound knowledge and considerable experience; as well as the grand vision of developing China's strengths in transportation and promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

With the high-quality development in the new era, new requirements need to be met for Chinese construction.

Gao expressed the confidence that through continuous innovation, China will achieve the smart and green transformation of the bridge industry in the near future.

"In doing so, we will make big strides on the path from Chinese construction to smart Chinese construction, and contribute to the high-quality development of China's transportation, as well as infrastructure connectivity between China and participating countries of the Belt and Road Initiative, and even the whole world."

Gao said, in his career as a bridge engineer for nearly 40 years, the Pingtan Strait Road-Rail Bridge is the most unforgettable project he has ever engaged in.

However, Chinese bridge builders faced the challenges squarely and made a series of technological innovations. "We established a joint forecast system for wind and wave conditions, which enabled us to accurately predict the arrival time of strong winds at the construction site and determine when we could conduct construction."

He said, thanks to these technological innovations, with seven years of strenuous efforts, we managed to withstand 29 typhoons, including super typhoons such as Soudelor, Haitang, and Maria, and completed the project at the end of 2020.



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

Clear Message from Army Chief and Corps Commanders Conference - I

It is commendable to observe that the current Army chief, along with his team of corps commanders and the entire armed forces of Pakistan, exhibits a clear commitment to serving the nation. Army Chief General Asim Munir has consistently articulated a clear stance on both internal and external issues facing the country, striving to safeguard Pakistan's interests with utmost dedication. General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ recently.

The forum paid heartfelt tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas, including officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives to ensure peace and stability in the country. The forum resolved that terrorists, their facilitators, and supporters, acting on behalf of hostile forces to destabilize Pakistan, will be confronted with the full force of the state. The COAS directed commanders to persist in consolidating the gains achieved in efforts against terrorism and militancy.

Undoubtedly, terrorism has persisted as a complex and multifaceted challenge for Pakistan, profoundly impacting its societal fabric, economic progress, and national security. Situated at the nexus of regional conflicts and home to diverse ethnic, religious, and sectarian communities, Pakistan has grappled with various forms of terrorism for decades. Understanding the intricacies and root causes of terrorism in Pakistan is imperative for formulating effective

strategies to combat this menace and cultivate enduring peace and stability. Pakistan's struggle against terrorism can be traced back to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, a time when it assumed the role of a frontline state in the U.S.-supported resistance against Soviet occupation. The subsequent Afghan jihad not only resulted in the mass migration of Afghan refugees into Pakistan but also facilitated the proliferation of militant groups and extremist ideologies. This period saw a surge in the circulation of weapons, narcotics, and radical doctrines, laying the foundation for the emergence of various militant organizations, some of which eventually turned against the Pakistani state. Geographically situated near conflict zones like Afghanistan and the volatile border with India, Pakistan is vulnerable to the spill-over effects of violence and instability.

Factors such as widespread poverty, limited educational opportunities, and socio-economic disparities have provided fertile ground for recruitment by extremist factions, offering disillusioned youth a sense of purpose and identity. Moreover, Pakistan's diverse religious landscape has been marred by sectarian violence driven by few extremist beliefs. The nation's strategic location and regional dynamics have made it a battleground for proxy wars, with external actors exploiting local grievances and supporting militant proxies to advance their agendas.

In response, Pakistan has initiated various military operations, counterterrorism measures, and legislative reforms to combat terrorism. Operations like Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad have targeted militant

strongholds and infrastructure, significantly weakening the operational capabilities of terrorist groups. Additionally, the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in 2014 outlined a comprehensive strategy to address terrorism through a combination of military, law enforcement, and socio-economic initiatives. The Pakistani Army's dedicated efforts to eradicate terrorism from the country have garnered widespread appreciation from the nation.

Aligned with the determination of the esteemed Prime Minister of Pakistan, the forum affirmed that individuals involved in planning, inciting, aiding, and carrying out attacks on Shuhada Monuments and military installations on 9 May will be brought to justice under the relevant provisions of the law and Constitution. It was noted with concern that orchestrated misinformation and fake news are being disseminated by certain malicious elements to sow discord and division within society. The forum urged the resilient people of Pakistan to remain optimistic, united, and actively participate in the country's progress and development, disregarding attempts to hinder their resolve. The participants reiterated the commitment of the Pakistan Army to continue defending and serving the nation in every conceivable manner, as the country progresses towards sustained stability, prosperity, and security. The forum acknowledged the efforts of the Civil Administration, Law Enforcement Agencies, and security forces for providing comprehensive assistance during the General Elections in compliance with the Election Commission of Pakistan's directives to establish a safe and secure environment for the electoral process, despite facing significant challenges.

To be continued

Alkhidmat Foundation: Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives

Alkhidmat Foundation, a beacon of hope and compassion, recently hosted a momentous donor conference in District Mardan, KPK, marking yet another milestone in its relentless pursuit of serving humanity. The event, dedicated to supporting orphans, garnered an astonishing donation of 3 crore rupees, a testament to the community's solidarity and generosity.

The success of the donor conference is a testament to the tireless efforts and dedication of Dr. Arshad Ahmad, President of Alkhidmat Foundation Mardan, and his exceptional team. Their unwavering commitment and diligent planning played a pivotal role in organizing this impact full event, showcasing their profound dedication to the welfare of the less fortunate. Hundreds of male and female participated in this grand event. The function was presided by Prof Dr Muhammad Abrar principal Post Graduate College mardan. Mayor Mardan Hemayat ullah Mayar was Chief guest, and other honorable guests were Ghulam Rasool President jamat e islami mardan, Taj malook vice president Alkhidmat Foundation KPK and Fazli Rabbani Advocate ex food minister KP.

The funds raised at the donor conference will make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable children. With plans to sponsor 800 orphans in Mardan while 12,000 orphans registered in the city, Alkhidmat Foundation is committed to providing them with essential support, including education, healthcare, and other basic necessities, paving the way for a brighter future.

However, the impact of Alkhidmat Foundation extends far beyond orphan support. Through a range of initiatives, the foundation addresses various

societal challenges and strives to uplift communities across Pakistan and beyond. Clean water projects ensure access to safe drinking water, while food packages provide relief to the poor, ensuring no one goes hungry.

Youth empowerment programs, such as the Bano Qabil initiative, equip young individuals with the skills and resources needed to succeed in their endeavors, fostering a sense of self-reliance and resilience. Moreover, Alkhidmat Foundation's robust disaster management efforts ensure swift and effective response during times of crisis, offering aid and support to those affected by calamities.

What sets Alkhidmat Foundation apart is its global reach and impact. With operations in countries like Palestine, Turkey, Afghanistan, and beyond, the foundation extends its humanitarian work to regions in dire need of assistance, embodying the spirit of solidarity and compassion on a global scale. Thus in true sense Alkhidmat is serving the nation, humanity and islam.

As we celebrate the successes of Alkhidmat Foundation and the generosity of donors, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Arshad, his dedicated team, and volunteers for their hard work and unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of those in need. Your selfless efforts have truly made a meaningful impact and inspired others to join in the noble cause.

In the last I would appeal to individuals and other organizations to continue supporting its noble endeavors. Your donation has the power to transform lives and bring hope to those in need. Together, let us continue building a more compassionate and inclusive world, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and fulfill their potential.



Analysis

Sohail Ahmad Baber

Pakistan Embassy in Belarus holds reception to mark 84th Pakistan Resolution Day

Spokesman Report

MINSK: The Embassy of Pakistan in Belarus organized a Reception in commemoration of the 84th Pakistan Resolution Day and the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-Belarus Diplomatic Relations. Minister of Energy of the Republic of Belarus Viktor Karankevich was the chief guest, whereas over 250 other guests, including Ambassadors, Belarusian dignitaries, media personnel, and expatriate Pakistanis attended the event.

Reflecting on the historic significance of March 23rd, Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan, paid homage to the visionary founding fathers especially Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, whose leadership led to the birth of Pakistan as an independent nation on August 14, 1947, said a press release on Sunday. He underscored Pakistan's stature as the world's second-largest Muslim nation, with a population of 240 million and a robust economy boasting a GDP of \$1.283 trillion in terms of purchasing

power parity.

The contributions of Pakistan's 10 million expatriates, who annually remit around \$30 billion, were lauded for their role in the nation's socio-economic development. He reaffirmed country's commitment to the principles of equality, justice and non-alignment in international affairs, as enshrined in the UN Charter. He underscored Pakistan's active participation in multilateral and regional organizations, advocating for peace, cooperation, and regional development.

Turning to the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan highlighted the development of the partnership over the past three decades, characterized by mutual respect and cooperation. Significant agreements, including the visa abolition for diplomatic and official passport holders, and over 80 other MoUs and agreements, have laid the foundation for diverse cooperation across various sectors.

He also spoke about the Cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Belarus which have flourished, enriched by

film, art, music, sports, and educational initiatives. As part of the 30th-anniversary celebrations, a series of events, including book launches, cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and musical concerts, are planned to further strengthen cultural ties between the two nations.

During his speech, the Belarusian Minister of Energy Viktor Karankevich expressed warm congratulations to Pakistan on its National Day and highlighted the significant milestones achieved since the Lahore Declaration in 1940.

He commended Pakistan's journey to becoming a respected global player and emphasized the strengthening of bilateral relations over the past 30 years. The Minister highlighted successful elections in both countries, cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and key achievements in trade and education.

He thanked Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan and the Embassy team for their contributions and expressed optimism for continued cooperation and partnership between Belarus and



Pakistan. A special feature of the event was the live performance by students of the State University of Culture & Arts on

instrumental tunes of Pakistani national songs. The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Belarusian government for their steadfast support and

concluded by expressing confidence in the continued strengthening of Pakistan-Belarus relations in the years to come.

Pakistan's embassy holds well-attended event showcasing country's culture, apparel

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Pakistan, Washington organized an event showcasing Pakistan's cultural treasures, traditional clothes, cuisine, and artwork that drew a large number of diplomats representing different countries and officials serving international organizations, says a press release, received here from Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.

"Peace, security and prosperity are our shared responsibility," Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, told the gathering.

The event was organized in collaboration with 'THIS for Diplomats', a non-profit organization that promotes international understanding and friendship through educational, informational, and cultural exchanges with members of the diplomatic community in Washington, D. C.

Terming it a beginning of a relation-



ship between the Embassy of Pakistan and THIS for Diplomats, Masood Khan thanked all the participants for joining in the celebration of Pakistan's culture and applauded the invaluable role of the organization in creating

a global family of diplomats, fostering connections, and bringing people together to celebrate diverse cultures.

"You are an international community in miniature representing different nations here in the United States

and THIS for Diplomats turns these foreigners into a family so that you can connect and understand each other's perspective in a better way," he said.

Highlighting the potential for tourism in Pakistan, the ambassador invited participants to visit the country and experience the timeless beauty of Pakistan's ancient civilizations and natural wonders, from snow-capped peaks to pristine coastal areas, and enjoy the delicious Pakistani cuisine.

"Pakistan has been home to many ancient civilizations like the Indus Valley Civilization and the Gandhara Civilization, but we also have a very dynamic and resolute people who are friendly, hospitable, and welcoming."

"You must go to Pakistan to experience the hospitality of the people of Pakistan," the Ambassador added.

Speaking on the occasion, Peggy Letter, the President of THIS for Diplomats expressed gratitude to Masood Khan for the invitation to the embassy.

China disaster warning technology brings benefits to Pakistan

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Zhang Xingying, a National CPPCC Committee Member and Deputy Director of the Science and Climate Change Department at the China Meteorological Administration, put forth a proposal to enhance early warning capabilities and effectively respond to climate change.

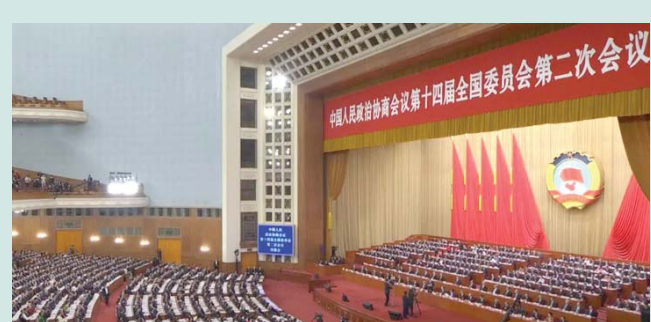
"Meteorology knows no borders and can make the greatest contribution along the Belt and Road," he stated during this year's Two Sessions, the annual meetings of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

His proposal advocates for the establishment of an Asian Disaster Warning Center and Partnership Alliance, with a focus on supporting the development of early warning systems in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. China aims to contribute its expertise and solutions in weather forecasting, climate prediction, disaster identification, risk assessment and system development, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Over the years, China has provided meteorological disaster warning services to 129 developing countries. "We have been actively assisting more countries, particularly small island nations, in establishing disaster warning systems to benefit people worldwide," said Zhang Xingying.

China's expertise in disaster warning technology has also brought significant benefits to Pakistan. Since the establishment of the China Meteorological Administration's satellite broadcasting system in Bangladesh in 2011, its coverage has expanded to most parts of the Asia-Pacific and Africa.

China's top political advisory body annual session concludes



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, concluded here on Sunday. Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

A resolution on a work report of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, a resolution on a report on how the proposals from political advisors have been handled since the previous annual session, a report on the examination of new proposals, and a political resolution on the second session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee were approved at the meeting. Wang Huning, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, delivered a speech at the meeting.

President Biden says Netanyahu 'hurting Israel more than helping'

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "hurting Israel more than helping" with his handling of the war with Hamas, even as Biden stressed he would not abandon support for Israel. "What's happening is he has a right to defend Israel, a right to continue to pursue Hamas," Biden told MSNBC's Jonathan Capehart on Saturday. "But he must, he must, he must pay more attention to the innocent lives being lost as a consequence of the actions taken."

"In my view, he's hurting Israel more than helping Israel [...] it's contrary to what Isra-

el stands for. And I think it's a big mistake," Biden added. More than 30,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed and 69,465 injured in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7. In what was a contradictory exchange with his interviewer, Biden said "they cannot have 30,000 more Palestinians dead as a consequence of going after" Hamas militants. Asked whether an Israeli invasion of Rafah would be a red line for him with Netanyahu, Biden said: "It is a red line but I'm never going to leave Israel. The defense of Israel is still critical. So there's no red line (in which) I'm going to cut off all weapons so they don't have the Iron Dome to protect them." Biden



insisted, however, that Netanyahu "must pay more attention to the innocent lives being lost as a consequence of the actions taken." He reiterated his call for a six-week ceasefire for hostage releases and aid delivery,

though negotiations appear to have stalled. Biden announced during Thursday's State of the Union plans for the U. S. military to lead the construction of a port along the coast of Gaza on the Mediterranean

Sea to boost the amount of aid getting to Palestinian civilians. Progressives have called for the White House to back a permanent cease-fire in the conflict, but Biden and others have said such an agreement would allow Hamas to regroup. Instead, the administration has instead backed a temporary pause in fighting that would last at least six weeks and allow hostages to get out and more aid to get into Gaza. On Tuesday, more than a quarter million voters cast ballots for "uncommitted" or "no preference" in Democratic primaries, largely viewed as a protest of Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war. "I don't blame them for being upset. There's families there. There

Pakistan-China wheat breeding cooperation ensures Pakistan's food security, UN SDGs: experts

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: With wheat being a staple food crop of Pakistan, dominating all crops in terms of acreage, production and consumption, cooperation between Pakistan and China in enhancing the yield and quality of the major supply has ensured Pakistan's food security and helped in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, experts have said.

Pakistan produces 50 percent less wheat per hectare than China, but the country has a huge potential for improvement with Chinese assistance and an abundance of experience, said Pakistani and Chinese experts at the 2nd China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding Conference held here on Wednesday.

Speaking to Xinhua on the sidelines of the conference, Shahid Mansoor, a scientist and a

senior advisor at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, said Pakistan's per capita wheat consumption is one of the highest in the world and wheat contributes more than 70 percent of the South Asian country's daily caloric intake.

With the growing population and challenges like climate change and diseases, Mansoor said Pakistan needs to grow better varieties that are weather and disease-resistant and full of nutrients, adding that the transfer of Chinese technology and new agriculture techniques can play a pivotal role in this regard.

"At the moment, our aim is to not only increase wheat production but also use less area for that so that we can cultivate other crops to fulfill our dietary needs. There is a huge burden on our national exchequer as we need to import many edibles, including wheat and grains. We need to work with Chinese scientists

to improve wheat breeding to make the country self-sufficient," he said.

Owais Rasheed, head of the China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding International Lab at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, noted that wheat is an important crop not only for China and Pakistan but for the whole world.

The lab, funded by the Science and Technology Partnership Program of China's Ministry of Science and Technology, aims to enhance food security, human resource development, and the training of Pakistani students and scientists through knowledge and research sharing.

Describing the key objectives of the joint lab, Rasheed told Xinhua that the idea behind the collaboration was to develop wheat varieties that could benefit both countries, adding that the project is also important for building the capacity of Pakistani

scientists.

"Over the last two years, we have been able to develop new wheat varieties in this lab that are better adaptable in the northern region of Pakistan. As a result, more than 10 percent increase in yield has been achieved, which would significantly benefit local farmers in terms of grains yield and income," he said.

He added that agricultural collaboration between China and Pakistan is a good example of South-South cooperation in food security.

On the occasion, He Zhonghu, a senior professor at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said agricultural cooperation, especially in wheat production, has strong support from the governments of both Pakistan and China.

"Over the past 15 years, there have been successful collaborations in research and training, as well as the transfer of Chinese



germplasm and molecular breeding technology, and both sides have been in close linkages with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center," the Chinese professor said.

The professor said China has enhanced wheat production by significantly improving crop management technologies, including irrigation, fertilizer

application, mechanization, and disease and pest control.

"China stands ready to impart knowledge-based skills to Pakistan," he said.

Zahid Mehmood, a senior scientist of Pakistan's National Agricultural Research Center's (NARC) wheat breeding program, said that the collaboration between Pakistan and

China is very fruitful as it helps in building Pakistan's capacity in wheat development and agricultural sciences.

"Under Pakistan-China cooperation, the speed breeding facility at the NARC has been developing superior wheat varieties in a much shorter period of time than it normally takes. Also, new wheat germplasm has recently been created at the facility by crossing Pakistani and Chinese varieties. It is under testing phase, and hopefully, in coming years, we will have quality wheat varieties with both Pakistani and Chinese traits," Mehmood told Xinhua.

Other than wheat, he said China has also been supporting Pakistan to enhance other agricultural products, including rice and chilies, as well as providing seeds, agricultural equipment, and services and establishing joint labs to boost production and self-reliance, cut import bills, and achieve the goal of zero hunger.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
65,793.75	65,603.08
Day's High	Day's Low
66,067.52	65,693.22
Index Value	Change
10,451,063,551	+190.67
Percentage	Time
+0.29%	8 Mar, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,659.74	-32.72
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	8 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,886.73	+95.38
Percentage	Time
+0.25%	8 Mar, 12:43 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,688.94	+90.23
Percentage	Time
+0.23%	8 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181	183
Bahrain Dinar	742.73	750.73
Canadian Dollar	207	209.2
China Yuan	38.81	39.21
Danish Krone	40.88	41.28
Euro	303.2	306.2
Hong Kong Dollar	35.71	36.06
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.18	917.18
Malaysian Ringgit	59.16	59.76
New Zealand \$	170.65	172.65
Norwegians Krone	26.44	26.74
Omani Riyal	725.37	733.37
Qatari Riyal	76.76	77.46
Saudi Riyal	74.6	75.35
Singapore Dollar	207	209
Swedish Korona	27.06	27.36
Swiss Franc	316.94	319.44
Thai Bhat	7.78	7.93
U.A.E Dirham	76.3	77
UK Pound Sterling	352	356
US Dollar	279	281.8

BMP calls for promoting industry and lowering production cost

PPA

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel (BMP) has said that business community has been facing tough challenges because of limited business. In this context, he sought attention of the government for formulation of regional, provincial and central level task force, and formulation of sector wise regional policies which would help the government address the problems confronted by exporters.

The FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar called for promoting industrialisation and enhancing exports through lowering cost of production, paying early refunds to solve liquidity crunch and relaxing import policy for industrial raw material.

He suggested that One Window Operation should be introduced for the replacing the lengthy procedures that involve interaction of manufacturers with various agencies. The government agencies were harassing the textile industry every day. Social Security, EOBI and other taxes should be merged and deducted at the source.

Mian Anjum Nisar asked the government to appreciate the role of industry for its potential to harvest maximum benefits, providing mass employment to the jobless population of the country. He also sought government's attention for formulating aggressive marketing plan and hurdle-free policies as well as urgent decisions in favour of exports while taking on board major stakeholders. He called for concerted efforts for exploring new markets both traditional and non-traditional in order to introduce home made products. He urged the government to announce favourable policies and allow duty-free import of raw material and accessories. This move will attract investors and help in setting up new industries in the country which will create wide opportunities for employment. We direly need a stimulus economic plan coupled with relief package by the government to maximise production. He also emphasized the need for seeking technical knowhow from China and other countries for the sake of innovation, and improvement of products.

Saudi Arabia's Obeikan Investment Group partners with Pakistani firm

PPA

ISLAMABAD: InfoTech Group, a Pakistani information technology (IT) firm, and US-based Valyrian Systems Inc. have partnered with Saudi Arabia's Obeikan Investment Group to "revolutionize" global healthcare delivery, InfoTech Group said on Sunday. Established in 1995, InfoTech Group specializes in capital markets, banking solutions, government technology, Microsoft technology, infrastructure and professional services; and, has over three decades of IT experience.

Obeikan Investment Group is one of Saudi Arabia's 100 largest companies and a leader in packaging, education and health, with more than 3,000 employees and operations in 16 countries.

The trilateral agreement was signed during the LEAP 2024 tech conference and exhibition which ran in Riyadh with 183 countries and 162,000 registered IT enthusiasts, investors and entrepreneurs. It is, in fact, dubbed as the Digital Davos.

"During the [LEAP] event, InfoTech



Group and Valyrian Systems Inc. signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Obeikan Investment Group, marking a pivotal step toward the global expansion of OD (Obeikan Digital) Health Platforms," InfoTech Group said in a state-

ment. "The trilateral alliance leverages InfoTech's IT expertise, Valyrian's pioneering technology solutions, and Obeikan's market reach to revolutionize healthcare delivery." InfoTech's marketing chief Hassan Javed explained.

The partnership aims for rapid roll-out and seamless integration of OD health platforms, signaling a commitment to global healthcare advancement and heralding a new era in innovation, according to the Pakistani IT firm.

"This partnership marks a pivotal moment for us. Joining forces with Valyrian Systems Inc. and Obeikan Investment Group signifies not just a strategic move, but a shared vision for transformative healthcare solutions," said Naseer A. Akhtar, chief executive officer (CEO) of InfoTech Group.

"Together, we're not only breaking boundaries but shaping a healthier future; and, we are proud to have brought an internationally-acclaimed mega Saudi business group to Pakistan during a time when SIFC, MoITT and PSEB are going all out to make Pakistan the next big tech destination on the international stage." COO of Infotech Group, Haris Naseer, highlighted.

Pak Ambassador in Riyadh, Ahmed Farooq, also visited Infotech Group's team during the LEAP 2024 and acknowledged the importance of partnering with a giant of Saudi economy for a Pakistani tech group.

MoU between NIMA & SUPARCO

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NIMA and SUPARCO, Islamabad on 08 May 2024 at NIMA Head Office. This signing marks a new beginning of greater cooperation between two organizations in the field of Satellite Application Research (SAR) for the benefit of the maritime community.



Shareholders of Soneri Bank Limited approve 2023 Annual Results

PPA

KARACHI: The annual audited financial statements of Soneri Bank Limited for the year ended 31 December

2023 were approved by the shareholders of the Bank in their 32nd AGM held in Lahore and through video-link via Zoom on Friday, 08 March 2024. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alauddin Feerasta, Chairman of the Board, with Mr. Muhtashim Ahmad Ashai, President and Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Board of Directors and Senior Management also in attendance.

The Bank posted profit before tax (PBT) of Rs. 12,357 million and profit after tax (PAT) of Rs. 6,075 million in the year 2023, as compared to Rs. 4,554 million and Rs. 1,883 million respectively in 2022; which represents a healthy growth of 171.35% and 222.61% respectively as compared to last year. Earnings per share (EPS) for the year was reported at Rs. 5.51 per share for the current year, as compared to Rs. 1.71 for the comparative prior year. During the meeting, the shareholders approved the final cash dividend for the year ended 31 December 2023 @ 30.00 percent i.e. Rs. 3.00 per share, as recommended earlier by the Board of Directors.

The Bank's Net Interest income for the year was reported at Rs. 22,759 million,



significantly increased by 102.00 percent against Rs. 11,267 million for the prior year, while non-interest income increased by 25.23 percent to end at Rs. 6,459 million as against Rs. 5,157 million for the last year. Despite inflationary pressures, growth in expenses was restricted at 26.35 percent as compared to the prior year with Non-markup expenses reported at Rs. 15,471 million for the year ended December 2023.

During the year 2023 the Bank surpassed the landmark number of half a trillion, and the Bank's Deposits registered an increase of 26.42 percent when compared to 31 December 2022, ended at Rs. 517,869 million at 31 December

2023. However, the Bank's CA percentage is 30.42 percent as at 31 December 2023, with yearend Current deposits at Rs. 157,541 million as against Rs.134,080 million at the year end 2022.

During the year, net provisions against loans, advances and investments amounted to Rs. 1,389 million, as against a net reversal of Rs. 375 million booked in the previous year. Resultantly, the Specific provisioning coverage improved to 80.01 percent at 31 December 2023 (December 2022: 71.61 percent).

The Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio as at 31 December 2023 stands at 18.44 percent, while the Leverage Ratio is at 4.02 percent.

Spotify reveals Ramadan 2023 streaming insights in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: With the auspicious month of Ramadan around the corner, Spotify has revealed some compelling insights into the streaming habits of its listeners in Pakistan during the Holy month of 2023.

The 2023 data reveals a fascinating trend among Spotify listeners in Pakistan, with a spike in streaming time from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am during Ramadan. This period has become the prime time for content consumption on Spotify, indicating a unique pattern of audio listening during the Holy season. Interestingly, the momentum begins to build even earlier, around 3:00 pm, with a distinct shift towards more relaxed, calming content. Compared to other times of the year, the most dramatic change in audio consumption occurs in the early morning hours, specifically between 5:00 am and 6:00 am.

Atif Aslam's soul-stirring track "Tajdar-E-Haram" has emerged as the most added track to user-generated playlists during Ramadan in 2023. This poignant selection mirrors the quest for transcendence and connection

during this month. 'Soft', 'Soothing' and 'Peaceful' moods dominate the tracks added to user-generated playlists as the Top Playlist Moods, emphasizing a collective preference for contemplative tones that complement the introspective spirit of Ramadan.

According to the data shared by Spotify, the Top Streaming Moods of Pakistan during Ramadan in 2023 were 'Patient', 'Appreciation' and 'Mystical', reflecting on the true essence of the Holy month. When it comes to the Top Playlists of Pakistan in Ramadan 2023, Hamd-o-Naat, Ramazaniyat and Salam were among the top 3 playlists revealing the religious and cultural significance of Ramadan while showcasing the importance of religious content for users' spiritual journey.

Curated for every Ramadan moment, Spotify has also updated its Ramadan Hub for listeners that features a wide variety of Qawwalis, Sufi Music, Naats and more. In case you are looking for more Ramadan playlists, here are a few recommendations from Spotify: Hamd-o-Naat, South Asian Sufi, Duaa or Ramazaniyat.

APBF asks new govt to encompass long-term vision for sustained progress

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has asked the new government that its strategies should not only focus on short-term gains but also encompass a long-term vision for sustained progress. He emphasized that such transparency from the government is crucial for instilling confidence in the business community and investors. The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood

observed that the country has had trouble raising enough money to cover its expenses. Due to the low tax-to-GDP ratio, borrowing and outside help are heavily relied upon to close the fiscal imbalance. There is a recurring budget deficit because the government spends more than it takes in. The national debt burden has risen, as a result, needing substantial financial resources for debt repayment. Both internal and external debt in Pakistan has been constantly rising.

SMAP-TDAP collaboration elevates salt exports on global e-commerce

PPA

KARACHI: The collaborative efforts of the Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP), affirms, "This collaboration creates unprecedented opportunities for our salt exporters to engage with a global audience, marking a transformative phase for our industry."

Esteemed members, both seasoned and new, have demonstrated a profound engagement in this seminar. Notable figures including Naecem Manzoor and Adil Mukhtar from TDAP have actively participated, joined by representatives from diverse sectors who have displayed a notable enthusiasm for the event.

As Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, President of Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP), affirms, "This collaboration creates unprecedented opportunities for our salt exporters to engage with a global audience, marking a transformative phase for our industry."

These globally recognized online marketplaces provide an exclusive

avenue for Pakistani salt exporters to engage with international buyers, thereby amplifying their market presence on a global scale.

The advantages for salt exporters are manifold. Integration with these e-commerce platforms offers entry to a worldwide audience, facilitating the promotion and sale of their products on an international platform. The streamlined process of online transactions and secure payment gateways ensures a seamless experience, fostering trust and credibility for both exporters and buyers.

In conclusion, the Seminar between SMAP and TDAP, as emphasized by Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, President of SMAP, laid the groundwork



for a transformative journey for salt exporters in Pakistan. "The opportunity to showcase products on renowned e-commerce platforms is a

game-changer for the industry," states Yaqoob, "and the ensuing benefits are poised to significantly contribute to the nation's economic prosperity."

HBL PSL 9th Edition T-20 Cricket

Quetta Gladiators secures HBL PSL 9 Playoffs after they defeated Lahore Qalandars by six wickets

Asim Tanveer

KARACHI: Quetta Gladiators secured their spot for the HBL PSL 9 playoffs after they defeated Lahore Qalandars by six wickets at National Bank Stadium, Karachi on Sunday night. After restricting Lahore to 166-4 in the first innings, vice-captain Saud Shakeel produced a brilliant unbeaten knock of 88 runs that allowed Quetta to edge over Lahore in the last-ball thriller.

Lahore Qalandars could only manage to post 166-4 on the board after choosing to bat first. Sahibzada Farhan and Mirza Tahir Baig gave a decent start to their team; after Farhan hit a four on the first delivery of the game, the two took turns breaching the boundary periodically in the third, fourth and fifth overs.

Abbrar Ahmed, introduced in the sixth over, removed Farhan (25, 22b, 4x4s) on the third ball and then Tahir (12, 13b, 1x6) on the last delivery to bring Lahore down to 39-2 by the end of the powerplay.

Abdullah Shafique, batting at three, hit two consecutive fours against Mohammad Wasim Jnr in the seventh over to recover the damage. He then hit a boundary against Abrar in the next over. Shai Hope, who could only manage five off seven, was caught behind in the 10th over off Wasim's bowling as Lahore got to 70-3 at the halfway mark.

Shaheen Shah Afridi promoted himself up the order, taking the responsibility of boosting his side's total. The fourth-wicket partnership between Abdullah and Shaheen yielded 91 from 57, helping the team establish a sense of control over the innings.

After four quiet overs, Shaheen took on Akeal Hosen by smashing three sixes in the 15th over. An over later, he hit two sixes against Abrar to get to his second HBL PSL half-century.

In the 18th over, Abdullah (59 not



out, 39b, 3x4s, 2x6s) also completed his second consecutive half-century of HBL PSL 9 in style as he hit a six against Hosen on the fourth delivery.

In the last over, Sohail Khan caught the ball on his second attempt while fielding at deep third to help Amir dismiss Shaheen, who had to walk back for 55 on 34, on the back of two fours and four sixes. The final over only produced six runs as Lahore finished with a competitive total.

Abrar had two wickets, while Amir and Wasim had one each.

Jason Roy and Saud Shakeel gave Quetta Gladiators a 39-run opening stand after the former hit Shaheen three consecutive fours on the first three balls of the innings.

Jahandad Khan, bowling the sixth over, provided the breakthrough as Roy (18, 14b, 4x4s) was caught behind. Quetta ended the powerplay at 43-1.

Saud was joined by his captain, Rilee Rossouw, in the middle for a 27-run second-wicket stand which was broken by Jahandad on the last ball of the ninth over. Rossouw walked back for 13 off 11, with the help of one four.

The Quetta captain, however, became the first foreign batter to complete 2000 HBL PSL runs and the fifth overall, only behind Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Rizwan.

Khawaja Nafay and Saud produced a dogged third-wicket stand, that yielded 70 from 53, to reestablish Quetta's control over the game after the two initial wickets. In the 13th over, Saud brought his second HBL PSL 9 half-century, taking 42 deliveries to do so.

The partnership was eventually broken by Shaheen, who trapped Nafay (26, 24b, 1x6) leg-before wicket in the 18th over.



Quetta required 29 from the final two overs, with Saud and Laurie Evans on the crease. Jahandad conceded 15 in the penultimate over courtesy of a four by Evans and a six by Saud to bring the equation to 14 needed from the final six deliveries.

Shaheen removed Evans (7, 4b, 1x4) on the first ball of the final over as Tahir took a spectacular diving catch at deep cover point. Saud then hit two consecutive boundaries, inching closer to the

target. With four needed off the final ball, Wasim, the sixth batter in, hit a six to help his team over the rope. Saud (88, 65b, 5x4s, 4x6s) remained unbeaten at the other end as Quetta cruised to the playoffs for the first time since 2019.

Jahandad and Shaheen picked up two wickets each.

Scores in brief

Quetta Gladiators beat Lahore Qalandars by six wickets

Lahore Qalandars 166-4, 20 overs (Abdullah Shafique 59 not out, Shaheen Shah Afridi 55; Abrar Ahmed 2-31)

Quetta Gladiators 169-4, 20 overs (Saud Shakeel 88 not out, Khawaja Nafay 26; Jahandad Khan 2-31, Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-41)

Player of the match - Saud Shakeel (Quetta Gladiators)

Monday 11 March: Peshawar Zalmi v Karachi Kings at National Stadium, Karachi At (9pm)

Japanese special guest attends spectacular demonstration of Kyokushin Karate in Lahore

Tahir Amin Malik

A spectacular demonstration of Kyokushin Karate took place at Pakistan Kyokushin Karate Headquarter Railway Stadium Garhi Shahu, Lahore. The event was organized by the Pakistan Karate Organization Kyokushin Kai kan IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan (Atta Butt Dojo's), showcasing the skills and discipline of the karate practitioners.

The distinguished guest for the program was Mr. Sameen ullah Khan Gandapur, General Manager Welfare & Special initiatives who is also the President of Pakistan Railway Sports Board, received a warm welcome upon his arrival. The participants, including children in training, greeted the special guest with flower petals and presented a bouquet of flowers as a gesture of respect.

During the event, boys and girls undergoing karate training demonstrated their proficiency in the art. Shihan Atta Hussain Butt Black Belt 5th Dan Japan, International karate master instructor/Referee IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan expressed gratitude to Mr. Sameen



ullah Khan Gandapur for attending the Karate Coaching Center and provided an overview of the sport of karate. Mr. Sana ullah Ansari General Secretary Lahore Division Kyokushin karate organisation, Sheikh Naem vp, Nasir Chattah vp, Awais Akber Sports Incharge Rail-

way (PRSB) extended a warm welcome to Mr. Sameen ullah Khan Gandapur and expressed gratitude to Pakistan Railways for their support in providing facilities for the training.

In a gesture of appreciation, Mr. Sameen ullah Khan Gandapur award-

ed trophies and certificates to the participating players. Addressing the participants, he praised their abilities and assured continued collaboration with the administration. Dr. Colonel Mazhar Abbas Butt (Golfer), a special guest at the program, encouraged the players with inspiring words, adding to the motivational atmosphere of the event.

The grand demonstration of Kyokushin Karate not only showcased the martial art's physical prowess but also emphasized the values of discipline, respect, and skill development among the participants. The event concluded on a positive note, highlighting the dedication and talent of the karate enthusiasts. Other Guests are Sensei Saima Batool Black Belt 3rd Dan Japan & International player, Sensei Amjad Prince 5th Dan, Sensei Ali Sabir Hussain Butt, Sensei zoela Fatima, Sensei Ali Raza, Sensei Shahbaz, Sensei Jawad, Sensei Wilson, Sensei Dilshan Danish, Ghulam Rasool Watto, Muhammad Ali Butt (politician), Muhammad Qasim etc. On conclusion all guests were awarded with souvenirs and gifts.

Kylian Mbappe on bench again as PSG drop points in draw with Reims

Sports Desk

PARIS: Saint-Germain (PSG) coach Luis Enrique defended his stuttering team after they were held 2-2 by Reims with Kylian Mbappe on bench in Ligue 1 on Sunday, a third straight domestic draw which still allowed the reigning champions to go 10 points clear at the top of the table.

Kylian Mbappe was rested at kick-off after scoring both goals in PSG's 2-1 midweek win at Real Sociedad which saw them qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals 4-1 on aggregate.

Without him, PSG fell behind to a Marshall Munetsi goal following an error by Achraf Hakimi.

They hit back and found themselves ahead thanks to a Yunis Abdelhamid own goal and a Goncalo Ramos strike, but Oumar Diakite's goal for Reims ensured a share of the spoils.

It was at times a disjointed and error-strewn display from a PSG side showing six changes from their midweek Champions League performance, and Reims were well worth their point.

"I didn't think the team was too relaxed at any point. I thought their mentality was just right," Luis Enrique said of his



side's performance.

"I never like to gift goals and the first goal was a big one but otherwise it was all positive.

"We pressed well, we were aggressive. Today we had the chance to go 12 points clear and that is our objective, to win the league as soon as possible and compete in every competition."

Paris fell behind in the seventh minute when Hakimi was dispossessed inside his own box, allowing Diakite to set up

Zimbabwe international Munetsi to score.

However, PSG — with the names on the back of their shirts written in Korean to mark the opening of a new club shop in Seoul — drew level in the 17th minute. Reims captain Abdelhamid scored an unfortunate own goal as he turned Hakimi's corner into the net under pressure from Ramos.

Portugal striker Ramos then put PSG ahead two minutes later

with his ninth goal of the season, finding the net with a deflected shot after the Reims defence had failed to deal with a Lee Kang-in cross.

Yet Will Still's Reims, who sit in mid-table, came back to equalise on the stroke of half-time when Emmanuel Agbadou picked out Diakite with a superb defence-splitting pass, and the young Ivory Coast striker beat PSG's stand-in goalkeeper Keylor Navas with a clinical finish.

Luis Enrique sent on Mbappe in the 73rd minute, with Ousmane Dembele and Randal Kolo Muani also introduced from the bench.

Kylian Mbappe had several attempts to score but could not add to his 34 goals for the season in all competitions as PSG followed up recent league draws with Rennes and Monaco by dropping points again.

However, a 1-0 defeat for nearest challengers Brest at Lens on Saturday means PSG have a huge 10-point advantage with only nine matches of the season remaining.

It was the fourth consecutive Ligue 1 game in which Mbappe has either started on the bench or been substituted since he informed PSG of his intention to leave the club when his contract expires at the end of the season.

"When the different parties comment on it, then I will comment. As long as nobody says anything I will do my job which is to take decisions," said the coach, with Kylian Mbappe and PSG both yet to make any public pronouncements on his future. Third-placed Monaco can move to within a point of Brest with a win at Strasbourg later on Sunday.

ASAS Intl School has organised a sports Fiesta 2024

A number of students took part in different games and won prizes from their teachers. Parents were invited to witness the event. They also took part in the race.

Dr Arshad Zia, while addressing at the award distribution ceremony, appreciated teachers and students for their active participation in different sports. He said that sports are necessary for better education as well.

Principal at the school Safia Jawad said in her address that sports encourage students to accept challenges. She said that sports promote positive competition.

Chief Guest at the event was athlete Sadaf Siddique. Students also shown their discipline and skills in the Martial Arts.



PSGMEA to set up first tennis ball manufacturing plant in Sialkot

Sports Desk

SIALKOT: Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) Chairman Arshad Latif Butt said that first ever tennis ball manufacturing plant would be established in the city.

He stated this while addressing a press conference at PSGMEA Auditorium, says a news release issued here on Sunday.

PSGMEA Chairman Arshad Latif Butt said that tennis balls had been imported from Indonesia and China, but the establishment of proposed plant would not only reduce imports but also help export of tennis balls to other countries which would ultimately increase foreign exchange.

He said the Export Development Fund (EDF) had also released funds of Rs93.586 million for tennis ball manufacturing plant and work on it would be started very soon.

The plant would provide better employment to youth. The Chairman said: "We are also trying to strengthen business and academia linkages through the platform of Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) so that skilled youth come forward."

In this regard, various Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) had been signed Dr Moeed and other educational institutions including Gift University, which would benefit the industry as well as the students of these educational institutions.

Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Zarar Ahmed Dohdy, Secretary General Mohsin Masood and members of the executive body were also present on the occasion.

Naseem Shah charged for code of conduct violation during United-Sultans clash

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Islamabad United's Naseem Shah has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 9 clash against Multan Sultans. The star pacer was fined for a level 1 breach of the PSL's Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel during Islamabad United's final group match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Naseem had kicked the stumps after the final ball of Multan Sultans' innings, resulting in him getting charged for violating Article 2.2 which deals with abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings.

Assistance

ISLAMABAD: Under auspices of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) Pakistan, has mobilized an emergency relief convoy to support the flood affectees of Gwadar.



Photo: PID

NDMA with KSrelief-Pakistan mobilize emergency relief convoy for flood victims of Gwadar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) Pakistan, has mobilized an emergency relief convoy to support the flood victims of Gwadar. This humanitarian initiative saw the dispatch of five containers loaded with 9,000 food packages and 9,000 shelters, totaling 875 tonnes, from Islamabad to the rain-impacted areas of Gwadar, a news release said.

The departure ceremony, held at the Jinnah Stadium, Sports Complex, Islamabad this morning, was attended by Chief Minister of Balochistan, Sarfraz Bugti, Saudi Ambassador, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliki along with the officials from

NDMA. The NDMA has diligently coordinated with Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan, ensuring seamless liaison with local authorities, facilitating inter-provincial transit, and securing the necessary clearances to guarantee unimpeded delivery of this crucial aid. Upon arrival, the consignment will be entrusted to the PDMA Balochistan and local administration, who will oversee the equitable distribution of the relief item to the communities ravaged by the rains in Gwadar. This concerted effort underscores the commitment of NDMA's to coordinate with both national and international partners to provide immediate assistance in times of crisis, reflecting a shared dedication to alleviate the hardships faced by those in dire need.

Cabinet absence delays key economic decisions

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The absence of a federal cabinet has led to a delay in crucial economic decision-making processes, with approval for significant summits pending.

Despite being elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan a week ago, the formation of a federal cabinet is still pending, leading to a delay in approving crucial summaries.

Sources revealed that, after the establishment of the federal

cabinet, critical economic decisions and approval of summaries will be made.

Sources also revealed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has placed conditions on sending a team, tying it to the formation of the federal cabinet. Once the federal cabinet is in place, the IMF will dispatch a team for negotiations with Pakistan regarding financial matters.

A day before this development, PM Shehbaz Sharif consulted with his elder brother

Nawaz Sharif and finalised names for the federal cabinet, with Ishaq Dar dropping out of the race to become finance minister, citing sources.

Sources told that Ishaq Dar, a close Sharif family associate and four-time finance minister, will be handed over the portfolio of foreign minister.

However, the ruling party is yet to finalize its finance minister, the person who has to lead an immediate effort to negotiate a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout.

Pakistan has a narrow path to recovery and the current IMF agreement expires on April 11.

According to sources, renowned bankers Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan and Shamshad Akhtar are likely to become the advisers to prime minister on finance and revenue.

Akhtar has been a key part of the recent caretaker government that has been praised by the IMF for "decisive policy efforts" to maintain stability.

Furthermore, sources

claimed that Khawaja Muhammad Asif will retain the charge of the defense ministry. Ahsan Iqbal is in line for planning minister, Ataullah Tarar for information minister, and Musadik Malik for energy minister.

Meanwhile, Jalil Abbas Jilani and Tariq Fatemi will become advisers and special assistants on foreign affairs, respectively. Former Punjab chief minister Mohsin Naqvi will be appointed as an adviser on the interior ministry.

PTI founder's release imperative for uniting Pakistan, says Arif Alvi

City Desk

KARACHI: Former president Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday stressed the need for collaborative efforts to steer country out of crisis, saying that release of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan was imperative to unite Pakistan.

Speaking to journalists in Karachi, the PTI leader pointed out his longstanding efforts towards fostering national unity, saying that he had always endeavored to unite the country, as he believes that Pakistan's progress hinges upon unity.

However, Arif Alvi said, the release of PTI founder Imran Khan was imperative for achieving this goal.

He emphasised the importance of accepting the mandate

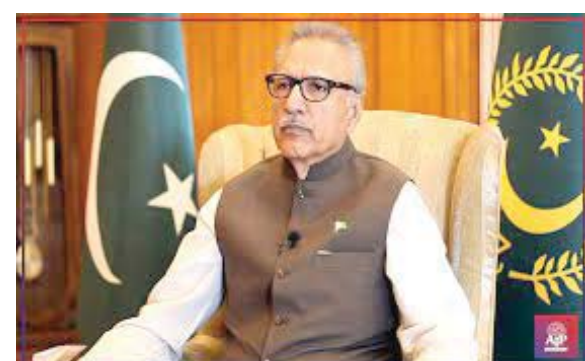
given by the country, saying that the first step towards uniting the country is to recognise the public mandate.

Responding to allegations regarding breach of constitutional mandate, the former president said that if his opponents had any complaints regarding his tenure, then they should approach courts with their complaints.

"If they want to file a case under Article 6 [treason] then they are welcome," Alvi said, adding that he adhered to the constitution and took decisions according to his knowledge.

Furthermore, he said he wasn't a constitutional expert but "made decisions using the best advice I received."

Alvi highlighted his stance against corruption, underscor-



ing it as a fundamental principle that he has consistently upheld. "I have always stayed against corruption, and I have remained committed to this principle throughout my career," he added.

Responding to a question, Arif Alvi mentioned receiving a cipher and emphasised

the importance of adhering to oaths regarding the handling of classified information.

He pointed out that he had condemned the events occurred on May 9, stressing the importance of investigating the violence. He reiterated his unwavering support for Imran Khan, asserting that the

latter remains his leader.

Arif Alvi also underscored the necessity for collective efforts to improve the economic situation, cautioning against relying solely on International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The presser comes after PPP Co-chairman Asif Zardari was sworn in as the 14th President of Pakistan on Sunday, officially taking over as the head of the state for a historic second time after winning presidential election a day earlier.

Zardari had secured 411 electoral votes on Saturday to defeat his opponent and chief of the Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai, who could only bag a total of 181 electoral votes, according to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Punjab chief minister reviews monitoring of delivery of Ramazan Nigahban hampers

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif suddenly reached Model Ramazan Bazaar Control Room in Poonch House, in order to review monitoring mechanism of the provincial model market control room.

Madam Chief Minister observed both district and PITB dashboards developed for the purpose, besides reviewing the Qeemat App dashboard. She was briefed by the authorities concerned about the data displayed on these dashboards.

Madam Chief Minister stressed on the importance of effective monitoring of the odelivery of Ramazan Nigahban hampers at beneficiaries' doorsteps. She said, "I will not tolerate any obstruction or neglect in this regard."

Madam Chief Minister



highlighted, "District Score Cards will be developed on the basis of performance of district administration in the delivery of Ramazan Nigahban hampers at beneficiaries' doorsteps, and handling of other related issues thereof." She added, "Marks will be deducted for the violation of SOPs in this regard."

Madam Chief Minister said, "By 10th of Ramazan, Ramazan Nigahban hampers will reach all the needy." She directed the authorities concerned to also include home delivery information in the dashboard.

CAA jacks up car parking fees at Karachi airport

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has jacked up car parking fees at Karachi airport.

According to the CAA spokesperson, the car parking fees at the Karachi airport has been fixed at Rs100 after an increase of Rs10. "Rs100 would be charged for parking a vehicle for three hours on the airport premises."

An extra fee would be charged from the owners of the vehicles for parking of more than three hours on the airport premises, the spokesperson said.

The decision was made Karachi airport management committee after the end of the private contractor's tenure, the CAA spokesperson said.

The CAA further said the parking fees is jacked up by Rs10 every year.

Ji announces million march towards US embassy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) announced to carry out a million march toward the United States embassy on the 27th of Ramazan to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

Addressing a Gaza Solidarity March in Islamabad, JI Ameer Sirajul Haq said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has also failed to play its due role for Palestinians and just is restricted to statements only.

"Our parliament also passed ineffective resolutions and now the lawmakers don't even talk about the situation of Gaza," he added.

Sirajul Haq said that millions of people would be marching towards the American embassy on the 27th of Ramazan.

Speaking on the political situation in Pakistan, the JI chief said that the economy of the country cannot improve till the Pakistan Muslim League-



Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are in power.

"These two families have ruined Pakistan and the country cannot be put on the path of prosperity until they are removed from power," Sirajul Haq added.

He said that newly elected President Asif Ali Zardari took the oath with all those who looted the country around him.

Speaking on the occasion, JI leader Senator Mushtaq Ahmed said that Israel is carrying out a massacre in in Palestine. He said that the United States vetoed the ceasefire resolution three times in the United Nations.

SCBA condemns arrest of Salman Akram Raja, Latif Khosa



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Sunday strongly condemned the arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and lawyers Sardar Latif Khosa, Salman Akram Raja and others.

According to a statement issued by the SCBA, President Shahzad Shaukat and Secretary Syed Ali Imran "vehemently denounced" the arrests of Sardar Latif Khosa, Salman Akram Raja, Mumtaz Mustafa, and numerous other lawyers while peacefully protesting against the alleged electoral malpractices in the recent general elections.

While demanding immediate release of all arrested lawyers, the President and the Secretary said that as senior Advocates of the Supreme Court and life Members of this Association, the arrests is viewed with grave concern. "All of them have always represented the highest standards in legal profession," they commended.

Expressing his utter discontentment, the President stated that it

is in common knowledge that SCBA has always advocated for upholding the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.

The SCBA President further lambasted that despite this association, on numerous occasions, have called upon the authorities to respect the legal and democratic rights of citizens, including lawyers.

"The recent trend of targeting and arresting members of the legal fraternity is alarming. It reflects a blatant disregard for constitutional rights, rampant lawlessness, and an abuse of power," read the statement.

Furthermore, to address the escalating aggression against the legal community, the SCBA has decided to summon emergency meeting of its Executive Committee to chart out a course of action.

"Let no one be mistaken, SCBA reiterates its commitment to defending the rights of lawyers and upholding the fundamental rights, democratic principles, protection of human rights and rule of law," the statement concluded.