

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے اس میں نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ہم
ملک نے بیان کیا ان سے عبد اللہ بن زینار نے
اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما نے
کہ ایک صحابی نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
سے عرض کیا کہ وہ فریاد فرماتے ہیں کہ جو
کھا جائے ہے۔ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے
فرمایا کہ جب تم کچھ خرید کر دیا کرو کہ
اس میں کوئی عورت ہو جائے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6964)
Barkat Rice Mills
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RAWALPINDI



Pakistan, Qatar agree to further solidify parliamentary relations

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday emphasized the need to further solidify existing fraternal bond between Pakistan and Qatar through expanding parliamentary cooperation, besides deepening ties in other socio-economic sectors. He expressed these views in his meeting with Ambassador of Qatar Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater who called on him at Parliament House. (Details on Page 8)



Petrol price slashed by Rs5.45 per litre for next fortnight

The petrol price in Pakistan has been slashed by Rs5.45 per litre from Rs293.94 to Rs288.49 for the next fortnight in line with the recommendations of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra). The new fuel prices will be effective from this midnight (May 1), according to an official notification issued by the Finance Division on Tuesday. As per the notification, the price of diesel has also been cut by Rs8.42 per litre to Rs281.96 per litre.

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Meeting

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs for Pakistan after participating in a special meeting of the World Economic forum on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Pak-Saudi bilateral ties, economic partnership getting stronger: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the bilateral relations as well as the economic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were getting stronger. The prime minister, in a statement issued

at the conclusion of his visit to the Kingdom mainly to attend the Special Meeting of World Economic Forum, said a delegation of Saudi businessmen was about to visit Pakistan in the coming days. The visit would help accelerate the pace of economic partnership between the two countries, he added. The prime minister reiterated

the resolve to make all-out efforts to materialise the understanding reached between the two leaderships. With the Pak-Saudi economic partnership, a new era of bilateral ties had begun, he remarked. He recalled that a record exchange of high-level delegations took place between the two countries during the last couple of months.

Highlighting the significance of his three-day visit to the Kingdom marking the very fruitful discussions, the prime minister also mentioned his interactions with the world leaders which led to positive developments in multifaceted cooperation in trade and investment. Referring to his address at the World Economic Forum, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that he

had categorically made it clear that there could be no peace in the world without establishing peace in Gaza. He thanked Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for warm hospitality during the visit, and also for his directives to his ministers regarding Pakistan. He also expressed gratitude to the Saudi ministers for their efforts and full preparations

SBP confirms receiving \$1.1bn tranche from IMF



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan on Tuesday received the much-awaited \$1.1 billion final tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as part of the \$3 billion standby arrangement, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) confirmed. The SBP said it received Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 828 million — equivalent to \$1.1 billion in value — “following the successful completion

of the second review by the Executive Board of IMF under Stand By Arrangement (SBA)” The central bank said that the disbursement will be reflected in SBP reserves for the week ending on May 3, 2024. Pakistan is seeking a new long-term and larger IMF loan, with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb saying Islamabad could secure a staff-level agreement on the new program by early July.

PM satisfied as \$1.1 bln final IMF tranche to bring in economic stability

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, expressing satisfaction over the disbursement of \$1.1 billion final tranche by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), hoped that it would help bring economic stability to the country. On Monday, the IMF Executive Board completed the second review under the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan, allowing for an immediate disbursement

of around \$1.1 billion, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to around \$3 billion. The IMF and Pakistan had reached the Staff Level Agreement on the second and final review on March 20, 2024 for the remaining \$1.1. The prime minister, in a statement, said that in 2016, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif had completed the IMF program in his tenure, and the current one was the second SBA nearing completion.

IHC judges' letter: CJP says won't allow interference in judicial affairs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday heard a case about allegations raised in six IHC judges' letter regarding 'interference' by the security agencies in judicial matters. A six-member larger bench headed by CJP Qazi Faez Isa, comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan heard the case. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on April 1 took suo moto notice of IHC judges' letter in which they alleged interference by intelligence agencies in judicial matters. **Hearing** At the outset of the hearing, CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa clarified that the SC's bench formation committee had “decided that all available judges in Islamabad should immediately convene”. “There was no pick and choose; whoever was available was put together,” the CJP observed, adding that Justice Afridi had recused himself. Recalling that he had hinted at a full court hearing on the matter, Justice Isa said that



it could not be convened as two judges were unavailable. The top judge noted that there was “so much polarisation in the country” and that “people may not be so interested in the independence of the judiciary but in their own particular viewpoint to prevail”. Reiterating his remarks from the previous hearing, Justice Isa reiterated that “attacks” against ex-CJP Jilani were “upsetting”. Read more: IHC judges' letter: Justice Yahya Afridi recuses himself from suo moto bench “If somebody can impose a will upon this court, that is also interference; interference can be from within, from without, from intelligence agencies, from your colleagues, from your family member, from social media, from

everybody else,” CJP Isa said. “A judge's judgment and order shows, speaks, shouts how much interference there is or isn't; how much independence there is or isn't,” he added. The top judge remarked, “I am not responsible for the history of the Supreme Court. I am only responsible for the day I became chief justice. I have gone ahead with an inclusive approach.” He recalled that he had summoned a full court meeting which had not been done so in years. The chief justice then asked AGP Awan if he had gone through the recommendations made by the IHC judges, to which the latter replied in the negative. Justice Isa then asked Awan about how to proceed with the matter. “IHC judge's personal details were leaked on social media” Here, Justice Minallah remarked: “These are not recommendations or suggestions but a charge sheet.” He remarked IHC judge, who raised the issue is being targeted on social media. *Continued on Page 8*

President approves Rana Sanaullah's appointment as Adviser to PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has accorded his approval to appointment of Rana Sanaullah as Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs. The president approved the appointment on the advice of Prime Minister under Article 93 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release, on Tuesday. Rana Sanaullah, in his capacity as Adviser to the PM, would have the status of a federal minister.



UK judge slaps £10,000 on Adil Raja in defamation case; trashes wild frivolous claims

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A High Court judge in the United Kingdom has thrown out the allegations of PTI activists Shayan Ali and Adil Raja, and ordered the latter to pay £10,000 to the retired brigadier, an appellant in the case. Regardless of what Mahtab Anwar Aziz, counsel for Adil Raja, contended before the court, the judge also dismissed his application for a stay, for security of costs etc while



granting stay of the defamation case moved by a retired Pakistani brigadier against Adil Raja. According to media reports on Tuesday, both Shayan Ali and Adil Raja tried to mislead the court and their lawyer Mahtab Aziz failed to convince the judge who noted that he

Continued on Page 8

Fatah-Hamas talks in Beijing on promoting intra-Palestinian reconciliation: China

News Desk

BEIJING: The representatives of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) recently visited Beijing at the invitation of China for in-depth and candid talks on promoting intra-Palestinian reconciliation, and the negotiations progressed to discussing next steps, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian said during his regular briefing on Tuesday. The spokesperson was responding to a question that

whether the two sides had fully expressed their political will to achieve reconciliation through dialogue and consultation, and the issues they discussed. They agreed to continue the dialogue process and strive for the early realization of Palestinian unity, Lin said. He noted that the two sides highly appreciated China's firm support of the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights, thanked China for its efforts to promote Palestine's internal unity, and reached an agreement on the next step of dialogue

FBR orders PTA, telcos to block over 500,000 mobile SIMs of non-filers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue has ordered the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and telecom operators to block 506,671 mobile phone SIMs of non-filers as the government takes steps to increase tax

collection to meet its growing expenditures. The Income Tax General Order was issued to disable the mobile phone SIMs in respect of persons “who are not appearing on active taxpayer list but are liable to file the Income Tax Return for Tax Year 2023 under

the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001”. The mobile SIMs of tax evaders “will remain blocked until restored by FBR or the Inland Revenue commissioner having jurisdiction of the person,” the FBR said in a statement issued on Monday.

Reports said the FBR identified two million non-filers, but mobile service providing companies requested the tax authority that they could not afford to block such a large number of SIMs. It was decided that 500,000 mobile phone SIMs would be blocked.

“Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and all telecom operators are required to ensure the compliance of this ITGO [Income Tax General Order] with immediate effect. The compliance report in this regard is to be furnished to FBR on 15th of May, 2024,” it said.

Azad Kashmir's minister to participate in OIC conference in Gambia

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir's Minister of Small Industry and Trade and Trade Authority Professor Taqdees Gilani has left for a seven-day visit to participate in the OIC conference being held in Gambia's capital, Banjul. Prof. Taqdees Geelani along with Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Shabbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will participate



in this conference. She will represent Pakistan along with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Foreign Minister in this meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Gambia. This conference is considered to be of special importance in the context of the elections in India for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 related to the current situation of Palestine, Israel-Iran tension and the special status of occupied Kashmir. It should be remembered that Government Minis-

ter Professor Taqdees Gilani has represented the country in various international forums before. She has the honor of representing the country to highlight human rights and Kashmir issue in various countries including United Nations, Geneva, USA, Maldives, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, France, Belgium, and United Kingdom. It is a unique honor to be represented by a woman minister of Azad Kashmir at this forum of OIC.

Finance Minister says he has long-standing relationship with Azad Kashmir media

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Abdul Majid Khan, Spokesman/Finance Minister of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the AJK government headed by Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq believes in the freedom of the media and in this context, to strengthen the state media, other measures including doubling the budget of the Information Department (PID) have been taken raised. If any authentic journalistic organization wants to take a stand from the regarding government affairs or my ministry, I will be present all the time. But Throwing catcher through Facebook cannot be allowed. If social media is left unchecked, the society will be destroyed. He said formal legislation regarding social media is inevitable. Talking to the media, Finance Minister and Government Spokesman Abdul Majid Khan said that there are other authoritative forums including newspapers to highlight any deficiency or omission, the government first of all states. She considers herself accountable to the public and the media. He said that I have also been the Minister of Information in the Azad government, so I have a long-standing relationship with journalism. People from all over the state, including the capital, know my family very well. He said that criticism has always been taken positively, but the society has to know the difference between journalism and blackmailing and for this the government will play its necessary role including legislation. He said that after the advent of social media, a new tactic of blackmailing has come, that by posting a few posts on social media against a famous person, to tarnish his honor and blackmail him to get his nefarious goals or desired work out. This is a very dangerous practice which is increasing chaos in the society, like the print media, legislation must be made for social media to end the growing chaos and blackmailing in the society.



Coconuts

ISLAMABAD: A hawker selling coconuts on his pushcart in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Sardar Amjad laments PM Modi's 'immoral' stand

Bureau Report

ABBASPUR: Central Vice President of Pakistan People's Party and former advisor to the government, Sardar Amjad Yusuf Khan, while addressing in a hurriedly called huge press conference, said that Narendra Modi's stand on the occasion of India's elections in occupied Kashmir and highlighting the freedom movement of Kashmir. In order to reject it, an all-party conference was being held in Abbaspur, including the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, the central leaders of all political parties and the leaders of the Hurriyat Conference were supposed to participate, but I am very sad to say that such a big conference, MLA of Abbaspur Constituency, former Prime Minister, Azad Kashmir Qayyum Niazi's philanthropic and self-interested politics was exposed.

Anwar Haq has blocked the constructive schemes of our constituency. He said that it is just propaganda by Qayyum Niazi, nothing else, and they sabotaged this conference through Tehreek-e-Insaf and my other opponent Chaudhry Yasin Gulshan also played the role of his mahre and called his leadership Shah Ghulam Qadir and Raja Farooq Haider not to participate in this conference. This terrible behavior of my political rivals is a clear manifestation and proof of their political bankruptcy. These people are neither sincere to Kashmir Azadi Movement nor want to solve the basic public problems of Abbaspur, because if the public problems are solved. So the stoves of their houses will be closed and their political shops which are about to be closed will also be locked. The Azadi movement of Jammu and Kashmir will reach its logical end in any case. Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Shiraz, Vice Chairman Sardar Muhammad Shabbir Khan, District Councilor Sardar Faisal Naseem Khan, Former District Councilor Sardar Akhlaq Ayub, Former Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Ishaq, Councilor Syed Shabbir Hussain Shah Bukhari, Sardar Mushtaq Advocate, Subedar retired Chaudhry Muhammad Hussain, Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan, Sardar Abid Sethi and other friends were also present

Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited announces dividend of PKR 1.4074 per unit

PPA

ISLAMABAD: 30th April, 2024 - Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC) is a leading pure Islamic asset management company in Pakistan, and part of Pak-Qatar Group, which is Pakistan's pioneer and premier Islamic financial services group. PQAMC has recently announced the monthly dividend of Pak-Qatar Monthly Income Plan (PQMIP) under PQAMC's Shariah-Compliant Income Fund. The plan is also amongst the highest return paying plan in the category.

As per the PQAMC Website, PQMIP announced dividend is PKR 1.4074 per unit for the month of April'24 taking cumulative payout to PKR16,7996 per unit with an annualized return of 22.29% YTD earned as on April 26, 2024. PQAMC is rated AM2 with 'Stable Outlook' by PACRA - the internationally acclaimed rating agency. The PQMIP plan is also rated A+ with a 'Stable Outlook' by PACRA.

The Chief Executive Officer of Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited - Mr. Farhan Shaukat has approved the distributions of dividends for the month of April 2024, under the authority delegated to him by the Board of Directors.

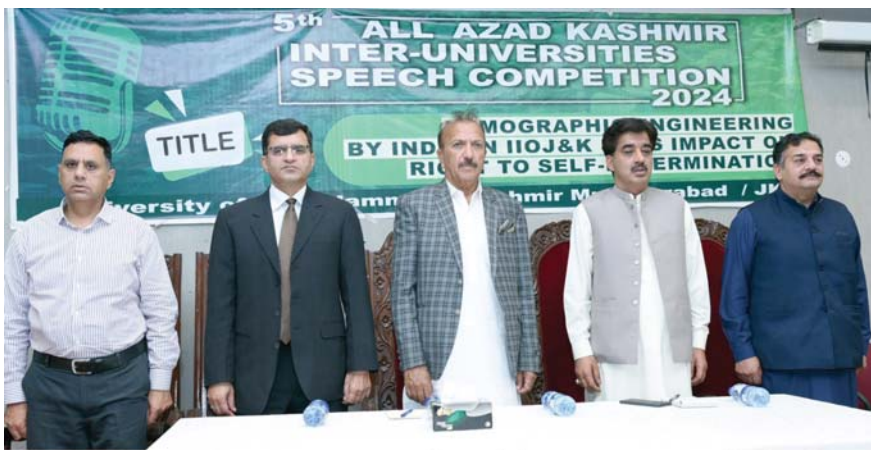
Mr. Farhan further stated that: "The above entitlement will be distributed to the unit-holders, whose names appear in the register of unit-holders at the close of business on April 25, 2024. This reflects PQMIP's strong and consistent performance and our commitment to our Participants of PQMIP"

UAJK VC Dr. Abbasi condemns India's Kashmir Demographic Engineering

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In a stern denunciation of India's actions in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, has highlighted India's employment of tactics akin to those of Israel to alter the demographic composition of Muslim-majority areas. Speaking at the 5th Inter-University English Debate Competition, Prof. Abbasi emphasized the grave implications of India's actions, labeling them as violations of international law and an assault on the right to self-determination.

Addressing participants of the debate competition jointly organized by UAJK and the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Commission (JKLC),



Prof. Abbasi stressed the parallels between India and Israel's attempts to manipulate population ratios in disputed territories to sway the outcome of future plebiscites. He underscored the competition's role in raising awareness among the youth about the Kashmir issue, emphasizing the importance

of understanding it from its true perspective. Furthermore, Prof. Abbasi condemned what he termed as "water terrorism," accusing India of exploiting vital resources to further its agenda in the region. He asserted that India's efforts to alter demographics and control water sources reveal its nefar-

ious ambitions and disregard for the rights of Kashmiris. Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Director of the Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI), echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the significance of educating students about the Kashmir conflict and providing them with a platform to

articulate their views. Dr. Khan elucidated on the legal status of the Kashmir issue, urging students to choose their words wisely when discussing the conflict.

The event saw participation from numerous students, with Syeda Humira Hameed, Asma Abrar, and Ayman Abbasi emerging as the top contenders, as per the judges' decision. The judging panel, comprised of distinguished academics including Prof. Dr. Syed Nadeem Haider Bukhari, Dr. Shahida Khaliq, and Dr. Ayesha Rahman, evaluated the contestants' performances meticulously.

Raja Muhammad Aslam Khan, Director of the JKLC, and Dr. Sharjeel Saeed, Director of Students Affairs at UAJK, provided insights into the competition's background and significance, further enriching the discourse on the Kashmir issue.

Act 74 should be constitutionally amended to include the affidavit of Khatam Nabuwat in the voter lists: Khatm Nabuwat Conference

Bureau Report

BAGH: Women's University Bagh should be named after Major (R) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan. Speakers demanded

Belief in finality is the foundation of faith. No compromise will be made in this regard. Major (ret'd) Muhammad Ayub Khan was the first member in the Azad Kashmir Assembly to protect the faith of the Muslim Ummah by passing a resolution against the sedition of Qadianis.

Speakers from the conference paid tribute to Major (ret'd) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan for his academic, intellectual, political, social and especially for presenting the resolution of end of Prophethood in Azad Kashmir Assembly and getting it passed. This resolution of his went on to become a guide for other countries and they also presented a resolution in their assem-

blies and constitutionally declared the Qadianis as a non-Muslim minority. Earlier, Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri in Bahawalpur state court proved the Qadianis to be infidels through arguments and the Bahawalpur court decided after hearing the arguments that Mirza Qadiani and his descendants are outside the circle of Islam. Major (R) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan (re) Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) during the Hajj journey that he would present this resolution in the Azad Kashmir Assembly. Therefore, after presenting the resolution, external pressure was also applied, Speaker Assembly Sheikh Manzar Masood was kidnapped, Major (ret'd) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan was also abducted, Qadianis attacked the convoy of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan in Kotli. Also, threats were made to take away the government, but Major Muhammad Ayub Khan

and his friends remained firm and did not show any flexibility in their position. Thousands of such governments are ready to sacrifice for the protection of the honor and honor of our Holy Prophet. The participants of the conference decided that we are also in the field with the same determination to implement the resolution of Major Muhammad Ayub Khan. The speakers also demanded that the text of Major Sahib's resolution should be made part of the curriculum and also demanded that Clause No. 2 of their resolution could not be implemented yet. Therefore, Act 54 should be constitutionally amended and the affidavit of Khatman Nabuwat should be included in the voter lists in the same way as the affidavit of Khatman Nabuwat is included in Pakistan's Form 21. Apart from this, the speakers said that the former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan also issued a notification

to name the Women University Bagh after Major (R) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan, but what is the reason that it has not been implemented yet?

The Ministers of the Government have been requested to bring an inquiry into this matter immediately. Maulana Azizur Rehman Sani while speaking explained the constitutional and legal status of Qadianis that according to the constitution and law Qadianis cannot even call themselves Muslims and cannot use Islamic slogans and Kalima Tayyaba. But the Qadiani are using Islamic slogans in public at Kotli and erecting illegal minarets on their places of worship. When the administration does not demolish these illegal minarets, then there is agitation among the Muslims. The administration of Azad Kashmir and in particular the administration of Kotli was demanded to immediately pull down these illegal minarets from the places of worship of

the Qadianis and stop their apostate activities and make the Qadianis abide by the constitution and the law. In the Khatman Nabuwat conference, it was also demanded that the subjects of the doctrine of Khatman Nabuwat should be made a part of the curriculum. In the conference, the rulers of the Islamic world were also demanded to stand up to support and help the oppressed Muslims of Palestine and Gaza and to take actions instead of words. The three participants of the conference decided that they will boycott the Qadianis and the products of the Qadianis and the Israelis and in the conference former government minister Raja Yasin, Chairman Ulama and Mashakh Maulana Imtiaz Siddiqui, General Secretary Ayub Memorial Committee Abdul Rasheed Chaghtai, Advocate, General Secretary of the International Majlis Takhfuz Khatm Nabuwat Azad Kashmir Maulana Adil Khurshid,

Preacher of the International Majlis Takhfuz Khatm Nabuwat Azad Kashmir Mufti Khalid Mir, President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Bagh Tahir Akbar, President of the Muslim Conference Bagh Mushtaq Nayar, Ameer of the International Majlis Takhfuz Khatm Nabuwat Bagh Qari Mujibur Rehman, Moderator General World Assembly for Protection of Khatman Nabuwat Bagh Mufti Shamsul Haq, Moderator for Finances World Assembly for Protection of Khatman Nabuwat Bagh Maulana Mudassar Rafiq Kayani, Amir Mushtaq Media Co-Coordinator Ayub Memorial Committee, Moderator General World Assembly for Protection of Khatman Nabuwat Sindhnuti Maulana Nazam Hussain, Moderator General World Assembly of Protection of Khatman Nabuwat Bhammar Maulana Saifur Rehman Kashmiri, Muhammad Niaz Baig, Masood Mughal, Dr. Raffiat Mughal, Faheem Akram, Sabeel Sir.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:49 am
Zohr 12:05 pm
Asr 4:53 pm
Maghrib 6:50 pm
Isha 8:22 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Two leading charities offer gifts to help them adapt efficient systems to spend education

PPA

KARACHI: The chiefs of non-profits Shahid Afridi Foundation (SAF) and Green Crescent Trust (GCT) have offered to the new federal and provincial governments in the country to fully assist in the formation of a mechanism to ensure maximum accountability and transparency in spending the massive budgets for school education.

SAF Chairman, Shahid Afridi, and GCT CEO, Zahid Afridi, extended this joint offer to new governments formed in the centre and provinces after the 2024 general polls while speaking at the joint SAF-GCT fundraiser.

Both were of the consensus view that greater accountability and transparency in spending education budgets of federal and provincial governments could turn around the lives of millions of underprivileged students enrolled in government schools.

"Every year billions of rupees are spent on running government schools with very unsatisfactory output as the enrolled students from deprived communities don't get quality education," said GCT CEO Zahid Saeed.

Speaking on the occasion, SAF Chairman, Shahid Afridi, reiterated the resolve of his non-profit to fulfill the basic needs of the underprivileged communities in the remotest parts of the country where other NGOs generally don't serve due to lack of resources.

ICCI enjoys confidence of entire business community: Ajmal Baloch

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch has said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has gained the confidence of the entire business community during last two and half years owing to the tireless services of its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari who has also initiated a unique programme of installation of filtration plants in different markets of Islamabad from his own pocket. He added that before this none of the Chamber's Presidents or any other office bearer has set any example of serving the community at his own expense.

Ajmal Baloch went on to say that ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has signed a MoU with Gulberg Geens for the establishment of a state of the art expo centre on which the work will be initiated near future and that he has also approached the Capital Development Authority for the allotment of plots for a school and a hospital for the business community and hopefully the ICCI will continue its efforts for the materialization of these projects.

In his address, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari underlined the need for the image building of the Chamber by asserting that it is incumbent upon each and every member to get ownership and not let anybody tarnish their image.

Raja Zahid Dahnil, President Traders Welfare Association Bara Kohu said that traders of Bara Kohu are obliged to ICCI as its President has announced to install a filtration plant in the vicinity at his own expense.

President Gulberg Greens Najeeb Ellahi Malik termed the Exp Centre project a revolutionary step not only for Pakistan and Islamabad but for Gulberg Greens also to promote business and residential activities in the society itself.

Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal, President I&T Centre G/10 said that long standing disputes of the business community are being resolved at all the forums and that they will continue to move forward alongside the ICCI.

President Islamabad Goods and Transport Association Malik Shabbir said that before this Islamabad was starting from Aabpara and ending at F-10 but during last one and a half year



Tarnol, Bara Kohu and Sihala have been linked with the ICCI for which the entire credit goes to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari.

Senior leader Marble Association Salim Mughal said that the marble

industry enjoys the export potential of \$.10 billion and that they are determined to promote the country's much needed exports for its progress and prosperity.

Those who also addressed the cere-

mony include, Waqas Khan, Zafar Iqbal Gujjar, Maqsood Tabish, Zulqarnan Abbasi, Amin Pirzada, Assad Haider Shah, Sher Mohammad, Malik Tanzeel, Mohsin Naqvi, Khalid Miraj, Babar Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry and other.

Without any safety measures

ISLAMABAD: Workers performing laborious job without any safety measures in a local industry in Sector I-9 of Federal Capital. Labour Day being observed all over the world today, which roots back to the fight for workers' rights in the 19th-century United States. On May 1st, 1886, a massive strike erupted with nearly 200,000 workers demanding an eight-hour workday. This movement turned violent in Chicago, culminating in the Haymarket Affair. The Government of Pakistan has ratified 36 ILO Conventions, including 8 fundamental conventions, as of now. In the South Asian sub-region, Pakistan is the second country that has ratified all eight fundamental conventions as enshrined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, still Labours unable to get their rights in the country.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Aramco acquires 40% shares in Go Petroleum

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) approved a 40% equity stake acquisition in Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd (GO) by Aramco, a global leader in integrated energy and chemicals. This transaction marks Aramco's first entry into Pakistan's fuels retail market, underscoring its confidence in the country's economic potential and its commitment to its growth.

Aramco Asia Singapore Pte. Ltd., a Singaporean company wholly owned by Saudi Aramco, filed the pre-merg-



er application with the CCP. The company specializes in sales, marketing, procurement, logistics, and related services, with a focus on prospecting, exploring, drilling, extracting, processing, manufacturing, refining, and marketing hydrocarbon substances.

GO, the target Pakistani company, is a licensed oil

marketing company operating in Pakistan. It is involved in the procurement, storage, sale, and marketing of petroleum products and lubricants. GO is also a prominent operator of downstream fuels, lubricants, and convenience stores, making it one of Pakistan's largest retail and storage companies.

CCP's merger analysis determined that the acquisition would not result in the acquirers' dominance in the relevant market post-transaction, leading to the authorization of the merger. This decision aligns with CCP's mission to foster competition and ensure a fair

business environment in Pakistan.

Aramco's acquisition indicates a significant milestone in Pakistan's energy sector, bringing advanced expertise and technology to the fuels retail market. This development is expected to boost competition, elevate service standards, and provide consumers with a broader range of high-quality products.

The acquisition will bring in the much-needed foreign direct investment in Pakistan's energy sector, contributing to economic growth and development.

World Password Day: Kaspersky unveils crucial cybersecurity measures for password

PNP

ISLAMABAD: In today's interconnected world, small businesses are increasingly becoming targets for cyberattacks. With limited resources and expertise, these businesses often struggle to defend themselves against sophisticated threats. However, by implementing robust password protection measures, small businesses can significantly enhance their security posture and safeguard their sensitive data. For World Password Day, Kaspersky is unveiling simple but crucial cybersecurity measures for password protection in a small business environment.

A study conducted by Kaspersky in the end of 2023 found that 76% of small businesses around the world and 88% in the META region experienced at least one cyber incident in the past two years. The consequences of those attacks were severe, and resulted in leaks of confidential data, reputational damage, loss of customer trust and more. Around 9% of small companies worldwide and in META even had to suspend certain areas of their business operations. Examining the reasons for these cyber incidents, it's clear that one of the main causes was the use of weak passwords or failure to perform regular password updates. This reason accounts for almost a quarter, second only to downloading malware.

"Even the smallest businesses face significant cybersecurity risks. Therefore, it's important for them to prioritize security measures and employ specialized cybersecurity products to safeguard their operations and customer data. For example, our Kaspersky Small Office Security, tailored specifically to the needs of small businesses, offers a hands-off security solution with 'install and forget' protection, and allows for saving companies' budget, particularly crucial in the early stages of business development. It provides comprehensive protection against malware, phishing, ransomware, weak passwords and much more," comments Hafeez Rehman, Technical group manager at Kaspersky.



'Farmers are backbone of society'

Message of renowned Industrialist on labour day



Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Member National Board of Export for Agro and Processed Foods, chairman S. M. Food and Volka Food International, Chaudhary Zulfikar Ali Anjum said in his message on labor Day. He said today not only in Pakistan but also around the world, Labor Day is being celebrated. Poverty, unemployment, and inflation are major issues for pakistani workers in today's era. We see that even on days dedicated to laborers, many workers are unaware of the importance of this day and are busy working to earn bread for their children.

He said today is a day to remember all those workers who, on May 1, 1886, raised their voices and made sacrifices for better working conditions and rights. This day is a symbol of the strength and unity of workers. Farmers, factory owners, teachers, journalists, laborers, and doctors are all laborers. If a farmer does not work hard to cultivate crops, he will not reap the fruit. Similarly, it is the same for our other professions.

Renowned industrialist repeat it, workers are the backbone of society. They are the ones who build and maintain our cities, industries, and infrastructure. They are the ones who produce food, clothing, services, and other essential items for us. They are all commendable. If there are no workers, factories will shut down. No factory owner or mills owner denies the importance of workers. It has been observed that some workers, tempted by someone, come into conflict with their duty, go on strike, and as a result, lose their jobs. When a worker or laborer is being compensated, instead of taking leave from work, they should perform their duties honestly. Due to the high number of unemployed people, it is very difficult to find a new job in the current situation.

A well-known industrialist said that 45% of our country's labor force is associated with agriculture, 29% with hotels and other commercial and business sectors, 13% with production, 6% with construction, and 5% with transportation and communication sectors. The purpose of today is not only to highlight the importance of laborers and workers in society but also to express solidarity with them.

AKU & CSJ Collaborate to Address Education Policy Challenges

PNP

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), in collaboration with the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Pakistan hosted a dynamic policy dialogue on 'Overcoming Educational Policy Challenges through Better Governance'.

The event served as a platform for engaging experts and stakeholders, fostering innovative strategies for governance enhancement, gaining valuable insights into improving educational outcomes, and contributing to the development of a comprehensive policy roadmap for sustainable progress.

The distinguished panel featured prominent figures including Dr Riaz



Ahmed Shaikh, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Educa-

tion at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST); Ms Sadiqa Salahuddin, Founder and Executive Director of the Indus Resource Centre; Professor Farid Panjwani, Dean of AKU's Institute for Educational Development; Mr Jamil Ahmed Khan, Former Ambassador and Advisor to the President at AKU; Ms Maleeha Manzoor, Member of the Sindh Provincial Assembly; Ms Nausheen Adnan, Member of the Punjab Assembly and CM Advisory Committee on Education; and Mr Sukhdev Hemnani, Board Member of the Sindh Human Rights Commission. The sessions were moderated by Mr Peter Jacob, Executive Director, and Ms Tayyaba Rafiq, Project Coordinator, both representing the Centre for Social Justice.

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Army Audit and Plot Allocations in DHA - III

Additionally, there exist misconceptions about the audit system of the Pakistan Army. It is imperative to note that the audit, salaries, and TADA (Traveling Allowance Daily Allowance) of the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force fall under the purview of a distinct entity, the Controller of Military Accounts, which comprises entirely civilian personnel, with officers recruited through the Central Superior Services (CSS). Various audits are conducted annually, triennially, and every five years, with a mandate for timely resolution. Audit objections left unresolved for prolonged periods are referred to the Public Accounts Committee, chaired by the Leader of the Opposition. Further details regarding audits can be accessed on the website of the Controller of Military Accounts. The Pakistan Military Accounts Department is audited by the Accountant General of Pakistan. Indeed, the Pakistan Army stands as the epitome of discipline and transparency within the nation and serves as a benchmark for other Pakistani institutions.

Recognizing the paramount importance of the Pakistan Army for the

country, it is imperative to refute baseless and unfounded allegations aimed at sowing discord against our defenders. Supporting our armed forces transcends mere patriotic sentiment; it constitutes an indispensable pillar of national security, sovereignty, and prosperity. From defending borders to providing disaster relief, the role of the military encompasses a multitude of responsibilities that are indispensable.

Our armed forces serve as the ultimate protectors of our nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. By maintaining a robust and capable military, we deter potential aggressors, safeguard against external threats, and uphold our independence. Investing in defense capabilities ensures that we possess the means to safeguard our borders and assert our national interests on the global stage, thereby securing our sovereignty for future generations. National security stands paramount to the welfare and prosperity of our nation. Our armed forces hold a central role in safeguarding

our citizens, infrastructure, and way of life from an array of threats, encompassing terrorism, cyberattacks, and geopolitical instability. By furnishing requisite resources, training, and backing to our military, we augment our ability to detect, deter, and respond to security challenges, thereby fostering peace and stability domestically and

internationally. During times of crisis, our armed forces frequently lead response and recovery endeavors. Whether delivering humanitarian aid amid natural disasters, executing search and rescue missions, or aiding in pandemic mitigation, our military personnel exhibit valor, resilience, and altruism in serving our communities. By arming and empowering our armed forces to react promptly and efficiently to emergencies, we enhance our collective resilience and capacity to surmount adversity. Supporting our armed forces nurtures a sense of unity, pride, and solidarity among citizens. Acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions of our military personnel

fosters a shared national identity and purpose that transcends divisions and differences. Whether through ceremonies, commemorations, or outreach initiatives, conveying gratitude and esteem for our armed forces bolsters social cohesion and reinforces the ties of citizenship, patriotism, and mutual respect.

Our armed forces play a pivotal role in advancing global stability, peacekeeping, and humanitarian endeavors. Through engagement in international missions, peacekeeping operations, and diplomatic endeavors, our military bolsters collective security and reaffirms our dedication to upholding shared values and principles. By backing our armed forces, we exhibit our allegiance to global cooperation, solidarity, and leadership in confronting mutual challenges and promoting common interests.

Dear readers, the nation is acutely aware of the malevolent intentions of anti-state elements seeking to tarnish the reputation of our Army. It is imperative to take decisive action against these elements and establish a structured mechanism to curb the dissemination of baseless propaganda lacking evidence and proof.



Abdul Basit Alvi

Children's shoes highlight Gaza's Khan Younis city exodus chaos

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, reached one of its now-abandoned schools in Khan Younis, a city in the Gaza Strip, at the weekend, where thousands of people appeared to have left at a moment's notice, fearing further intense Israeli bombardment. "They used to shelter inside the school yard here, inside the classrooms, using all the external space. Now there's nothing left. Everybody evacuated very quickly," Louise Wateridge, UNRWA Communications Officer, said in a statement.

Writing in a social media post on X that abandoned children's shoes were "everywhere" at the school, the UNRWA officer also pointed to rubble and smashed concrete blocks that fell from the roof after a direct hit. "There's nobody here now but you can see how quickly people left. There's shoes on the floor, there's hairbrushes, toothbrushes, even bits of food just left behind," Ms Wateridge said, her mobile phone footage indicating massive damage to buildings next to the UNRWA facility, including a block whose entire top floor had been upended and smashed wide open. And at a training centre in Khan Younis, where Ms Wateridge said that at least 40,000 people sheltered when it came under direct fire and was subsequently besieged, she described "entire rooms burnt out, belongings scattered everywhere...Graves of children in the yard read, 'Your sister misses you'." According to UNRWA, the Israeli attacks in Gaza has impacted 165 of its installations in the enclave since October 7. Latest data from the Gazan health authorities indicates that at least 34,480 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in the ensuing violence and more than 77,640 wounded. As part of the continuing UN humanitarian response, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) - which said that over 13,000 youngsters have been reportedly killed - has distributed more than 203,000 items of clothing for children. UNICEF has reported that at least 17,000 children in Gaza are now unaccompanied or separated from their family after nearly seven months of war, with at least seven in 10 houses believed damaged or destroyed.

200 days after the war



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

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar: What's next?

After the elections, Nawaz Sharif was left heartbroken, and his die-hard fans were devastated by his decision to decline the premiership. Feeling humiliated and dejected, Nawaz Sharif's ability to make rational decisions was clouded by agony and pain. Seizing the opportunity, the architect of Pakistan's political landscape acted swiftly, tactfully proposing Shahbaz Sharif as Prime Minister in Nawaz Sharif's place. According to some close associates, Nawaz Sharif was threatened to consider a hundred times before deciding against it, with the possibility of his constituency results and those of his daughter being made public, adding to his humiliation and indignation. He knew that his beloved daughter would rather endure desperation and pain than be denied the Chief Ministership of Pakistan's largest province, for which she had worked tirelessly.

The threat was enough to compel Nawaz Sharif to take a back seat and watch the premiership, for which he had waited, suffered, and worked so hard, slip away from his grasp and be bestowed upon Shahbaz Sharif, who had solidified his connections with the establishment during his previous tenure.

Nawaz Sharif also witnessed with utter indignation when his long-time favorite, Ishaq Dar, was denied the Ministry of Finance. This decision came as a profound surprise to Dar, who felt deeply humiliated when his pride as a financial wizard was severely and mercilessly wounded.

Ironically, this critical ministry was handed to an unelected professional with no experience or expertise in handling complex public financial matters. Furthermore, this individual was not accountable to the people of Pakistan for his performance as Finance Minister.

Despite being offered the consolation prize of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ishaq Dar found himself ill-suited for the role, much to the dismay of the people of Pakistan who were

disheartened to see him as the country's top diplomat.

Amidst the drama of suspense, intrigue, deception, and conspiracies, Shahbaz Sharif played his cards masterfully. He achieved everything he desired in life, without apparently alienating his elder brother and his leader, positioning himself as the most suitable candidate for the premiership by aligning himself, his political ideology, and his complete obedience with the architects of the election results.

Once elected as Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif's obedience was legendary. He appointed all unelected nominees for the important cabinet portfolios, accepted all policy decisions, and left no opportunity, event, or media discourse untouched to express his admiration, gratitude, and thanks to the architects.

As the shock, sorrow, and agony of the election results subsided, Nawaz Sharif and his close associates came to the stark realization that they had been completely marginalized and excluded from the political chessboard of Pakistan. They understood how Rana Sanaullah, who could have undoubtedly been the next interior minister, was sidelined to make way for Mr. Naqvi, who had earned praise and blessings from the establishment for ruthlessly cracking down on the PTI during the 9th May incident and manipulating the election results to disadvantage some of the PML(N) candidates while rewarding the others.

Upon recognizing this reality, they devised a plan of action to reassert themselves within the government and the party. In the public domain, they began injecting the narrative that the election results were manipulated to deprive Nawaz Sharif of the premiership and deny his close associates victory in the elections and their guaranteed place in the cabinet.

Discreetly, they withdrew PML(N) support from the current government by disassociating the party's manifesto from the incumbent government. They then moved to assert themselves in the formation of the cabinet by advocating for Ishaq Dar to be appointed as Deputy Prime Minister. Finally, they orchestrated a shift in the party's presidency from Shahbaz Sharif to Nawaz Sharif.

Out of the four planned actions, the most damaging and far-reaching consequence was the statement that the PML(N) is not responsible for implementing its manifesto. This assertion was based on the flimsy ground that since Shahbaz Sharif's government is heading a coalition government and the PML(N) could not achieve a simple majority in parliament, they are not accountable for implementing their manifesto or the performance of Shahbaz Sharif's government. This leaves the question open as to whose manifesto Shahbaz Sharif's government is following. This was a severe blow to the government of Shahbaz Sharif and a shock to its architect.

In essence, this statement implies that Shahbaz Sharif's government does not have the mandate of the people to govern. It represents a profound loss of confidence in the government's policies and leadership, significantly undermining its legitimacy and credibility. This situation is akin to a building whose foundation has been pulled out, and it is on the verge of collapse with a slight touch.

The second attack by the Nawaz Sharif faction was to elevate Mr. Ishaq Dar, a close confidant of Nawaz Sharif, to the position of Deputy Prime Minister. This means that Dar now holds significant authority, as both the interior minister and finance minister, along with the entire cabinet, will report to him before making any policy decisions in their

respective spheres. As Deputy Prime Minister, Dar is second-in-command and will step in as Prime Minister when necessary. He will lead Cabinet meetings, represent the government at official functions, and handle day-to-day government operations. He will also oversee specific policy areas, ensuring coherence and alignment with the overall government agenda.

The third attack was to deprive Shahbaz Sharif of the coveted post of President of the PML(N). This move may not have been questioned, if Nawaz had been Prime Minister. His realization of the conspiracy against him has made him adamant to strip Shahbaz Sharif of all powers. This action will leave Shahbaz Sharif without any significant authority; Deprived of the party's presidency, the PML(N) manifesto, and the Prime Minister's absolute power, Shahbaz Sharif will become a leader without legitimacy or authority.

This reaction is crucial on several fronts. If the PML(N) decides to withdraw its support from the current government, Shahbaz Sharif's administration would collapse immediately. Now, assuming he is no longer the Prime Minister and holds no significant portfolio within the party, his fate becomes uncertain and his political future could hang in the balance.

Furthermore, the question arises: who would be the next favorite of the architect if Shahbaz Sharif is sidelined? This is a complex and difficult question to answer at this juncture. However, one thing is clear: regardless of Shahbaz Sharif's prowess in the game of politics, both he and his architect will undoubtedly encounter shocking surprises from the experienced and seasoned player, Nawaz Sharif. As the situation unfolds, the dynamics of Pakistani politics are bound to shift, and the outcomes may be unpredictable.

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



Qamar Bashir

Personal to society quantum

The discussion nowadays revolves around the impact on individuals that affects various tasks they undertake. Whether it's a personal decision or societal

influence remains a significant debate in sociology. It's challenging to provide a clear viewpoint because when someone performs a task, it's influenced by their circumstances and mental state, making it difficult to assess whether it was a personal choice or societal influence. Introducing a new concept called "personal to society quantum," it attempts to gauge the factors contributing to an individual's actions. Almost every person

has fundamental principles ingrained in their subconscious, which partly influences their conscious mind. When living in society, one interacts with others, forming various behaviors influenced by both conscious and subconscious processes. Notably, the subconscious contains natural and inherited information, including aspects necessary for maintaining social existence.

When a child is born, they start interacting with society, utilizing their subconscious awareness to integrate new information into their conscious mind.

This blend of conscious and subconscious knowledge, inherited, societal, and personal, assists them in navigating life within society. This, to me, represents a "personal to society quantum," which could significantly aid in framing this complex discussion.

Writer is student of University Of Sargodha



M Azam Tariq

EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka visits flood-hit Dadu, Sindh

PPA

DADU, SINDH: A delegation led by the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka, embarked on a one-day field mission to Dadu, Sindh, to witness the impact and scale of support provided by the European Union (EU) to flood-affected communities in a district that was among the hardest hit by the devastating floods in 2022. In the wake of unprecedented rainfall and floods that swept across Pakistan in 2022, the EU launched a comprehensive relief and recovery initiative aimed at immediate relief, building the resilience of communities through climate-resilient housing, sanitation, livelihood opportunities, as well as child protection services.

The delegation visited EU-funded project sites in four villages across Dadu where on behalf of the European Union the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Save the Children International (SCI) Pakistan are implementing development projects focusing on rehabilitating community assets, providing child protection, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene

(WASH) as well as shelters for the community.

During the visit, the delegation observed the distribution of cash assistance to participants under WFP's project. The Ambassador and her team inspected rainwater harvesting ponds for irrigation, communal washing pads, and protective pathways. The delegation also met women entrepreneurs who revived their livelihoods since the 2022 floods, e.g. by opening tuck shops and tailoring businesses. Women-led village development committees shared their challenges and aspirations with the delegation.

The delegation also visited sites where UNICEF is providing child protection and education services with EU funds. At the Children's drop-in centre and a safe space for girls and women, the Ambassador witnessed children engaging in recreational activities and adolescent girls and women learning vocational skills such as embroidery and stitching. At these facilities, trained professionals also provide psycho-social support to help them recover from trauma and raise awareness on protection from violence and abuse. Later, the delegation visited a flood-damaged public school which UNICEF has since rehabilitated.

Besides teaching and learning materials, UNICEF has also provided safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, especially for girls, in all rehabilitated schools.

The delegation further toured the locations where SCI Pakistan created a Child-friendly Space, Climate-Resilient Housing and Sanitation facilities, engaging in discussions with the beneficiaries of the project. Towards the conclusion of their visit, they also observed the livelihoods initiative focusing on kitchen gardening, sustainable agriculture, and livestock management support.

On-site, Ambassador Riina Kionka expressed that the field visit underscored the EU's commitment to supporting development work in Pakistan; "Although almost two years have passed, the flood-affected communities still require our attention and support. While I'm glad that the EU support has made a significant difference in the lives of the hardest-hit, the looming threat of climate change means extreme weather will become more frequent. The EU is working with Pakistan to build long-term resilience to climate change" she said.

WFP's Head of provincial office in Sindh, Ms. Judith Lumu, Prem Baha-



dur Chand, UNICEF's Chief of Field Office-Sindh, and Deputy Country Director from SCI Pakistan Bilal Taj joined the delegation and showed the Ambassador and First Secretary Dr Christian Raitz von Frenzt the many activities ongoing.

WFP, UNICEF, and SCI Pakistan

are currently implementing these three projects with a financial volume of EUR 12 million for the European Union in 13 districts across three provinces in Pakistan: Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. EURO 12 million has been allocated to benefit 22,365 households. Countrywide,

the EU has spent EUR 227 million of grant aid on humanitarian and recovery projects in support of flood-affected communities. EU Member States contributed another EUR 689 million in subsidised loans (EUR 438 million) and grant (251 million), not counting their additional aid in kind.

European software company Icewarp announces plans to invest in Pakistan

PPA

KARACHI: Icewarp, a software company from the Czech Republic, announced its plans to launch its full-fledged operation in Pakistan, including a handsome investment in the establishment of a data center.

Established in 1998, the software company is operating in more than 100 countries with its specialized and highly cost-effective services such as hosted email, TeamChat, ChatGPT integration, online conferences, etc.

On the occasion, Global Chief Sales Officer Icewarp Jan Urbik said, "Pakistan is a highly potential country with digital transformation taking place from public sector entities to private businesses. We at Icewarp will support Pakistan in its mission to adopt digitalization through affordable solutions."

Our company will set up a data center in Pakistan in compliance with local regulations to keep the data and privacy of the citizens within the borders. Besides, Icewarp will offer solutions that are 60% cost-effective than the other software companies, along with enhanced applications and cybersecurity features which will attract a number of industries, financial institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises



(SMES), and startups to use our services, he added.

Saad Shah, CEO Hexalyze, said, "The cost-effective corporate email solutions will enable hundreds of companies in Pakistan to adopt this tech-based solution in their businesses for the first time. On the other hand, corporate customers could not only save their money from the expenses of enterprise services, but these

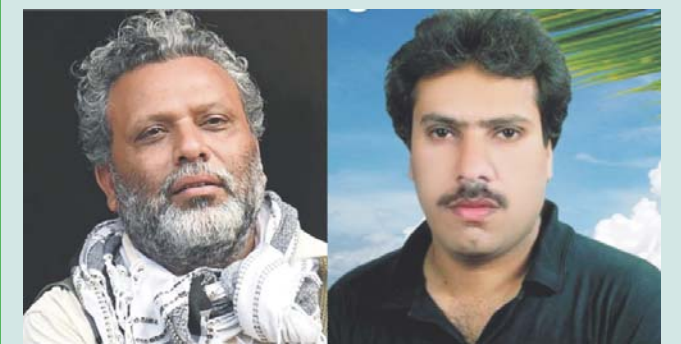
companies will also save precious foreign exchange for the country by paying less to the service provider."

"Icwarp, in collaboration with Hexalyze, is setting up its regional office in Pakistan. The Czech-based software company will expand its operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with separate data center in these countries while

Pakistani office will serve the back-up support station for marketing and sales," the CEO of Pakistani IT company added.

Based in the UAE, KSA, Australia, and Pakistan with global alliance partners, Pakistan's IT company Hexalyze has been providing the integration of tech solutions for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as well as Large Enterprises since 2014.

Asim Tanveer greet photojournalists panel on winning RIPJA elections



Correspondent

MULTAN: Asim Tanveer International Photojournalist congratulated the photojournalists panel on clean sweep in the annual election of Rawalpindi Islamabad Photojournalists Association (RIPJA) in the year 2024-25

He said that photographers were the main pillar of the media. Asim said that the photographers played a vital role in the picturization of an event.

He said, "I congratulate the newly elected President Sohail Shahzad Cheeta, General Secretary Shahid Qureshi and other candidates."

PTI is the Leading Party For Workers Rights: Sara Ali Syed

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: PTI is the leading party for workers' rights. Workers are our heroes who make the economy strong. The current government is exploiting the workers, farmers worse while PTI gave their rightful rights to the workers and farmers during their government. These views were expressed by Senior Vice President Insaf Lawyers Forum Punjab Advocate Sara Ali Syed issue the Press statement. She said that Imran Khan is being punished for raising the voice of the workers. In 1886, the workers in Chicago made eternal sacrifices for their rights, this day reminds us of the struggle of the martyrs of Chicago against the tyranny of slavery. The religion of Islam teaches the greatness and welfare of the worker. Tehreek-e-Insaf foiled every conspiracy of anti-people governments and Imran Khan stood firm against those who came to power in the name of bread, cloth, houses and snatched the last straw from the mouths of the people and gave the workers a roof over their heads and beautiful houses. And given in the form of flats. She said that Tehreek-e-Insaf made the workers independent during their government that if the workers are not prosperous then the wheel of industry cannot run. Advocate Sara Ali Syed said that the rights of the workers of South Punjab will not be affected. The current government should stop the worst exploitation of workers, farmers that wheat farmers are forced to burn their ready crops when the rate is set low.



U. S. Govt Launches Gender-Smart Farm to Support Women Farmers in Kasur

Asim Tanveer

KASUR: U. S. Consul General in Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Mission Director Maura O'Brien inaugurated a first-of-its-kind "gender-smart farm" in Kasur. The farm, established with support from the USAID, provides female farmers with resources and tools to succeed economically.

The "gender-smart" farm includes an on-farm daycare center, female restrooms, a rest area for women, and access to clean drinking water.

"For many years, the United States has supported initiatives to empower



Pakistani women - including women in rural areas, who play a vital role in Pakistan's agriculture sector," Consul General Hawkins said. "Today's event marks

an exciting step forward in our efforts."

This new farm builds on a decades-long history of U. S.-Pakistan partnership in the agriculture sector. The United States has supported a wide range of efforts to empower Pakistan women farmers, including by offering training on agricultural best practices, as well as by fostering connections with micro-finance institutions and breeder associations.

"When women are economically empowered, they reinvest in their families and communities. This promotes economic growth and stability," noted Consul General Hawkins.

Private sector representatives and farmers also attended the inauguration

Mumtaz' new book Sabz Khat 'masterpiece' for children'

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Director Information and columnist Sajjad Hussain Jahania has said that Ali Imran Mumtaz is a creative work, children's literature is a difficult genre, but it is very necessary and interesting. Sabz Khat is a wonderful book containing stories. He expressed these views to Pakistan Writers Wing., in a literary session organized by Multan Arts Council Young writer presidential award-winning writer Ali Imran Mumtaz's new book Sabz Khat was launched in the presidential address. Speaking on this occasion, the intellectual writer and poet Shakir Hussain Shakir said that the pen efforts of Ali Imran Mumtaz are admirable. It is a masterpiece. Addressing the event, Ali Imran Mumtaz said that my personal interest in my scholarly literary and

literary journey includes dedication, research, and passion for connecting the new generation with the book. has raised and always created purposeful literature and stories Through knowledge, information, and biography, the green letter contains true feelings. Patron Pakistan Writers Muhammad Ilyas Mambar and writer Meshaal Saif, educationist Professor Inayat Ali Qureshi, educationist social leader Mian Waqas Farid Qureshi and educationist Haider Kaleem said that the existence of people like Ali Imran Mumtaz is a blessing to us such young writers. should encourage those of less resources. Although they are doing immense service to knowledge and literature, the passion for reading books is dying. At such a time, writing for children and youth is definitely a jibad and creating a love for books is a positive construc-



tive activity for all of us. We pay tribute to Ali Imran on the martyrdom of the letter and praise his scholarly literary work. Chairman Pakistan Writers Wing Qari Muhammad Abdullah performed the duties of organization while Shareen Rana, Fayyaz Ahmed Awan, Mukhtar Soomro, Shaukat

Alvi, Sajid Iqbal Shajra, Soheeb Iqbal, Hussain Naseem Qureshi,

Sajid Khan, Dr. Saif, Syed Asim Raza, Zubair Rashid, Abdul Qadir, Amar Maqdar, Makhdoom Irfan Rafi also spoke while various academic, literary and social leaders participated in the event.

Google smart schools arriving in Pakistan

US tech giant Google is all set to establish 50 smart schools in Pakistan's federal capital and extend different projects including teacher workshops, youth training via Google Career Certificates, and the establishment of a public Google Reference School. The Google for Education team, alongside its local partner Tech Valley, recently convened with the Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to present forthcoming plans for Pakistan's education sector.

Some 50 smart schools in Islamabad will be equipped with 30,000 Google for Education IDs which include features, powered by AI, like practice sets and a suite of digital tools for enhanced collaboration and productivity, the state news agency reported.

During the meeting, discussions extended to several upcoming initiatives, including teacher workshops on Google for Education tools, the establishment of a public Google Reference School, the training of 2,000 youths in job-ready skills through Google Career Certificates, and the potential collaboration on hosting an Edutech event with the Ministry of Federal Education in Pakistan.

In March, the US tech giant reaffirmed on International Women's Day its dedication to empowering them further with the belief that by equipping women with the skills and resources they need, the country can unlock a future filled with greater equality, inclusion, and prosperity for all.

Google also recognised the incredible potential and aims to bridge these gaps by launching several programmes to help drive stronger equality and the empowerment of women in the workforce. One such example is the Google Career Certificates programme, launched in Pakistan in 2022.

At least 50% of the programme scholarships were allocated exclusively for women, in order to increase women's access to economic opportunities and enable them to pursue their aspirations. The programme awarded 44,500 scholarships in 2023 and has committed 45,000 new scholarships for 2024 to empower more learners.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
71,102.54	71,695.03
Day's High	Day's Low
72,119.65	71,059.62
Index Value	Change
15,336,124,599	-592.49
Percentage	Time
-0.83%	30 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,144.13	-2.90
Percentage	Time
-0.036%	30 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
37,988.06	-398.03
Percentage	Time
-1.04%	30 Apr, 12:56 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,405.66	+470.90
Percentage	Time
+1.24%	30 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	179.2	181
Bahrain Dinar	740.35	748.35
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.49	38.89
Danish Krone	40	40.4
Euro	293.5	296.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.57	35.92
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.08	913.08
Malaysian Ringgit	58.33	58.93
New Zealand \$	166.25	168.25
Norwegians Krone	25.32	25.62
Omani Riyal	722.99	730.99
Qatari Riyal	76.48	77.18
Saudi Riyal	73.35	74
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.5
Swedish Korona	25.46	25.76
Swiss Franc	305.64	308.14
Thai Bhat	7.52	7.67
U.A.E Dirham	75	75.75
UK Pound Sterling	344.45	347.85
US Dollar	277.35	280

Country's economy needs investment instead of debt: Atif Ikram Sheikh

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan is important in terms of investment in Saudi Arabia. Pakistan's trade agreements with Saudi Arabia will increase

international confidence. Time is needed to invest instead of borrowing, for which the Prime Minister can attract foreign investors in the sideline meetings of the World Economic Forum.

The President of the Federation, Atif Ikram, emphasized the role of the private sector in improving the bilateral business environment

and said that Pakistan is the best market for Saudi investors. The private sector is very important for increasing the volume of bilateral trade, there are investment opportunities in the mineral and tourism sector, keeping in mind that investment agreements can be made on G to G basis with the governments of Arab countries. President FPCCI Atif Ikram further said

that the improvement in the stock market has restored the confidence of investors. Investors from Arab countries are trying to invest in Pakistan. Commercial investment and trade exchanges between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are the most important transactions. More investor-friendly policies are needed to strengthen the country's economy.



Visit

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh visiting Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

SECP expands its financial literacy initiative to Baluchistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Equitable access to quality education, financial literacy, and inclusion is critical for the financial well-being and long-term economic and social development of all regions of Pakistan. With the same perspective, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School Education Department of Balochistan, expanding its investor education initiative "Jamapunji" to the schools and education institutions of Balochistan.

Balochistan's Secretary School Education Department, Mr. Saleh Muhammad Nasir and the SECP's head of Investor Education Mr. Osman Syed signed the MoU. The MoU aims to integrate financial literacy topics into the curriculum of province schools and colleges, equipping educators with necessary skills through a teacher's training program, and conducting interactive seminars for students in Balochistan.

Minister Education



Balochistan, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Secretary Federal Education and Professional Trainings, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and other senior officials witnessed the ceremony at the Ministry of Federal Education of Professional Training. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ms. Durrani said that people in far-flung areas appear to be more vulnerable to finan-

cial shocks, income as well as saving levels are quite low; the situation makes it compulsory to educate the youth of Balochistan with the required financial literacy skills.

Mr. Osman told participants that under the JamaPunji initiative, the students will learn fundamental concepts like as budgeting, saving, investing, and debt management.

Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad

Wani, Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, emphasized the federal government's steadfast commitment to advancing financial literacy initiatives. Mr. Wani also highlighted the pivotal role of a financially literate youth population in driving economic growth through fostering a culture of savings, investment, and entrepreneurship.

Fauji Fertilizer Company holds second high-profile stakeholder workshop on climate change

PPA

LAHORE: Climate change is redefining every human experience on the planet. Despite being a fractional emitter of greenhouse gases, Pakistan is on the frontline of global impacts. Climatic effects on critical sectors like agriculture pose a serious threat to our national food security. The Ministry of Climate Change has developed a 'National Adaptation Plan 2023'. All stakeholders should join hands for its effective implementation and contribute to achieving its objectives.

Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) is cognizant of the urgency and importance of climate change effects, especially on the agriculture sector of Pakistan. Therefore, through its Not-for-Profit Organization, the Food Security and Agriculture Center of Excellence (FACE), it has initiated a series of stakeholder workshops aimed at creating awareness about the National Adaptation Plan and encouraging stakeholders to join the cause of addressing the challenges posed by climate change and its impact on agriculture.



Chief Guest Commissioner Sahiwal, Mr. Shoaib Iqbal Syed, highlighted the proactive role of the district government in Sahiwal in its efforts to curb pollution and develop synergy among various segments on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Chief Operating Officer of FACE, Hasan Akram, elaborated on various measures and programs the organization is undertaking, which target small farmers and vulnerable communities in enhancing their adaptability and resilience against

climate challenges. The event also featured a comprehensive overview of climate change challenges in agriculture from FFC's Research and Development focal person, Dr. Munir Zia.

The proceedings of the workshop emphasized the importance of localizing adaptation strategies as recommended by the National Adaptation Plan. The need for a district adaptation plan was underscored, and participants agreed to develop a 5-Year District Sahiwal Adaptation Plan and make contributions to the National

Soneri Bank announces First Quarter Results for 2024

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Soneri Bank Limited, in their 204th meeting held in Karachi on 30th April 2024, approved the Bank's condensed interim financial statements for the quarter ended 31 March 2024.

The Bank posted profit before tax (PBT) of Rs. 3,554 million and profit after tax (PAT) of Rs. 1,760 million for the quarter ended March 2024, as compared to Rs. 2,694 million and Rs. 1,489 million respectively in the same period last year growing impressively by 31.91 percent and 18.20 percent respectively. The Bank's EPS was recorded at Rs. 1.5965 per share for the current reporting quarter, as compared to Rs. 1.3506 for the comparative prior period. The Bank's net interest income for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 improved to Rs. 5,849 million from Rs. 4,839 million for the comparative prior period, indicating an impressive growth of 20.87 percent, on the back of improved volumes and spreads. Non-interest income for the period was reported at Rs. 1,603 million as against Rs. 1,770 million for the comparative prior period.

Non-markup expenses were reported at Rs. 4,385 million for the current year as against Rs. 3,497 million reported for the comparative prior period. Despite high inflation levels and expansionary costs, growth in expenses was restricted at 25.38 percent over the previous year; mainly due to cost rationalization measures and prudent expense control policies and discipline. The Bank is now operating with a network of 460 branches (December 2023: 443 branches) and plans to open 100 new branches during the year 2024.

The Bank's Deposits registered an increase of 6.52 percent when compared to 31 December 2023, ending at Rs. 551,659 million at 31 March 2024; surpassing the Rs. 550 billion benchmark. Period end CASA mix improved to 79.99 percent as against 79.22 percent at 31 December 2023.

The Bank's net advances portfolio stood at Rs. 218,551 million as at 31 March 2024, 6.22 percent higher than the year end 2023 level. Net investments increased by Rs. 15,405 million or 4.96 percent from the year-end balance of Rs. 310,341 million, ending at Rs. 325,746 million as at 31 March 2024.

CCP Educates Air University Students with Competition Law Insights



PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) conducted a seminar on competition law for students and faculty members of the Air University School of Management (AUSOM) at the CCP headquarters.

The attendees included students from the 6th semester of the BBA program, accompanied by Dr. Mueen A. Zafar, Dean of AUSOM, Dr. Amir Ishaque, Chair of the Department of Business Studies, and Mr. Mehmood Karim, visiting faculty member.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Chairman CCP, Mr. Salman Amin, Member CCP, along with the Director Generals and senior management of CCP.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Salman Amin praised the participants for their enthusiasm to familiarize themselves with competition law. He emphasized the growing importance of competition law in the field of economics and highlighted the benefits students can gain from understanding its principles.

Telenor Pakistan organises supply chain dialogue: stresses the need for sustainable initiatives



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan, in collaboration with its local and international partners, hosted a dialogue on tackling pressing challenges and emerging opportunities facing the supply chain industry, promoting sustainable practices for long-term resilience.

The discussion was held at Telenor Pakistan's head office, 345, Khurram Ashfaq, CEO Telenor Pakistan, welcomed the participants from various industries including Geir Thomas Tonstol, Director ILO Country Office, Pakistan, Alliya Haider, CEO of Abacus Sustainability Quotient, and Saba Shuja, Early Childhood Development Manager, UNICEF Pakistan.

P&G Pakistan takes home Champion of 2023 Award

PPA

LAHORE: In acknowledgment of its efforts in promoting women empowerment and fostering a diverse and fair workplace environment, P&G Pakistan today was awarded with the prestigious 'Champion of 2023' title at the 6th annual OICCI Women Empowerment Awards hosted by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

OICCI, the oldest and largest investment chamber, plays a major role in the growth of commerce and industry in the country with 200 plus members representing 35 different countries and 14 different sectors of trade and industry. OICCI Women Empowerment Awards are the continuation of the OICCI Women initiative which was launched to encourage member companies to become role models to empower women in the workforce and create gender equality within their respective organizations.

Security Papers Limited reports record 151% increase in profit for nine months Q3 FY 2023-24

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Security Papers Limited is pleased to announce its unaudited financial results for the nine months ended March 31, 2024, with a record profit of Rs 1,083 million, representing a 151% increase from Rs 431 million in the same period last year.

The Company's outstanding performance was driven by successful pricing negotiations, improved operational efficiencies, and timely investments in its portfolio. Net sales increased by 46% to Rs 5,297 million, compared to Rs 3,616 million in the same period last year. The sale volumes were at 3070 tons as against 3038 same period last year whereas production was 3157 tons vs 3177 tons same period last year.

Ambassador Blome hosts Pakistan Team ahead of T20 World Cup in US

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome, in a display of support for Pakistan ahead of the highly anticipated T20 Cricket World Cup 2024, hosted the Pakistan National Cricket Team for a meet-and-greet. The ambassador welcomed the national team players accompanying Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi at his residence and extended his best wishes to the players for the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup matches in the United States.

Ambassador Blome presented the team members with a commemorative embassy cricket ball and autographed softball bat. The Pakistani team reciprocated by presenting the ambassador with a signed cricket bat and team jersey. The ambassador then participated in an impromptu cricket demonstration with members of the National Team. The United States is set to make history this June by hosting the T20 Cricket World Cup for the very first time. Adding to the excitement, both Pakistan and the United States have been slated to play within the same group stage and will compete in a highly anticipated match scheduled for June 6.



West Indies come from behind to down Pakistan in third T20I

A Sports

KARACHI: Hayley Matthews' dominant half-century, followed by a combined bowling effort led West Indies to beat Pakistan women in the third T20I of the five-match series here at National Bank Stadium on Tuesday.

Set to chase 133, Pakistan women came up narrowly short of keeping the series alive as they fell to an agonizing two-run defeat in the third T20I against West Indies.

The home side got off to a flying start to the run chase with opener Sidra Ameen hitting boundaries at will.

She put together a one-sided 64-run partnership with Ayesha Zafar, who fell in the ninth over after scoring a scratchy 19 off 22 deliveries.

Sidra then put together brief partnerships with Muneeba Ali (12) and skipper Nida Dar (17) before finally perishing in the 18th over.

She remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a brisk 83 off 58 deliveries with the help of seven



boundaries.

Her dismissal sparked a lower-order collapse as Pakistan lost four more wickets in quick succession, allowing West Indies to force an astonishing comeback.

The home side needed 12 runs off the final over but Shamilia

Connell displayed nerves of steel and got West Indies over the line despite conceding a boundary off the final delivery.

Put into bat first, West Indies amassed 132/5 in the allotted 20 overs despite a cautious start.

West Indies' new opening

pair of Rashada Williams (1) and Hayley Matthews did not prove beneficial for the touring side as the former struggled against a disciplined Pakistan women bowling attack before falling victim to Fatima Sana in the fourth over.

In-form Matthews was then joined by Shermaine Campbelle and the pair launched an astounding recovery.

The duo added 89 runs for the second wicket with Hayley Matthews leading the charge and bringing her second consecutive half-century in the process.

She smashed 10 boundaries on her way to a 49-ball 68 before falling victim to Tuba Hassan in the 16th over.

Campbelle followed Matthews' footsteps in the next over as Nida Dar got her caught behind. She remained a notable run-getter for West Indies with an anchoring 31.

The back-to-back dismissals halted the flow of runs for the touring party as they could add 21 runs at the cost of two more wickets off the remaining 21 deliveries.

Pakistan's ace pacer Fatima Sana led the bowling attack for Pakistan women with two wickets while Tuba and Dar chipped in with a wicket apiece.

It is worth mentioning here that West Indies women lead the five-match series 2-0 against Pakistan.

SBP defeat WAPDA in reduced-overs President's Cup match

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: State Bank of Pakistan defeated Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) by six wickets in a reduced-overs but high-scoring fourth-round match of the President's Cup one-day tournament here at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. In a match reduced to 23-overs-per-side due to overnight rain, WAPDA batted first and collected 201 for three with opener Muhammad Akhlaq scoring an unbeaten 101. He faced 66 balls and struck 13



fours and four sixes. Together with Ahmed Shehzad, Akhlaq added 146 runs for the second wicket. Shehzad's 47-ball 59 was

punctuated with seven fours and a six.

In turn, SBP achieved the target for the loss of four wick-

ets on the penultimate delivery with Salman Ali Agha upstaging Akhlaq with a punishing 56-ball 101 not out that was laced with 13 fours and four sixes. After SBP lost four wickets for 127 runs, Salman and Mohammad Mohsin added 77 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket with Mohsin contributing 23 not out from 13 balls. The other fixture between Ghani Glass and Higher Education Commission (HEC) was abandoned without a ball at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Scores in brief: SBP beat WAPDA by six

wickets at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium WAPDA 201-3, 23 overs (Muhammad Akhlaq 101 not out, Ahmed Shehzad 59, Bismillah Khan 22 not out) SBP 204-4, 22.5 overs (Salman Ali Agha 101 not out, Rameez Aziz 36, Mohammad Mohsin 23 not out; Akif Javed 2-51) Ghani Glass v HEC - match abandoned without a ball being bowled

Thursday's fixtures: HEC v PTV, Abbottabad Cricket Stadium; SNGPL v WAPDA, Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium; SBP v KRL, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Rana hopes hockey team to glorify Pakistan's name in Azlan Shah Tournament

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Tuesday expressed hope that the hockey team selected on merit would hopefully glorify the name of Pakistan at the international level in the Azlan Shah Tournament scheduled in Malaysia.

Talking to the media at Pakistan Sports Board, Hockey Stadium, he said that the selection of the hockey team had been made on merit to revive the glory of the "National Game" while issues of the hockey federation would be resolved amicably with the consultations of all stakeholders.

"There is no lack of talent among Pakistani youth and the nation's morale raises by the success in the games."

He said that the promotion of sports activities was the priority of the government and plans were being made to re-start hockey in schools, colleges and universities and encourage departmental hockey.

Rana Mashhood said that the government would soon introduce a sports policy while Rs 5 billion will be invested in the endowment fund to upgrade sports in the country.

Earlier the Chairman of PMYP while talking to team members appreciated their passion and dedication to represent the nation at the international level.

Expressing his unwavering faith in the selection process undertaken to unify the team, he stressed the importance of implementing merit in nurturing talent and promoting excellence in sports.

He praised the players for their tireless hard work and firm commitment to the game which has earned them the honor of representing Pakistan in this prestigious tournament.

He assured the team of the resolute support of the nation and pledged to stand with them as they strive to raise the profile of Pakistan on the global horizon of hockey.

As the national hockey team is gearing up to showcase their talent and compete against strong opponents in the Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2024, the Chairman Youth Program urged the players to show courage, determination and exemplary behaviour, which are the hallmarks of sports.

National Challenge Cup final Round resumes Wednesday



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The final round of the National Challenge Cup (NCC) 2023, being organized by the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), was set to kick off on May 1 here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex. The participating teams have been divided into four groups, with each group comprising four teams.

Group A: PACA, Pakistan Army, NIMSO and HEC; Group B: KRL, Pakistan Navy, SA Farms and Masha United; Group C: Otto Crains, Wapda, WSTC and Pakistan Police; Group D: PAF, Asia Ghee Mills, SA Gardens and Pakistan Railway. The group stage matches will take place from May 1 to 6 with each team competing in (03) matches. The top two teams from each group would advance to the quarter-finals, which were scheduled for May 7 and 8 followed by the semifinals on May 10 while the final will take place on May 12.

Champions Trophy: ICC pitch consultant to land in Pakistan tonight to inspect venues

KARACHI: The International Cricket Council's pitch consultant Andy Atkinson will arrive in Pakistan tonight on a four-day visit to inspect venues for the 2025 Champions Trophy, confirmed well-placed sources on Tuesday.

According to the sources, Atkinson will visit three venues, starting from Karachi to inspect playing facilities. After Karachi, he will also visit Lahore and Rawalpindi.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed three venues in the "initial draft schedule" of the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi have been selected by the cricket board as the venues for the event, which is scheduled for February.

The eight-team tournament is anticipated to span over two weeks, although the exact dates have not been confirmed yet. The PCB settled on the venues and the schedule following a visit from an ICC team to conduct inspections.

Last month, a three-member ICC team had also inspected the three venues. The event is planned in February 2025, and the PCB has already shared the draft schedule with ICC with matches at these three venues.

Rishabh Pant back in India squad for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024

A Sports

Wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant was named in India's 15-member squad on Tuesday for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled in the West Indies and the United States of America (USA).

All-rounder Shivam Dube and wicket-keeper Sanju Samson have also been included in the squad for the 20-team event, starting from June 2. Rohit Sharma will lead the squad, while Hardik Pandya will serve as his deputy during the T20 World Cup.

Pant recently made his return to cricket during the



ongoing IPL after being on the sidelines due to injuries suffered during a horrific car accident in December 2022.

The left-handed batter is currently the fourth-highest run-scorer in his comeback

tournament with 398 runs at an average of 44.22 and an impressive strike rate of 158.56.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who last played for India against West Indies in

August 2023, earned a recall after his impressive showing in the IPL. He will join all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel along with Kuldeep Yadav to form India's spin attack.

Meanwhile, top-order batter Shubman Gill and lower-order batter Rinku Singh were named as reserve players along with pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan.

India will kick off their T20 World Cup 2024 campaign against Ireland on June 5 in New York, followed by the much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on June 9.

New Zealand to go ahead with Afghanistan Test

Sports Desk

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Tuesday that it will go ahead with a Test match against Afghanistan in September, a month after Australia scrapped a T20I series against the same opponents.

Cricket Australia (CA) postponed a three-match series due to take place in August at a neutral venue, saying the situation for women in the Taliban-ruled country was deteriorating.

It was the third time since 2021 that Australia have refused to play Afghanistan outside of international tour-



naments.

However, New Zealand said they will play a one-off Test against Afghanistan at a venue yet to be decided.

They also face Afghanistan in their opening T20

"The consensus view was that a boycott in isolation would change nothing in Afghanistan," said NZC spokesman Richard Book.

"It would be more constructive to keep dialogue and participation channels open, while continuing to advocate strongly for change."

Cricket has surged in popularity inside Afghanistan in recent years, fuelled by triumphs over bigger nations on the international stage.

But under the Taliban's brand of Islamic rule, women are effectively barred from the game.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Mr. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan, Qatar agree to further solidify parliamentary relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday emphasized the need to further solidify existing fraternal bond between Pakistan and Qatar through expanding parliamentary cooperation, besides deepening ties in other socio-economic sectors. He expressed these views in his meeting with Ambassador of Qatar Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater who called on him

at Parliament House.

Talking to the Ambassador, the speaker remarked, "Pakistan cherishes its historic brotherly relations with Qatar and desires them to take up to new heights through bolstering parliamentary cooperation, expanding economic ties, and furthering people-to-people contacts between the legislatures of both the countries". Referring to the parliamentary collaboration between the parliaments of both countries, the speaker noted, "

Parliamentary diplomacy is quintessential in bringing two nations closer which are already tied in eternal religious and historic bonds". He said that the Pak-Qatar friendship group in the National Assembly of Pakistan would be fully activated to bring Parliaments and people of both the countries closer. During the meeting, he also mentioned the invitation extended to the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar. Expressing his

satisfaction over the economic cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar, the speaker said that investors from Qatar could benefit from investment opportunities in Pakistan by investing in various sectors especially the energy and manufacturing sectors.

He said that both Pakistan and Qatar should take advantage of each other's experiences for the mutual benefits of the people of two countries. Ambassador Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater

thanked the speaker for his remarks and congratulated him on his re-election as Speaker of the National Assembly. He said, "Qatar attaches immense importance to its brotherly relations with Pakistan and the incumbent leadership of Qatar is keen to further enhance ties with Pakistan". He also reaffirmed all-out support to Pakistan in all areas of mutual interest including socio-economic uplift of marginalized segments of the society.

Huawei Digital Week brings MWC 2024 to Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan hosted a Digital Week in Islamabad, showcasing the cutting-edge technologies and solutions unveiled at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. The event brought together the various strands integral to creating a fully connected world, that is the physical infrastructure for greener, sustainable and scalable technologies, and digitalization through Artificial Intelligence, Cloud and 5G & 5.5G.

Key organizations from telecom, financial, government and commercial sectors, attended the Digital Week, and took the opportunity to have discussions on Cloud adoption, 5G transformation and AI proliferation, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

The demonstration of digital solutions unveiled the symbiosis of improvements in life-

styles, sustainable business cases and economic growth.

Yu Shaoning, Vice CEO of Government and Public Affairs, Huawei, said, "Huawei has served and collaborated with public and private sector partners over the past 25 years as the leading global carrier, enterprise solution provider and creator of cutting edge consumer products. In Pakistan, our objective is to support the Government in building a robust ICT talent ecosystem and accelerate the digitalization progress. We work closely with our partners to create solutions that optimize the outcomes for them."

With customer-centricity as the core value proposition, Huawei delivers cutting-edge and innovative, highly reliable, low-latency, and secure cloud services. Huawei Cloud is becoming a solid cloud foundation and a robust engine for intelligence, delivering inno-



valutive, resilient, and trustworthy cloud services and industry solutions across different sectors in a more innovative, inclusive, and open approach.

Coupled with top-notch networks and infrastructure, high-performance computing and AI solutions tailored to various industries such as e-commerce, automotive, finance, and government are the hallmarks of Huawei's

approach. The capacity to create tailored solutions that are scalable and feed into a business case makes the approach unique.

From manufacturing and electric power to education and beyond, Huawei's new launchings signify the start of a new era of intelligence, efficiency, and environmental consciousness, setting the stage for a brighter and smarter future. At a time

when AI will reshape almost everything, AI is a key strategy at Huawei.

Held at the Huawei Smart Office, with automation and green technologies, Digital Week gave visitors a sense of future workplaces. As investments are made in solutions that reduce latency and waste, space and services will be optimized.

The displays and presentations set up for the improvement of the visitors provided a clear directional overview of the progression of technologies and the rapid acceleration in development in recent years. Organised thematically, the presentations looked at the Gigabit Experience Network, Green Sites, the Connectivity Network, and the Digital Experience. The age of intelligence is and will continue to be, characterised by advancements focused on improving user experiences.

Senior Journalist Naveed Khan elected President of IMCG School Hathiayal SMC



ABC

ISLAMABAD: Senior Journalist Naveed Ahmad Khan was elected unopposed as the President of the School Management Committee (SMC) of IMCG School Hathiayal.

In addition, Anis Abbasi was elected as the Finance Secretary, with three other members joining the committee. An oath-taking ceremony was held, and the new officials of the school committee took their oaths. According to details,

senior journalist Managing Editor Daily Spokesman Naveed Ahmad Khan was elected unopposed as the President of the School Management Committee (SMC) of IMCG School Hathiayal.

Along with him, Anis Ahmed was elected as the Finance Secretary. Besides the school principal, three teachers were also part of the committee. On this occasion, a large number of students and their parents participated in the session of the school.

Immediate action needed to control non-communicable diseases in Pakistan: experts

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are increasing rapidly in Pakistan. The number of people living with diabetes in Pakistan has increased to 33 million. Apart from this, 10 million people are pre-diabetic. If no urgent policy measures are taken, the number of people living with diabetes in Pakistan will increase to 62 million by 2045.

The participants included representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, FBR, Ministry of Law, Justice, Industries and Production, CEO of Heart File, Dr. Saba Amjad, representatives of Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYNA), Pakistan Academy of Family Physician, Pakistan

Medical Association, Prof. Dr. Basit general secretary Diabetes Association of Pakistan, Pakistan Nutrition and Dietetic Society, President of Press Club Islamabad Mr. Anwar Raza, experts, civil society representatives and media representatives. Secretary General PANAH Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman hosted the event.

Dr. Basit said that heart, diabetes, obesity and other diseases are increasing rapidly. Unhealthy food is one of the major causes of these diseases. There are some modifiable risk factors for diseases. We have to pay special attention to these factors to prevent these diseases at this time.

Sanaullah Ghumman said that PANAH is educating people to prevent them from heart and related diseases. PANAH is also working with

policy makers for formulation of policies to reduce the causes of these NCDs. PANAH believes in coalition and working with all active sections of society to make Pakistanis healthy. He said, as experts told you, ultra-processed foods are one of the leading causes of non-communicable diseases due to high amounts of sugar, salt or trans fats. Raising taxes on them is a proven strategy.

More than 100 countries in the world have increased taxes on sugary drinks to reduce their use, which has had significant results. He requested the government to increase taxes on all ultra-processed products in the 2024-25 budget and spend the revenue generated on public health programs. He said that PANAH has sent a tax proposal to FBR and Finance ministry to increase taxes on these products.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Sukkur Passport Office & NADRA Center



Correspondent

SUKKUR: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has paid a surprise visit to Passport Office and NADRA Regional Centre Sukkur here on Tuesday.

On the occasion, the Interior Minister said two new Nadra Centers will be established in Sukkur City and Rohri in three Months and directed to complete the construction of the Passport office building within Six Months.

During the visit, the Interior Minister interacted with the people at passport office and inquired about

issues faced by them.

The Interior Minister said steps are being taken to ensure access to Documents for the citizens at NADRA Centers.

He also vowed to make passport offices as efficient as Nadra Centres as he reviewed the arrangements made to facilitate the Public.

Later, talking to Media, Naqvi said that it's time to work for progress of the country. He said that they have to work for the development of the country.

Mohsin Naqvi said that they will further improve law and order situation in Sindh including Karachi

Romina announces Climate Awards for journalists

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday announced to organise country-wide Climate Journalism awards for environmental reporters under the patronage of the Prime Minister and unveiled her multi-disciplinary vision to enhance resilience against environmental degradation and global warming impacts through cooperation among stakeholders to preserve the dwindling natural reserves and ecosystems vital for human survival. In a formal interaction with the climate beat reporter, the PM's aide announced that the journalists cover-

ing the beat environment and climate change would be called as climate force of the Ministry as they are the force behind every policy endeavour benefitting the society through its effective communication and are the champions of climate action.

However, climate change has gained a lot of momentum at the government level as environment involves everything from mobility to living, food to shelter and clothes to entertainment it included all. Director General Environmental Protection Agency, Farzana Altaf Shah urged the print and electronic media journalists to highlight and promote plastic free slogan to end the menace of plastic pollution.

Pak First Lunar Mission

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Space Technology (IST) a leading high-end university of Pakistan had the distinct honor of launching a Cube Satellite ICUBE-Qamar (ICUBE-Q) in Lunar orbit onboard the China's Chang'E-6 Mission on 3rd May 2024 at 1250 PST from Wenchang Space Launch Site, Hainan, China.

CubeSats are a class of small satellites used by academic institutes for experimental and research purposes in Low Earth Orbits, generally with an altitude of less than one thousand Km. However, these satellites are now finding many applications in higher orbits and deep space missions. Moon is in an elliptical orbit at an average distance of around 384 thousand Km from the Earth which makes it challenging to



communicate with and control small satellites.

The opportunity to release CubeSat in Lunar orbit from Chang'E6 mission was offered by China National Space Agency (CNSA) through Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) to APSCO member states. After thorough evaluation, Pakistan's proposal was accepted out of all APSCO member states.

UK judge slaps...

Continued from Page 1

had no such evidence before him and he was not convinced by 'the wild claims made as a last ditch effort' to scuttle the proceedings.

Both Adil Raja and Shayan Ali were jointly represented by Central Law Chambers (where Mahtab Anwar Aziz works as a solicitor) which is owned by Ahmad Jawad, who is from Mandi Bahauddin's

Gondal family.

Mahtab Anwar Aziz had revealed to the UK's High Court that PTT's UK leading activist Shayan Ali suffered from serious mental health issues but their joint effort to malign the national institutions of Pakistan failed badly at the English court.

He further contended that Shayan Ali was vulnerable and suffering from mental health issues.

IHC judges' letter...

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The personal details of the IHC judge were shared on social media. "It is the state's responsibility to protect the judges," he remarked.

He remarked that whatever has been happening in Pakistan for 76 years, the same has been taken up by the IHC judges in their letter.

"Interference was always there; this culture has been there for 76

years."

"SC has a chance to settle the issue" Justice Mansoor Ali Shah believed that there is 'internal and external interference in the judiciary'. He asked if this was the state in which he could not talk on his phone without being 'monitored'.

Mr. Shah said this is a chance for the SC to resolve the issue and added to build a "firewall" to avert interference.