

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسول
ہم سے سعید بن ابی ہریرہ نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے عبد الرحمن بن ابی بکر نے اور ان سے ان کے باپ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ میں تمہیں سب سے بڑے گناہ کی خبر دوں گا۔ صحابہ رضی اللہ عنہم نے عرض کیا کہیں نہیں پڑا رسول اللہ! نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اللہ کے ساتھ شریک کرنا اور اللہ کی پادشاہی کرنا۔ (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6273)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Sadiq Khan clinches London mayor's post for record third time

Pakistan-origin Briton Sadiq Khan has swept to victory in the London mayor's election for a record third time as the polls results poured in Labour party's favour, BBC reported on Saturday. (Details on Page 5)



Xi Focus: Empowering China's youth to shape tomorrow

On the eve of China's Youth Day, President Xi Jinping once again sent messages to the country's young people, calling on them to shoulder responsibility for Chinese modernization. This year's Youth Day, which falls on Saturday, marks the 105th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, a monumental youth movement that ignited profound social changes in China. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawaal-ul-Mukarram 26, Sunday, May 5, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 24

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Rewards

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing awards among the high performing officers of the Federal Board of Revenue on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Govt has potential to raise revenues worth over Rs 24 trillion annually: PM

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the country had the potential to collect revenues of over Rs 24 trillion against the annual tax target of Rs 9.4 trillion.

Addressing a ceremony to award shields to the honest, hardworking and efficient officers of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) here, the prime minister said that time had come to separate white from the black and to take decisions of reward and punishment purely on merit as no nation could develop without strictly following the discipline

criteria for the government officials.

The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan was facing multiple challenges including low tax to GDP ratio and external and internal debts that were increasing every passing day.

As regards the amount worth Rs 2.7 trillions held up across various appellate forums, including commissioners' appeals, Appellant Tribunal Inland Revenue (ATIR) and various courts, he said now the law had been made to recover such amounts.

He said that under the new law, the ATIR members, equivalent to the high court judges would be appointed through an open

competition and their tests and interviews would be conducted through reputable institutions such as LUMS, IBA etc.

He said that those members would also get high perks and privileges equivalent to the senior judges.

Pointing to another Rs 756 billion sales tax scam recently uncovered by the FBR, the prime minister said that he had directed the authorities concerned to make every possible to recover such looted money.

Earlier, the prime minister gave away the shields to the honest and hard working officers of the FBR and said that he was feeling proud that the country

had plenty of such honest officers which could play their due role in development and prosperity of the country.

He said all the politicians, bureaucrats and heads of the organizations should work together for the development of the country.

He said that the only aim of this ceremony was to encourage the country's heroes, who worked hard with honesty to meet the targets of the taxes.

"This factor would multiply in future and the officers would be fully acknowledged only on the basis of their honesty, efficiency, hard work and sincerity toward the nation," he added. As regards,

the track and trace system, the prime minister emphasized that it was one of the major fraud in the country's history.

The minister, while stressing the need for strengthening tax collection and promoting tax culture, said that there were about 3 million commercial and industrial electricity and gas connections and only 200,000 of them were paying their Sales Tax.

Chairman FBR Amjad Zubair Tiwana thanked the prime minister for acknowledging the hard work of his officers.

He said that the prime minister was taking keen interest in boosting the tax revenues and had held several meetings in this regard.

Probe committee to 'summon' ex-PM Kakar over wheat crisis



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A cabinet committee to ascertain the reasons for the import of the commodity during the last caretaker government has decided to summon former interim prime minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, sources said on Saturday.

They added that the interim setup ministers, secretaries, and other "important" personalities would also be summoned.

The committee was considering handing over the matter to the Federal Investigation Agency and the National Accountability Bureau after the investigation.

Farmers in different parts of Punjab have been protesting against the government's "flawed" wheat procurement policy and delays in the commencement of the grain's official purchases

Punjab contributes more than 75% of the total wheat harvest, according to media reports and this year the market crashed and growers are forced to sell the staple food crop much below the support price set by the government.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is also the president of PML-N, held a party meeting related to the wheat situation and its purchase in Lahore.

They mulled the steps to provide relief to the farmers and resolve their issues. The premier would present the wheat crisis report to party supreme Nawaz Sharif.

In an interview with Talk Shock, Kakar said wondered whether it was a shortage of wheat. The journalist replied in the negative.

When he explained the context of the question, the former interim PM asked about the \$1 billion worth of wheat and where it went.

He said that the issue was highlighted after the farmers took to the streets. According to Kakar, a promise with the farmers was not being honoured as the government was not buying wheat.

"When you dissect it, the wheat would have been imported under a law. Firstly, it happens because of a shortfall in the production," he said and added either the government procures it or the government facilitates the private sector to do it.

May 9 was a planned conspiracy: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that military installations and properties were attacked under a planned conspiracy of a political party on May 9.

Addressing a press conference at his residence, he said the Corps Commander House Lahore, Mianwali Air Base and GHQ Rawalpindi were attacked under a plan. "There have been differences of political parties with the establishment throughout our history and it was expressed from time to time. However, it was the first time that a political party expressed its anger after a vote of no-confidence was passed against it," he added.

He said, "The evidence was recorded by the media in the form of videos and hundreds of people were arrested and it was a day in which the red line was crossed. Ideological and political differences have their place but one political party decided all the targets under joint planning with its leadership. The way these people reached Lahore, Mianwali and Rawalpindi without any hindrance was a huge conspiracy against the integrity of Pakistan and against the forces of Pakistan. The party leader demanded sacrifices from workers and asked them to attack the military installations, martyrs' memorials, but the workers were abandoned in difficult times. Some of them have been punished by terrorism courts and some cases are pending."

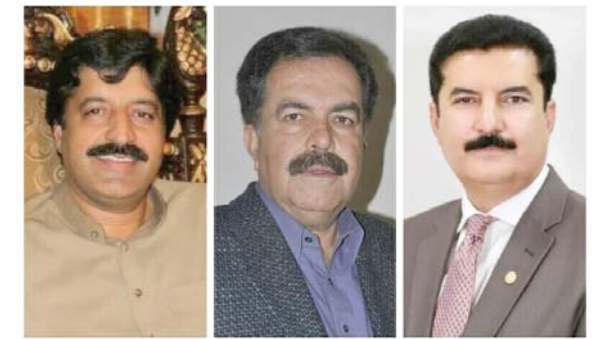
He said that attempts were made to destabilize national institutions and all meth-



ods were tried that no one had dared before in the 75-year history of Pakistan. "Even India, Pakistan's worst enemy, could not attack Pakistan with such boldness till date. There is a contradiction in the leadership of the political party which attacked the military installations. Yesterday, they formed a three-member committee and said that they will negotiate only with the Army Chief and the ISI DG. They made a small amendment that they will negotiate with all political parties except three parties. If they have to hold selected negotiations, the failure is decided from the first day," he added.

He said, "I am a supporter a national dialogue in which the judiciary, establishment, political parties and other power structures are also present and the problems of the country and the people should be resolved. If there are negotiations, all stakeholders should be included. The head of the party, who tried to rebel against the Army, also used abusive language against JUI head Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman. But now they are asking for negotiations. There is no principle in Imran Khan's politics and statements. The May 9 incident will also be discussed in the National Assembly."

President Zardari approves appointment of KP, Punjab, Balochistan governors



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari approved on Saturday the appointment of the governors for the three provinces - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Balochistan.

In a statement from the President's House, Zardari approved the appointment of PPP Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi as the governor for KP, Sardar Saleem Haider for Punjab and

Mandokhail for Balochistan.

On Friday, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari nominated two senior party leaders for the posts of the KP and Punjab governors. It was part of the PML-N and the PPP's deal before joining the coalition government that the latter would appoint governors.

In Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, president of the PML-N's provincial chapter, was appointed the new governor.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia reaffirm resolve to further enhance economic ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday held a bilateral meeting with the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference, in Banjul, The Gambia.

Noting the importance of the long-standing strategic and economic relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Saudi Foreign Minister reaffirmed the resolve to further enhance economic cooperation and Saudi investments in Pakistan.

The Deputy Prime Minister lauded the "Vision 2030", which aimed at socio-economic transformation of the Kingdom in the 21st century.

He stated that the recently held visit of the Saudi Foreign



Minister to Pakistan, who was leading a high-powered delegation, represented a new momentum in economic collaboration between Pakistan and the Kingdom, according to a press release issued here.

Deputy PM Dar and the Saudi Foreign Minister expressed deep concern over the recent developments in the Middle East and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

They also noted the important role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on issues concerning the Muslim Ummah including the situations in Palestine and Kashmir.

PTI demands arrest of ex-PM Kakar over wheat crisis

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Ahmed Khan Bhachar has demanded that former prime minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar be arrested over the wheat crisis in the province.

"Firstly, they should arrest those who took the decision in the Economic Coordination Committee meeting," he said in an interview with Tariq Chaudhry which was aired on Aaj News on Saturday.

Farmers in different parts of Punjab have been protesting against what they say the Punjab government and the Agriculture Department failed to enforce the wheat support price in the open market.

Punjab contributes more than 75% of the total wheat harvest, according to media reports and this year the market crashed and grow-



ers are forced to sell the staple food crop much below the support price set by the government.

"Arrest Kakar and this is a continuation of the PML-N government," he said and added that the government imported 32 tons of wheat despite having 40 tons of wheat.

He claimed that the government has not submitted the procurement policy. Bhachar went on to add that the government has submitted six sacks of wheat per acre, describing it as a "joke".

Gillani congratulates successful launch of Pakistan's first satellite mission iCube Qamar

Kiran Asim

MULTAN/ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has congratulated the nation and the scientists on the successful launch of Pakistan's first satellite mission iCube Qamar, saying that Pakistan has crossed an important milestone in space research on which the Institute of Space Technology (Sparco) deserves praise. Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the historic space mission iCube Qamar is a practical proof of the hard work of Pakistani scientists and the whole nation deserves congratulations on this historic day. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that he appreciates this historic cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of aerospace. This success of the satellite mission will be an important milestone for Pakistan's space mission. Pakistan has become the sixth country to send a satellite



into lunar orbit. Chairman Senate also expressed the hope that Pakistan will make further progress in the field of aerospace. Our scientists, engi-

neers and talented people have proven their skills in the space field. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani expressed his heartfelt gratitude to

all the concerned teams and students including SPARCO.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan also congratulated the Pakistani scientists, engineers and other related teams on this wonderful achievement and said that iCube Qamar satellite is Pakistan's first step in space. Scientists from the depths of the heart congratulations. Our scientists will make further progress in the field of space exploration. The entire nation is proud of its scientists. The achievements of our scientists in the space field are a matter of pride. Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan said that if given good opportunities, Pakistani scientists are not behind in any field and the success of iCube Qamar will advance Pakistan's space research capabilities. Pakistani scientists are not behind anyone in modern technology. He said that Pakistan's scientists and engineers will make the country famous with more hard work and effective planning.

World Journalism Day celebrated



Abdul Majeed Tahir

GRACE(NEELUM VALLEY): A ceremony was held in connection with World Journalism Day under the auspices of Pakistan Army The Mountain Tigers. The chief guest of the ceremony, Commandant Officer The Mountain Tigers, Colonel Atta Muhammad Shah.

While addressing the ceremony the Commander Col Atta Muhammad Shah said that The treachery of a gun can kill at most a few people, but the treachery of a pen can destroy an entire nation. In the circumstances, the role of journalists of Sharda Press Club and Grace has been exemplary and laudable. Sardar Aurangzeb, president of Sharda Press Club and his team, and Javed Asadullah, president of Neelum Press Club and his team, and especially Sadae Neelum and the team of Daily Pakistan in Grace Valley have been very exemplary. I congratulate those who have always done positive journalism. May 3rd is International Press Freedom Day. Let's take a pledge to promote honest and peaceful journalism. Will raise the voice of Kashmiris and

They will be the voice of the oppressed against the oppressor and will not refrain from telling the truth and publishing it.

Today, on the occasion of World Journalism Day, I once again pay tribute to the journalists of Upper Neelum and Sharda.

Abdul Majid congratulate Dr. Rizwan Ahmed on becoming Professor of Biochemistry

Bureau Report



FAISALABAD: Rizwan is the son of a very famous Dr. Ghulam Nabi (deceased) of our city. Joined the first class of the Independent Medical College and after a long journey rose from the position of lecturer to professor here. Today Professor Shuja Tahir Chairman Independent Medical College Faisalabad has promoted Rizwan to the post of Professor. Shuja and

Madam Mehnaz Ruhi also deserve congratulations that one of their students became a professor in their own college. Dr. Rizwan is the first member of IMC Alumni to occupy this high position. We congratulate Dr. Rizwan, Dr. Razia, Dr. Irfan, Dr. Nighat Naeem and Dr. Samina Javed and others and thanks to Dr. Prof. Shuja Tahir, Dr. Prof. Mahnaz Ruhi, Dr. Owais Shuja, Dr. Nadia Owais and Principal Dr. Abdul Hafeez Chaudhry.

Former Minister Bosan Announces Support to PTI Candidate in the By-Election

Quratul Ain Asim



MULTAN: The Biggest Blow to the Gillani family. Ex-PML-N's Federal Minister Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan rebelled against the party and declared his support for Tehreek-e-Insaf's candidate Taimur Mahe in NA-148 Multan by-election along with his entire group. gave

The biggest blow to the Gillani family. Ex-PML-N's Federal Minister Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan rebelled against the party and announced his support for Tehreek-e-Insaf's candidate Taimur Mahe. Media talk at his residence in Multan. While doing this, the former Federal Minister of Muslim League-N Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan said that The party leadership has not contacted us regarding this by-election. We have always contested the election against the Gillani family, and in the local politics, Taimur Mahe, who belongs to the Tehreek-e-Insaf, has not only supported him. What has been announced, but they will continue their election campaign and answer a question He said that we were with Pakistan forces and will always be supporting the local candidate of Tehreek-e-Insaf because of local politics. It is too late to say what will be the course of our politics in the coming time. I have taken this decision after consulting all my friends. I have always Yousuf Raza Gillani strongly opposed and the people always supported me in this. I was a federal minister many times and the governments tried to find many things against me but they failed.

JI to hold 'Solidarity Kisan Rally' in Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Multan will organize a "Solidarity Kisan Rally" for solidarity with farmers. Safdar Hashmi Ameer District Multan.

The farmer is worried about the cruel actions of the Punjab government. If the farmer does not grow the crop next year, then the Punjab government will be responsible. Asif Ikhwan

On the call of Hafiz Naeemur Rahman, a protest camp was organized under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami Multan at Syedanwala Bypass Chowk to express solidarity with the farmers. Speaking on the occasion, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that there is an oppressive system in the country. Farmers, students, workers and even everyone is worried. Wheat is not being purchased from the farmers and on the other hand challans of two thousand are being issued in the name of helmets which is complete cruelty. Instead of giving relief to the people, the government is squeezing their blood. The system of oppression and injustice has to be changed. On the appeal of Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, the entire Punjab is protesting. A judicial inquiry should be conducted and those responsible should be held accountable for wheat imported at high prices. Today, Jamaat-e-Islami will organize a Solidarity Kisan Rally for solidarity with the farmers. In which workers will participate from across the city. He said that such crises are deliberately created in the country which squeeze the blood of the poor. As soon as the ultimatum of 4 days ends, the call workers of Ameer Jamaat will leave for the Chief Minister House Lahore. The government should consider its initiative and ensure the purchase of wheat from the farmers.



Last monument

FAISALABAD: An artisan carving the names on tiles of marble for a grave outside a graveyard at Ghulam Muhammadabad Road.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Youth Parliament delegation honored by Governor Punjab

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: In a significant event showcasing youth leadership and community service, the Pakistan Youth Parliament (PYP) delegation, led by Founder President Muhammad Abubakar, paid a visit to Governor Punjab, Engr. Baligh ur Rehman, at the Governor's House. During the meeting, Mr. Muhammad Abubakar, Founder President of the Pakistan Youth Parliament, was presented with the prestigious Governor's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his exemplary services to the community.

Furthermore, Mr. Muhammad Abubakar, along with Nauman Majeed Khan, Project Coordinator, and Umair Chand, Membership Coordinator, were honored with the Youth Excellence Award 2024 for their outstanding



contributions to youth empowerment and community development. Among the other distinguished members who were awarded appreciation awards are Ahmad Raza, Faseeha Saif, Muham-

mad Hamza Riaz, Anees Ahmad, Nimra Ayoub, Malik M. Waqas Awan, Tayyaba Mumtaz, Hassan Nouman, Uzair Rabbani, and Engr. Saqlain Saeed, who have demonstrated commend-

able dedication to societal welfare and youth engagement. Expressing his gratitude for the recognition, Founder President Muhammad Abubakar stated, "It is an honor to receive this award, and I am proud of the work our team has accomplished in serving the community and empowering the youth. Governor Baligh ur Rehman commended the efforts of the Pakistan Youth Parliament in fostering leadership skills among the youth and promoting positive change in society. He emphasized the importance of youth engagement in nation-building and pledged continued support for youth initiatives across the province. The meeting between Governor Baligh ur Rehman and the Pakistan Youth Parliament delegation underscores the commitment to collaboration and youth empowerment for a brighter and prosperous future for Pakistan.

Impact of physical on mental health and economic well being

Naeema Shafi

Physical activity refers to any action or work done by people that involves physical movement and consumes energy. This can include tasks such as labor in agriculture, manufacturing, construction etc. Economics wellbeing means how well of people are financially and how comfortable they feel about their money situation. It's about having enough money to meet your needs and enjoy life worrying too much an out financial problems. The relationship between mental health and economic well being is sufficient. Economic well being can influence mental health, as financial stability can reduce stress and anxiety related to money problems. Conversely poor economic conditions, such as unemployment or financial strain, can negatively impact mental Health, leading to increase stress, depression and other mental health issues.

Additionally; Mental Health problems can sometimes limit economic well being by affecting a persons ability. Engaging in Physical activity doesn't just benefit your body, it also has a significant impact on your mental health and economic well-being. From an economic stand point investing in physical activity can lead to long term cost saving. When people are Physically active and in good mental health. They are less likely to experience chronic health conditions like diabetes, and heart disease, This mean lower health care costs for individuals and society as whole, regular exercise can improve productivity and performance at work. Employees who are physically active tend to have higher energy levels, better concentrations and reduced absence.

In conclusion, physical activities contributes to overall well-being life satisfaction, and happiness leading to more productive and engaged work force and a more prosperous economy.

NTU patents groundbreaking patent on Multilayered Fiber Composite Helmet

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A groundbreaking patent has been awarded to a distinguished research team from National Textile University for their pioneering work on a Multilayered Natural Fiber Composite Helmet. The patent (No. 144219), issued by the Patent Office of Pakistan, recognizes the innovative technology developed by this team.

This revolutionary helmet design leverages natural fibers and textile waste to create a safe and environmentally friendly solution for bikers. The patented technology not only enhances safety but also promotes sustainability in the manufacturing process. Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab, Dr. Amjid Rafiq, Dr. Muzammal Hussain, and Mr. Hasan Iftikhar are credited as the inventors behind this remarkable achievement.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:43 am
Zohr 12:05 pm
Asr 4:54 pm
Maghrib 6:54 pm
Isha 8:27 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
DHO 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
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224

Bank of Punjab Join Hands with Google Cloud & Tech Valley as Strategic Partner

PPA

KARACHI: Bank of Punjab (BoP) has joined hands with Google Cloud Startup Competition 2024 as its strategic partner which is being organised at national level by Google Cloud Partner Tech Valley and supported by Google Developers Group throughout Pakista. This partnership marks a significant milestone in the journey to uncover and nurture Pakistan's most promising tech startups, positioning them prominently on the regional innovation map.

"We're thrilled to welcome Bank of Punjab as a strategic partner for the Google Cloud Startup Competition," said Umar Farooq, CEO of Tech Valley Pakistan. "This collaboration strengthens our mission to empower Pakistan's most innovative startups and propel them onto the global stage."

Bank of Punjab (BoP), a champion of Pakistan's fintech and startup scene, partnered with LUMS and NIC in 2022 to set up the innovation centre and last year launched the nationwide "Sprint Pakistan Powered by digiBOP Program". BOP sponsored trips of the top 10 Winners to Singapore to participate in Singapore Fintech Festival 2023, which gave them immense pitching, networking and partnering opportunities with Global VCs, Tech companies and Financial Institutions.

Zindigi, Sindh Govt, Mastercard, & People Bus Service First Open Loop Transit Solution in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Embarking on a transformative journey, Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, in collaboration with the Sindh Mass Transit Authority (SMTA), People Bus Service, and Mastercard, has reshaped Karachi's public transportation landscape. Together, they've introduced an advanced digital payment system aimed at elevating urban travel in Pakistan's largest metropolis to international standards. This initiative promises unparalleled ease and convenience for the city's millions of commuters.

A significant milestone for Karachi's transit system, the initial rollout will see over one million Zindigi Mastercard Travel cards distributed along with enabling existing Zindigi Card users to go cashless. These cards are designed to seamlessly transition commuters from cash-based transactions to a digital format, thereby reducing wait times and simplifying fare payments across the city's bus networks. Moreover, beyond travel, the card will also cater to recipient's banking needs, offering a comprehensive solution for

everyday transactions.

Noman Azhar, Chief Officer at Zindigi, shared his thoughts on the initiative: "It's truly inspiring to contribute to the progressive initiatives of the Sindh government. Zindigi, driven by its visionary approach, aims to enrich the lives of the masses by offering simplified solutions to all their unmet needs. We provide banking service in the most unconventional way; we're dedicated to transforming entire journeys from start to finish for creating a positive impact.

You can get this card from any booth across the enabled routes or by simply downloading Zindigi app and ordering your Sindh Mass Transit Card. In addition to this, existing Zindigi Debit Card customers will also be able to use them in these buses.

A spokesperson from the Sindh Government also expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating, "People's Bus Service is once again ahead in making history. Automated fare collection system is being introduced today. This will be Pakistan's first automated fare collection system in a mixed traf-



fic bus."

Mike Jones, Senior Vice President EEMEA Public Sector Lead at Mastercard, said: "At Mastercard, we have served as an architect of pioneering urban

mobility solutions for over a decade. We are delighted to bring our state-of-the-art open-loop transit payment system from cities including Singapore, Sydney, and London to Karachi. Together with

our agile and innovative partners, we will redefine the way Pakistan commutes, help to increase ridership and assist the country's transit ecosystem in going fully-digital."

Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: People enjoying the holiday at Dino Park in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

TECNO launches the new CAMON 30 Series in an extravagant Vogue Night

LAHORE: TECNO, Pakistan's No 1 selling smartphone brand, just launched its much-awaited series of the year CAMON 30 in a grand fashion show called "Vogue Night" on 30th April in Karachi.

"We're incredibly excited about this new series, as it represents the culmination of dedicated effort in crafting a truly groundbreaking product. The standout feature of this series is our collaboration with Sony, leveraging their IMX890 sensor and the Sony CXD5622GG Imaging Chip to deliver an exceptional imaging experience. We're confident that this smartphone series will surpass all existing phone photography records set by



other brands in Pakistan," says Adeel Tahir, Director Sales at TECNO.

This marks the first occasion in Pakistan's history where a smartphone was launched at a fashion show. The lavish event drew Pakistan's top celebrities

and models, including Sajal Aly, Urwa Hussain, Kinza hashmi, Zaviyar Ejaz, Dana-neer, and many others. The atmosphere in the event hall was fully charged with excitement, and the icing on the cake was a mesmerizing musical

concert by Aima Baig, making the night even more unforgettable.

Kelvin Zeng, CEO of TECNO Pakistan says, "TECNO is dedicated to offering state-of-the-art experiences to users through innovative and user-friendly products. Our ethos revolves around making life easier for its customers by providing them with access to the latest smartphone solutions at competitive price points. With the arrival of our new series, we aim to revolutionize the market yet again by incorporating advanced technology into our products, setting a new standard for what users can expect from our brand just as our brand slogan "Stop at Nothing."

Man died of Congo fever

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Health authorities in Hazro town of Attock on Saturday confirmed that a man lost his life at a local hospital due to Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) after verification of his test results.

According to assistant commissioner Hazro Kamran Ashraf, 44 years old Muhammad Imran a native of Village Malla Kalan, Union Council Haroon of tehsil Hazro was admitted in a hospital in Rawalpindi on May 1 with symptoms of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF). On May 3, his blood sample submitted to national institute of health (NIH) Islamabad confirmed that he is infected with lethal disease and on Saturday he died. As the district health authorities in Rawalpindi have shared the information with their counterparts in Attock, the officials of the district administration including health, livestock and local administrant on their toes and adopted war footing measures to control further spread of this viral lethal disease in the area.

Jamaat-e-Islami condemns attacks on journalists in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Journalists around the world are taking risks in the work of reporting. We salute the hard work and struggle of all journalists who take risks for the right. Former candidate of PP-03 and Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Tehsil Attock Mian Muhammad Junaid while addressing the zonal organizational meeting said that journalism and Freedom of expression is the guarantee of the development of any country and society, due to state repression and alleged actions of non-state actors, freedom of press and freedom of opinion in Pakistan are seriously threatened. An attempt was made to harass journalists, which is condemnable in every sense. The district administration itself has occupied the building of Attock Press Club, which we strongly condemn. The conditions of journalists in other countries are not good in the last one year. In Pakistan, 4 journalists were killed and 104 cases were registered, while more than 200 journalists were also issued notices, which is a serious threat to freedom of the press and quality journalism. Cases are also registered for giving opinions on an online forum, while in the rest of the world, action is taken under the laws of defamation. Mian Junaid while addressing said that journalism is facing threats all over the world and especially in Pakistan which is very worrying.

KTC calls for action against surge in cigarette smuggling

PPA

ISLAMABAD: KTC has raised concerns over the recent decline in its cigarette sales, attributing it to a sharp rise in the smuggling of international cigarette brands in Pakistan. This surge in illicit trade poses a significant threat to the company's operations and the local market.

The tobacco manufacturing entity emphasized the importance of continued vigilance and collaborative efforts among policymakers and enforcement agencies to combat the smuggling of cigarettes effectively. Addressing this issue is crucial not only for safeguarding the interests of legitimate businesses like KTC but also for protecting consumers from potentially harmful counterfeit products.

Khyber Tobacco Company Limited (KTC) was the first tobacco manufacturing company to implement track and trace tax stamps on its products and is committed to be truly compliant to all applicable health and fiscal regulations and to contribute to community development through our robust CSR program.

Furthermore, KTC takes pride in its progressive stance as the first-ever tobacco company in Pakistan to be led by a woman CEO. This milestone underscores the company's commitment to diversity and inclusivity in its leadership ranks.

Telenor Microfinance Bank announces strong Q1 2024 results, demonstrating impressive growth

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Microfinance Bank (TMB) announced exceptional financial performance for the first quarter of 2024 (Q1'24). The Bank reported an impressive profit before tax of PKR 1.03 billion during Q1'24 compared to a loss before tax of PKR 185 million reported for the same period last year, solidifying its position as a pioneering force in the fintech landscape of Pakistan.

During Q1'24, customer deposits surged to PKR 63.26 billion, an increase of 29.6% from March 31, 2023, while the advances book increased to PKR 19.15 billion, registering a YoY growth of 53.5%. TMB also maintained a robust Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 22.8%, well above the regulatory requirements. The achievement is a testament to TMB's ability to scale and enhance profitability while maintaining sustainable growth.

Farmers demanded construction of small dams in Lower South Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Local farmers and citizens demanded construction of small dams in Wana in Lower South Waziristan.

Due to the lack of small dams in Wana, Lower South Waziristan District, the orchards of fruit trees are feared to dry up.

According to the report, local tribal people thousands of fruit trees not only in orchards every year, rather, thousands of trucks loaded with different fruits and vegetables are sent from here every year to be sold in different markets of the country.

Local citizens said, but unfortunately, the farmers and cultivators here are very worried due to the continuous fall of the water level for the past several years.

Farmers told Dawn that if the



Provincial Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa takes steps to build emergency basis small dams and check dams to store rainwater, the water level will rise.

Farmers further said that if the dams are not constructed in time, there is

a risk of the gardens here drying up.

Said local farmer Raz Mohammad that the district of Lower South Waziristan is a fertile agricultural area, especially apples, potatoes, apricots and peaches are known throughout the country for their sweetness.

However, due to the lack of small dams and check dams, they are facing serious problems due to the fall in the water level.

On the other hand, South Waziristan Lower SDO Zia Uddin said that the issue of water in Wana is serious but we are trying our best that small dams and check dams should be constructed in Wana to solve the water table problem in Wana.

The residents here say, that in order to control the falling water level, the government should approve small dams and check dams here on an emergency basis, which will not only control the water level, rather, the livelihood of thousands of families who are dependent on agriculture will be saved.

Farmers said, if the Government KP does not pay attention to this important issue, thousands of orchards of fruit trees will dry up.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Joint Civil-Military Endeavors for Enhancing Laborers Conditions - IV

Moreover, the SIFC acknowledges the significance of fostering regional development and inclusive growth to address disparities in employment opportunities across Pakistan. By decentralizing investment promotion and targeting underdeveloped regions, the council endeavors to unlock the economic potential of marginalized communities and create avenues for meaningful employment. By focusing on infrastructure development, facilitating access to finance, and conducting capacity-building programs, the SIFC actively contributes to strengthening local economies and mitigating unemployment rates in remote regions. To guarantee the efficiency and efficacy of its endeavors, the SIFC employs rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems to monitor investment outcomes and employment metrics. Through data collection, surveys, and analysis of key performance indicators, the council evaluates the advancement of investment initiatives and identifies areas necessitating enhancements. This data-centric approach empowers the SIFC to fine-tune its strategies, allocate resources effectively, and optimize the socio-economic advantages of investments for the people of Pakistan.

of the population relies on manual labor for sustenance, safeguarding the welfare and rights of workers is of utmost importance. Over the years, various initiatives and policies have been initiated to address the needs of laborers and ameliorate their working conditions. From legislative reforms to social welfare programs, Pakistan has made significant progress in empowering its workforce and fostering a culture of dignity and equity in the labor sector.

the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) offers cash transfers to low-income families, including many laborers, to alleviate poverty and enhance their socio-economic standing. Additionally, programs like the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) and the Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) provide social security coverage, pensions, and other benefits to eligible workers, ensuring their well-being beyond their active working years.

for enhancing their employability and productivity. The Government of Pakistan, in partnership with a range of public and private stakeholders, has initiated programs such as the Prime Minister's Hunarmand Pakistan Program and the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to offer vocational training and skill development opportunities to workers spanning various sectors. These initiatives empower laborers with the requisite skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the dynamically evolving labor market.

Robust labor inspection mechanisms are indispensable for upholding labor laws and ensuring adherence to labor standards. Pakistan has taken strides to fortify its labor inspection framework by establishing dedicated inspectorates at both federal and provincial levels. These inspectorates conduct regular assessments of workplaces to evaluate compliance with labor regulations, rectify infringements, and safeguard the rights of workers.

Dear readers, the laborers of Pakistan hold hopeful expectations for the initiatives spearheaded by the civilian and military leadership. It is envisioned that these sincere endeavors will lead to a brighter future for this essential pillar of the nation, uplifting their conditions in the near future.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Northern Gaza in 'full-blown famine'

The head of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has said that she believes there is a "full-blown famine" in northern Gaza, after seven months of relentless Israel's bombing amid several Israeli restrictions on food deliveries to the besieged Palestinian enclave.

"Whenever you have conflicts like this, and emotions rage high, and things happen in a war, famine happens," WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain said during an interview with NBC's news show "Meet The Press", which is set to air on Sunday.

"What I can explain to you is — is that there is famine — full-blown famine — in the north, and it's moving its way south," Ms. McCain, an American national, said.

Since mid-March, the United Nations has said famine is "imminent" in Gaza, but has not yet officially stated that it believes famine has struck the territory.

In April, Samantha Power, the director of the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) became the first U. S. official to say that it was credible to assess that famine is occurring in portions of Gaza. No other U. S. official has made that assessment.

Ms. McCain said that while there has not yet been an official declaration of famine, based on what her organization has seen and experienced on the ground, she believes there is a "full-blown" issue in Gaza.

"It's horror. It's — You know, it's so hard to look at and it's so hard to hear, also," McCain said in her interview.

She went on to say that she is hopeful for a ceasefire in Gaza so that people can begin to be fed "in a much faster fashion." Ms. McCain added that the people in Gaza need "water, sanitation, medicine — it's all part of the famine — the famine issue."

Efforts to provide food aid to Gaza have been met both by Israeli resistance and ceaseless air strikes.

World Central Kitchen, a U. S.-based nonprofit group that has distributed over 43 million meals across Gaza, just resumed operations Monday after seven of its aid workers were killed by an Israeli airstrike on April 1.

Earlier this week, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the international community to "do everything possible to avert an entirely preventable human-made famine".

Lack of security is a major obstacle to distributing aid across Gaza, and he stressed that humanitarian convoys, facilities and personnel as well as people in need "must not be targets".

"We welcome aid delivery by air and sea, but there is no alternative to the massive use of land routes," he said, before again calling on Israel to allow and facilitate safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access throughout Gaza, including for the UN's Palestine relief agency, UNRWA.



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

Demographic Problems of Pakistan

"We have a lot of debates, writings, and research over the political issues of Pakistan, but until now, no one has deliberately worked on the demographic problems of Pakistan. Nowadays, Pakistan has become a state where every type of socioeconomic problem is found. People are suffering from different issues like poverty, booming population, food security, water scarcity, illiteracy, and lack of health resources. However, there is no focus on these issues because of ignorance; everything related to all these problems is confined to papers, and no proper study for resolving these problems can be found. Due to less focus, all these issues are being neglected at the policy-making level. I have decided to write about these issues briefly, and I have attempted to provide feasible solutions to these problems along with their descriptions."



Analysis

Azam Tariq

percent. Due to the hike in the prices of commodities, access to necessities has become even more difficult for people living near the poverty line. The main reason considered to be the cause of this is political instability, no doubt, but many other technical reasons are also exacerbating this problem. To resolve this issue, we need to focus on industrialization and job creation alongside addressing political instability; when employment opportunities are lacking, it becomes challenging to provide these resources to those in need."

"Pakistan is presently self-sufficient in major staples — ranked 8th in producing wheat, 10th in rice, 5th in sugarcane, and 4th in milk production. Despite that, only 63.1 percent of the country's households are "food secure", according to the Ministry of Health and UNICEF's National Nutritional Survey 2018. This report is from 2018, and the context has changed significantly since then due to developments such as the leadership of Imran Khan (IK), the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), and decision-making by interim governments. Now, another coalition is ruling over Pakistan, and their decisions will have significant implications. Pakistan's food security situation was already alarming, but due to natural hazards and government policies, it has become even more precarious." The present analysis covered 43 rural districts in the three most vulnerable provinces of Pakistan: Balochistan (18 districts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (9 districts), and Sindh (16 districts). The vast majority of these districts were severely affected by the 2022 Monsoon rains and flooding. This issue is also awaiting officials' concern; there is a need to introduce new policies for both intensive

and extensive agriculture. Alongside this, other aid steps should also be taken to improve the situation until long-term policies yield results."

"The current literacy rate of Pakistan is 62.3%, which means an estimated population of 60 million is illiterate in the country. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in an old survey, Pakistan, at 55%, has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, ranking 160th among world nations. If we talk about the failure of our education system, the causes are more complex: lack of government potential, wrong decision-making, poor management, politicizing the department, and lack of financial investment are among the reasons. All these issues require government attention by allocating proper resources and giving them proper consideration. Our academic calendar and system are also chaotic due to unbalanced and poor academic outlines that do not fulfill modern requirements."

"According to the Pakistan Census 2018, the total population was 207.68 million, but as per an estimate in 2022, this population has crossed 220 million, and now it has exceeded 241 million. This is a problem that is significantly impacting our country, leading to unemployment, lack of access to resources, and many other issues. It should be a focal point for attention. Family planning initiatives were started, but they failed due to various socio-political factors. Now, it is widely understood that if this issue is not addressed promptly, a bleak future awaits us."

"Currently, over 21 million people in Pakistan don't have access to safe drinking water, which is one in 10 people. According to a UN report, "Only 36 percent of the country's water was considered safe for consumption despite the country's drinking water supply system covering 92 percent of the population."

"Pakistan's Historic Satellite Launches 'iCube Qamar'"

Pakistan's first satellite mission, named "iCube Qamar," successfully launched today, marking a significant milestone in the country's space technology endeavors. This achievement reflects Pakistan's growing capabilities in space exploration and its fruitful collaboration with China. Initiated in 2022, the mission, completed within two years, was a joint effort between scientists from the Sparco-supported Institute of Space Technology (IST) and Shanghai University, China.



Analysis

Ahsan Ansari



Launched on May 3, 2024, from Hunan Space, China, this event signifies a proud moment for Pakistan, making it the sixth country to send a satellite mission to the moon. "iCube Qamar," weighing seven kilograms, boasts cutting-edge imaging capabilities with two advanced cameras, providing live images and data to SPARCO and IST. The mission aims to enhance Pakistan's capabilities across various sectors such as agriculture, disaster management, urban planning, and environmental monitoring. By capturing high-resolution images of Earth's surface, the satellite will facilitate informed decision-making and scientific research. The collaboration with China underscores the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations in space technology. China's support has been instrumental in Pakistan's space endeavors, demonstrating mutual expertise, resources, and cooperation opportunities. The successful launch of "iCube Qamar" reflects Pakistan's commitment to advancing its space program for socio-economic development. With this deployment, Pakistan joins the league of countries with indigenous satellite capabilities, contributing to global space exploration efforts. The mission holds vast potential for sectors like agriculture, disaster management, urban planning, and environmental protection. It exemplifies Pakistan's growing prowess in space technology and its dedication to utilizing space assets for national progress. As Pakistan continues to expand its space program, collaboration with international partners, particularly China, will be pivotal in achieving its goals. With "iCube Qamar" orbiting successfully, Pakistan envisions a future where space technology plays a pivotal role in national development and prosperity. The mission's completion will culminate with the satellite landing in China's Mongolia. This achievement builds upon Pakistan's legacy in space exploration, dating back to 1962 when Pakistani scientists launched their first satellite.

Xi Focus: Empowering China's youth to shape tomorrow

Xinhua

BELJING: On the eve of China's Youth Day, President Xi Jinping once again sent messages to the country's young people, calling on them to shoulder responsibility for Chinese modernization.

This year's Youth Day, which falls on Saturday, marks the 105th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, a monumental youth movement that ignited profound social changes in China.

In his messages, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, asked young people to carry on the spirit of the movement, resolutely follow the Party, and contribute to building China into a strong country.

Five years ago, Xi led the national celebration of the May Fourth Movement's centennial with a keynote address at a high-profile gathering in Beijing. He praised China's youth for their lofty ideals, a strong sense of patriotism and exceptional creativity.

"Whether in the past, present or future, Chinese youth have always been and will always be at the forefront of propelling the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," Xi remarked.

The president's outreach to young people extends beyond mere calls to action or convened meetings; he is

regarded as a genuine friend of the youth, actively engaging with them. These efforts include writing letters, touring campuses and visiting sci-tech labs where young minds are at work.

Reaching For New Heights

Last July, Xi went to a sci-tech company in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. Stepping into an optoelectronics laboratory, he was greeted by young research and development personnel standing by cutting-edge equipment.

"You all have such vigor!" he exclaimed warmly.

He was informed that the average age of the company's employees is only 32. The company has established a specialized division called "Mount Qomolangma," with young individuals serving as the main force to accelerate breakthroughs in core technologies.

Upon learning this, Xi remarked, "What you are doing here is precisely climbing to the summit, which is very meaningful."

Surrounded by the vibrant faces, Xi said they are fortunate to be in this era, as China is striving to strengthen self-reliance and strength in science and technology. "It is the time to showcase your abilities," he said.

Innovation remains at the heart of China's modernization drive.

Over the years, Xi has underscored the need to achieve self-reliance and strength in science and technology,



encouraging the country's youth to join the endeavor.

Wang Sibao is one of them. The young man always feels proud when he sees the new energy vehicles (NEVs) of China's car brand Hongqi on the road.

Wang and his colleagues, averaging 30 years of age, have spearheaded the independent research and development of core technologies for China's Hongqi brand NEVs, manifesting a spirit of breaking new ground with hard struggle.

Down To Earth

Outside the high-tech industries, some young Chinese people find a way to realize their big dreams in the country's rural areas.

In east China's Zhejiang Province,

initated, revitalizing the country's expansive rural areas remains a major task in building a modern socialist China. Responding to Xi's call, young people like Fang have enthusiastically stepped forward to contribute their efforts.

During his inspection trip to Hunan in March, Xi walked deep into a rice field. There, he encountered Chen Shuaiyu, a university graduate who opted to become a professional farmer nine years ago.

After returning to his hometown, the young man set up an agricultural cooperative with other partners and worked diligently in the rice field.

"Do you plan to continue with this endeavor?" the president asked.

Chen promptly responded, "Absolutely! Our enthusiasm only grows stronger as we delve deeper into our work!"

Among The People

In Friday's messages, Xi hailed China's youth as "spearheads and vital forces" in a wide range of endeavors crucial to the country's future.

For Yuan Yu, a reserve police officer and student of China People's Police University, Xi's words will always be a reminder of his professional duty and a source of strength.

Yuan's father was a police officer who sacrificed his life in the course of his duties about 20 years ago. Inspired by his father, Yuan was determined to

follow his father's career and join the police force.

In September last year, Xi replied to a letter from eight children of fallen heroes like Yuan who were studying at the People's Public Security University of China at the time, encouraging them to follow the example of their parents' generation.

In his letter, Xi told the students, "You should maintain firm ideals and convictions, work hard in study and training, hone your skills, and dedicate yourselves to serving as the loyal guardians of the Party and the people."

Deeply motivated by Xi's words, Yuan said, "We will carry the banner of our father's generation and devote our youth to ensuring a peaceful China."

Li Jie, a junior student at Hunan First Normal University, also drew strength from interactions with the president.

During the Hunan inspection, Xi visited the university and chatted with Li and other students.

Li expressed her determination to Xi, stating that she is committed to making the most of her youth and becoming an exemplary educator in the new era. Xi nodded in encouragement.

"As China strives to build itself into a strong country and achieve national rejuvenation through advancing Chinese modernization, now it is the prime time for all young students," Xi said.

Reps from 12 countries, organizations express willingness to deepen space cooperation before Chang'e-6 launch

News Desk

BELJING: Around 50 guests from 12 countries' space agencies, including Pakistan, France, and Italy, as well as representatives from the United Nations and the European Space Agency, expressed willingness to seek cooperation with China in lunar and deep space exploration. These guests were gathered in Haikou, South China's Hainan Province, to witness the launch of Chang'e-6 lunar probe, said the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The Chang'e-6 mission carried a number of international payloads to the Moon, including the European Space Agency's lunar surface ion analyzer, France's radon detection instrument, Italy's laser corner reflector, and a CubeSat from Pakistan, the CNSA revealed to the Global Times. The guests were in Haikou for



the Chang'e-6 International Payloads Workshop hosted by the CNSA, where they shared insights on the various scientific payloads sent to the Moon aboard the Chang'e-6 probe. The participants of the workshop praised the extensive international cooperation carried out in the Friday mission and expressed willingness to seek new cooperation in lunar and deep space exploration with China, the CNSA told the Global Times. In return, the CNSA said it is willing to work with more countries to expand human knowledge on space, enhance the well-being of all human kind, and serve the advancement of human civilization. The Chang'e-6 mission is tasked with collecting and returning samples from the moon's mysterious far side, the first endeavor of its kind in the history of human lunar exploration.

Xi sends congratulations to 15th session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit

Xinhua



BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday sent a congratulatory message to the opening of the 15th session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s Islamic Summit Conference in Banjul, capital of The Gambia.

Xi pointed out that the OIC is a symbol of the unity and independence of Islamic countries, and has made important contributions to strengthening cooperation among Islamic countries as well as safeguarding international fairness and justice.

China and Islamic countries are good friends and partners with a long history of friendship, he said, noting that in recent years, China and Islamic countries have supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns, achieved fruitful results in practical cooperation, and continuously upgraded their friendly relations, setting a good example of the South-South cooperation.

China stands ready to keep on working with Islamic countries to continue traditional friendship, enhance political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, expand exchanges among civilizations, jointly implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, and make greater contribution to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, he said.

Sadiq Khan clinches London mayor's post for record third time

Pakistan-origin Briton Sadiq Khan has swept to victory in the London mayor's election for a record third time as the polls results poured in Labour party's favour, BBC reported on Saturday.

Khan defeated his Conservative rival Susan Hall by more than 276,000 votes and won nine of the 14 constituencies including two gains from the Tories.

Sir Keir Starmer's party continued to count gains after Khan's landslide victory against his nearest rival, in a contest dominated by criticisms of his decision to expand London's ultra low emission zone.

Keir had signalled he was confident of Khan's victory before declarations commenced, as he counted mayoral victories for his party in Liverpool, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, and in Greater Manchester where Andy Burnham returned to power.

In a fresh challenge to the prime minister to call an election, Sir Keir said: "Fourteen years and, I am sorry, I don't care which political party you support, if you leave your country in a worse state than when you found it 14 years later, you do not deserve to be in government for a moment longer."

Khan needed to win a simple majority of ballots cast, as the rules for the mayoral race were changed to a first-past-the-post voting system ahead of the latest election.

Ambassador Amna Baloch chairs poetry recital event in Brussels

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Today, the Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, Amna Baloch, presided over a captivating poetry recital event in Brussels. The occasion, organized by the Pakistan Press Club Belgium, was held to commemorate the second death anniversary of the late Pakistani veteran journalist Khalid Hameed Farooqi.

The event, known as Mehfil-e-Mushaira, drew poets from Belgium, Germany,



and various parts of Europe, who showcased their talent in Urdu and Punjabi poetry. The heartfelt recitations held the audience captive, earning resounding applause throughout the evening.

Ambassador Amna Baloch commended the initiative, emphasizing the importance of cultural exchanges and expressing her hope for more such events in the future. The poetry recital served as a beautiful tribute to the memory of Khalid Hameed Farooqi, celebrating the rich literary heritage shared between Pakistan and Europe.

Pak-Uzbek business community welcomes KSA's \$20 billion investment in Uzbekistan

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: The business communities of Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Saturday welcomed Saudi Arabia's \$20 billion investment in Uzbekistan in energy sector. Meanwhile talking to APP, besides the Tashkent International Investment Forum (TIIF), Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Uzbekistan, Vakhobov Davron Abdulalovich said that at the opening ceremony of the Tashkent International Investment Forum on May 2, the Minister of Energy of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman announced the investment of \$20 billion by the Saudi government and the private sector in the energy sector, which will start projects in various energy sectors.

He said that the announcement of investment of \$20 billion by the Saudi

government would also create opportunities for the business community of Pakistan due to which the business communities of both countries will work on many bilateral projects.

He said that after the execution of the projects not only Uzbekistan but also the economy of the region will benefit from this and regional countries can take advantage of this opportunity.

Talking to APP, Deputy Chairman of Kazakhstan Commodity Exchange, Nabikhon Samatov Samatov said that there is already an agreement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan Commodity Exchange for bilateral cooperation and now after the announcement of \$20 billion investment by Saudi Arabia, now there are big opportunities for Pakistani businessmen here.

He said that all the countries of the region will benefit from this huge investment in the energy sector. On

this occasion, talking to APP, Habib Mamsan, member governing member of Pakistan Mercantile Exchange and head of the delegation of businessmen visiting Tashkent International Investment Forum, said that the business communities of Pakistan and Uzbekistan have been cooperating for many years and the current \$20 billion investment in Uzbekistan from Saudi Arabia is useful for regional economy.

He said that the commodity sector of Pakistan and Uzbekistan will now start mutual discussions and work will be started to further enhance bilateral economic relations between the two countries.

It is pertinent to mention that beside this more than 10 investment agreements were signed on the first day of Tashkent International Investment Forum. Interest in the International Investment Forum is growing



every year. In particular, this year the event gathered about 2.5 thousand delegates from 93 countries.

On the first day of the forum, more

than ten investment agreements were signed with major companies, including ACWA Power, Masdar, Bonfarm Group and others. This event marked

the beginning of large-scale co-operation in such key areas as energy, geology, food processing and the introduction of green technologies.

The signing of the agreements is expected to lead to significant investments in the development of these industries, fueling economic growth and innovation. Industry representatives noted that such contracts not only strengthen business ties, but also create new opportunities for international co-operation.

The forum also discussed the current challenges and future prospects of each of the mentioned industries, supported by concrete plans and projects signed in the form of contracts. This forum, organized to stimulate investing activities and exchange of experience between key market players, is already showing its effectiveness and relevance to the economic landscape.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with 2 columns: Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index, Current, Prev. Close, Day's High, Day's Low, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time.

Table with 2 columns: Europe: FTSE 100 Index, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time.

Table with 2 columns: USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time.

Table with 2 columns: Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time.

Table with 3 columns: Open Market Forex Rates, Currency, Buying, Selling.

CDA should focus on development works in markets: Ahsan Bakhtawari

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Capital Development Authority should focus on development works in markets including revamping of sewerage, sanitation systems and patching to facilitate the growth of business activities.

He said this while talking to Director Sanitation and Markets Development Capital Development Authority Mashuq Ali Sheikh who visited the Chamber House on Saturday to personally get acquaintance of traders' issues with regard to sewerage and sanitation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that all the sectors of the capital need attention of the CDA but some sectors like G/9, G/10, and G-11 require special attention of the Authority.

He said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has installed water filtration plants in the markets and that work on the completion of the 16 bath rooms of different markets which have been handed over to ICCI will be completed at the earliest.

Director Sanitation and Markets Development, Capital Development Authority Mashuq Ali Sheikh said that all the issues of the traders



regarding the sewerage, sanitation and patching will be resolved on priority basis by saying that he has decided to personally pay visits to different business centres to get firsthand knowledge about the issues and resolve them

then and there. He also assured that the entire patch work in the markets will be completed within a week time.

He said that from tomorrow even it will be Sunday, he will visit F-8 markaz, on Monday

he will visit the Blue Area and in the same manner he will visit all the markets along with Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to resolve the issues concerning to sanitation, sewerage and market development.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated the resolve of the CDA Director that he will be available for the cause of traders' community even on weekly holidays.

On this occasion Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar former President Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Ch. Nasir, Intiaz Abbasi, Ch. Mohammad Ali, Khalid Chaudhry were also present.

President Blue Area Traders Welfare Association Raja Hassan Akhtar, General Secretary I-8 markaz Zahid Qureshi, General Secretary TWA G-10 Azher Amin, President Jinnah Super market Assad Aziz, General Secretary Abdur Rehman Siddiqui, President G-11 markaz Naem Awan, Traders leaders Tarnol Malik Shabbir, General Secretary F-8 markaz Ismail Khan, Executive member ICCI Maqsood Tabish and other also apprised the CDA Director of the problems relating to their markets.

Meeting

GWADAR: Federal Minister Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh meeting with local businessman at Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.



Photo: PID

CCP approves scheme of arrangements for privatization of PIA

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangements for the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIA) by PIA Holding Company Limited (Holdco).

Holdco, a public limited company wholly-owned by the Government of Pakistan, was recently incorporated to succeed to specified assets, liabilities, and subsidiaries of

PIA, including its business, property, rights, and obligations both domestically and internationally. PIA, a public listed company, provides aviation and allied services such as engineering, handling, cargo, flight kitchen, and training.

The Federal Government approved the transaction based on the 'Divestment of PIACL-Legal Segregation Plan and Transaction Structure' submitted by the Privatisation Division on February 6, 2024. As per the approved Scheme, Holdco will acquire 100% shareholding of PIA, and Non-Core Assets and Non-Core liabilities of PIA will also be transferred to Holdco.

Atif Ikram Sheikh urges Morocco to boost trade

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh met with Moroccan Ambassador Muhammad Karamone at the Federation House. On this occasion Atif Ikram Sheikh said that direct flights and strong air links should be established between Pakistan and Morocco.

Trade between Morocco is less than expected Joint ventures in new sectors will have to be created CPEC in Pakistan will be a major center of trade in the future Morocco should take full advantage of this.

Federation President Atif Ikram said that Pakistan is a country rich in natural resources, there are vast opportunities for investment in many sectors including tourism, construction, hydro, textile, pink salt, solar power projects, mines and minerals, gemstones, agriculture. Pakistan's exports to Morocco have increased from \$24.85 million in 2018 to \$32.06 million in 2022.

On this occasion, Honorary Consul General Morocco and Chairman Pakistan-Morocco Business Council Mirza Ishtiaq Baig said that Pakistan and Morocco have very important areas for mutual trade.



Member National Assembly and former Senior Vice President FPCCI Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that I am the representative of Federation of Chambers of Pakistan in the National Assembly and I assure the President of the Federation that our business community will be fully represented in the National Assembly.

Morocco's Ambassador Muhammad Karamone thanked the federation and said that Morocco is the gateway to Europe, which has free trade agreements with African countries and the European Union.

Pakistan can take full advantage of these agreements through Morocco. He said that tourism Morocco has very important sectors in which Pakistan investors can invest.

On this occasion, Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Coordinator Diplomatic Committee Ahmed Waheed, Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail Hussain, Mian Akram Farid, Vice President ICCI Azhar Islam, Chaudhry Naseer, Tariq Jadoon, Special Advisor Afshan Malik, Amina Malik, Rashid Humayun and others were also present there.

Federal IT Minister launches the mega version of Syngenta's 'CropWise Grower' App



PPA

LAHORE: Syngenta Pakistan Limited, a leading agriculture innovation and technology company that provides crop protection, seeds, and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers, has launched the mega version of 'Cropwise Grower' mobile application in a high-powered meeting which was graced by Ms. Shaza Fatima Khavaja, Federal Minister of State for IT & Telecommunication, as the chief guest.

The Country General Manager Syngenta Pakistan-Zeeshan Hasib Baig

stated: "Syngenta Pakistan's core strength lies in its close relationship with the growers. To further strengthen this connection with our growers, we are delighted to share the Cropwise Grower app which brings smart solutions closer to farmers and enables them to be more self-sufficient. Resonating with the worthy comments of the Honourable Minister about the importance of agritech in our country's development, we at Syngenta believe that technology can be a key enabler in helping farmers grow efficiently and sustainably.

Gold rates dip by Rs.1,600 per tola to Rs. 238,000



ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs. 238,000 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 239,600 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,257 to Rs. 204,047 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.187,043, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs. 2,620 and Rs. 2,254.80 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$4 to \$2,301 from \$2,297, the Association.

IGATEX PAKISTAN mega textile exhibition sets new industry standards

PPA

LAHORE: IGATEX PAKISTAN, the country's premier Garment, Textile & Digital Printing Machinery and Accessories Exhibition, concluded on a high note at the Expo Centre Lahore. Organised by Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt) Ltd., this four-day extravaganza showcased a diverse array of innovative technologies and cutting-edge solutions, drawing participation from leading industry players worldwide.

Distinguished dignitaries including Mr. Zaki Ajjaz, Regional Chairman of The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, H. E. Mr. Ladislav Steinhilber, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, and Dr. Salvatore Parano-Trade Commissioner of Italy, also attended the event, reaffirming its importance on the international stage.

In tandem with the exhibition, the IGATEX PAKISTAN Conference convened industry stakeholders and thought leaders to delve into key insights, explore innovative solutions, and foster

collaborations in sustainability and technological advancement within the textile industry.

This year's edition of IGATEX PAKISTAN witnessed an unprecedented gathering, with a notable attendance of more than XX individuals. The event hosted over 500 companies representing 30 countries, including Austria, Belgium, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK, and the USA. These global participants showcased their latest innovations and solutions, all geared towards revolutionizing the textile landscape.

Additionally, the exhibition facilitated collective business transactions amounting to Rs. XX Million, underscoring its significance as a platform for fostering international collaboration and driving economic growth within the industry.

SLICS 2023 Business Growth Uncovers Pakistan's Untapped Potential

Karachi, Pakistan - MAY 6, 2024 - The State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) has disclosed its outstanding

financial accomplishments for the fiscal year 2023. Under the leadership of Shoaib Javed Hussain, CEO of SLIC, the corporation has achieved remarkable milestones, establishing itself as a financial powerhouse in Pakistan.

Key Financial Highlights of 2023:

• Total Annual Income surged to an all-time high, exceeding PKR 526 billion, marking a substantial +37% increase from the previous year, highlighting SLIC's strong revenue generation capabilities.

• Total Annual Premium Income witnessed a notable uptick, surpassing PKR 338 billion, reflecting an 18% increase compared to 2022, demonstrating the corporation's ability to attract and retain a diversified portfolio of policyholders.

• Investment Income crossed PKR 257 billion in 2023, with substantial investments in Government Securities and the Pakistan Stock Exchange, contributing to the growth and stability of Pakistan's capital markets.

• The profit before tax for the year 2023 increased to PKR 24.5 billion which is +18% increase over the year 2022. The profit after tax was PKR.14.7 billion in 2022.

• Total Assets under Management for the year 2023 increased to PKR. 1.93 trillion which is +20.5% increase over the year 2022.

Business Performance by Segment:

• The Individual Life segment achieved record-breaking New Business premium collections, surpassing PKR 26.9 billion in 2023 (PKR 20.1 billion in 2022), showing a growth of +34% signifying strong customer demand for SLIC's diversified range of protection and savings products.

• The Group Life and Pensions segment achieved a milestone by recording PKR 12 billion in New Business, further strengthening SLIC's product offerings and market position.

• SLIC launched its corporate and individual health plans in 2023, diversifying its product portfolio with a commitment

to meet protection needs of all Pakistanis across all strata of society

• SLIC continues its strong delivery on the Government's Social Health program, showcasing service to the people of Pakistan as its paramount ethos.

Payouts and Profit Allocation:

• On the basis of the strong financial performance in 2023, SLIC has announced a special one-time policyholder profit bonus, the State Life Khushali Bonus of PKR 10 billion, symbolizing SLIC's commitment to rewarding its policyholders.

• The Total Profit Bonus allocated to policyholders in 2023 is PKR 119.7 billion in 2023, showcasing a substantial +23% increase from last year, reflecting SLIC's strong financial performance.

• The profit bonus allocated to its UAE branch policyholders in 2023 has also increased to PKR 1.74 billion, an increase of +84% from last year, demonstrating sound financial performance of the UAE branch office.

• Policyholder Claims Payouts were

PKR 247 billion in 2023, marking a significant +41% increase from the prior year, emphasizing SLIC's dedication to honouring its promise to policyholders.

• The corporation announced a special cash dividend of PKR 0.5 billion to the Government of Pakistan, increasing its total cash dividend to PKR 2.5 billion, an increase of +25% from 2022.

About State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan:

State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) is the leading life and health insurance provider in Pakistan serving over 180 million Pakistanis. SLIC's fiscal achievements for 2023 is another year of exceptional growth, financial resilience, and strategic foresight, positioning the corporation as a leader in the insurance and financial services sector in Pakistan. The results not only showcase SLIC's strong financial performance but also its firm commitment to serving and protecting the financial interests of its customers, stakeholders and the nation as a whole.

First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games 2024

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The teams of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) and Sargodha University cruised into the basketball final of First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games 2024 on the third day at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on Saturday.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar and Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal have congratulated the finalist teams and lauded the fighting spirit of other participating teams.

The final of First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games 2024 basketball event will be played between Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) and Sargodha University at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on Sunday.

The first semifinal was played between Sargodha University and Government College University (GCU) Sialkot in which Sargodha University girls outplayed their opponents quite comfortably by 14-0. Mehwish remained prominent player for the victorious team with 12 points.

In the second semifinal, Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) topped GCU Lahore by 51-17. LCWU were leading by 35-8 at the interval. Khadeeja and Eman were the top scorers for winning team with 14 and 13 points respectively. For losing team, Muqaddas managed to



score 10 points.

The two semifinals of First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games cricket tape ball event were played at NPSC Cycling Velodrome on Saturday.

Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) thrashed Government College University (GCU) by 9 wickets in the first semifinal. While playing first, GCU Lahore girls scored 50 runs in 8 overs. In reply, LCWU chased the easy target after losing just one wicket.

The 2nd semifinal was played between Punjab University and Islamia University Bahawalpur at the same venue.

Punjab University piled up a total of 122 runs in eight overs thanks to Ataf's

whirlwind knock of 66 runs which included nine sixes. In reply, Islamia University Bahawalpur were bundled out for 72 runs thus losing the match by 50 runs.

In CM Pink Games hockey event, Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) trounced Punjab University by 5-0 in the first semifinal at National Hockey Stadium Pitch-2. Maleeha struck two beautiful field goals while the remaining three goals were shared by captain Areeba Sarwar, Areej Gul and Saira Murad.

Superior University Lahore whipped Bahaudin Zakaria University by a huge margin of 15-0 in the second semifinal. In-form striker Sharika Sarwar netted a

dozen goals for the winning team while Abida Perveen and Nargis Kanwal scored two and one goals respectively.

In First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games badminton team event, the teams of Punjab University and University of Lahore (UOL) set up title clash after winning their respective semifinals at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall.

Punjab University defeated Forman Christian College Lahore by 3-0 in the first semifinal while University of Lahore beat Bahaudin Zakaria University (BZU) by 3-1 margin.

First semifinal

Punjab University beat Forman Christian College Lahore by 3-0
1st Single: Faryal (PU) beat Farwa (FCCU) by 21-9, 21-16
1st Double: Zainab & Faryal (PU) beat Hubab & Shirza (FCCU) by 21-6, 21-6
2nd Single: Zainab (PU) beat Sehar (FCCU) by 21-3, 21-2.

Second semifinal

University of Lahore beat Bahaudin Zakaria University by 3-1
1st Single: Muqaddas (UOL) beat Misbah (BZU) by 21-10, 21-9
1st Double: Muqaddas & Meerum (UOL) beat Kinza & Quratulain (BZU) by 21-8, 21-8
2nd Single: Maryam (BZU) beat Maria (UOL) by 21-12, 21-11
2nd Double: Maneeza & Maria (UOL) beat Maryam & Misbah (BZU) by 21-17, 26-24.

Pakistan downs hosts Malaysia in Azlan Shah Cup



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's national hockey team made a triumphant start in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, defeating hosts Malaysia by 5-4 in a thrilling match on the first day on Saturday.

Sufiyan Khan, Pakistan's drag flicker, scored a hat-trick, while Zakriya Hayat and Abu Bakar Mahmood contributed one goal each to the team's victory.

The Pakistan hockey team would face Korea in their second match on Sunday (May 5).

This win was a significant boost for the Pakistan team, and they would look to carry this momentum forward in the tournament.

The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup was a prestigious international hockey competition, and Pakistan's participation is a testament to the country's rich hockey heritage and talent.

Imad denies rift with Babar, wants to win World Cup for Pakistan



PPA

LAHORE: Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim on Saturday, once again brushed aside the claims of any rift between him, Mohammad Amir and white-ball captain Babar Azam.

Imad interacted with the media on the sidelines of the national team's training session for the Ireland tour and emphasized that his and the entire team's only goal is to win the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

He further asserted that he would support Pakistan captain Babar Azam, adding that he returned from international retirement for the country.

"We have no issues with Babar. He is the captain of the team and we are all supporting him," said Imad.

"Maybe Babar has become captain again because he will lead us to the World Cup trophy," he added.

Imad Wasim further talked about his return to Pakistan colours and reiterated that his primary goal is to win the World Cup, highlighting the team's narrow misses in the previous two editions.

"Amir and I returned for one goal - to have one last go and win the World Cup. For the last while we've been playing [T20 World Cup] semi-finals and finals, which is a very big achievement."

"But the truth is no one remembers the semi-finalists and finalists. People remember the champions."

"Our goal is to play those semi-finals and finals, and then to win that tournament."

"The result is in God's hands, but the players' mentality is to go and win the tournament."

It is worth mentioning here that the Pakistan men's cricket team is currently participating in a three-match training session here ahead of their T20I series against Ireland.

All three matches will be held at Clontarf in Dublin on 10, 12 and 14 May 2024 and will start at 3 PM local time.

The three-match away series, followed by four T20Is in England, will serve as a stepping stone for the Green Shirts to boost their preparations for this year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and the United States of America (USA).

Pakistan squad for Ireland and England T20Is

Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Agha, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Usman Khan.

Zone-VI Greens clinched Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament title

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI Greens Become Champion of the Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament after beating their home Zone-VI Blues by 2 wickets in the Final played at KCCA Stadium.

After the finish of the Final Match Chief Guest Former City Nazim, Former Senator Mustafa Kamal MNA, Distribute the Prizes in a Impressive and Colourful Ceremony. On this occasion Syed Mustafa Kamal appreciated the efforts done by Regional Cricket Association Karachi for the promotion of Cricket under the leadership of Nadeem Omar President Regional Cricket Association Karachi, He promised to full support to the Association for the promotion of Cricket in Karachi.



Mustafa Kamal further said all these Cricket Grounds under the control of various unauthorized people Inshallah handed over to the Region for the Club Cricket Tournaments and Promotion of Cricket in Karachi in the near future.

Syed Mustafa Kamal Presented the Winner Trophy to Ram Ravi Skipper Zone-VI Green's, Runner-up Trophy to Hurair Shahid Captain of Zone-VI Blues and Five Thousand each to Best Batsman Habibullah, Best Bowler

Hasan Bin Shahab, Player of the Tournament M. Afzal, Man of the FINAL Match award to Ziaullah. Tabish Jawed SVP, Ali Hussain VP, Azam Khan Coordinator, Khalid Nafees Chairman Tournament Committee, Test Cricketer Khurram Manzoor, former Test Cricketer Touseef Ahmed MPA's Jamal Bhai, Basit Bhai, Kiran Baji, M. Touseef Siddiqui Tournament Secretary other Zonal officials, Young Cricketers and distinguish Guest also present on the occasion

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI Blues 147 all out in 40.2 overs,
Saqib Khan 57 2x4 3x6, Haroon Arshad 31. Ziaullah (sla) 5/12.

Zone-VI Greens 148/8 in 31.4 overs. Habib ullaah 75 12x4, Ghulam Ashraf 20. Saifullah 4/28.

Ahmed Shehzad levels serious allegations on Mohammad Haris

A Sports

LAHORE: Test cricketer Ahmed Shehzad has levelled serious allegations against wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Haris for getting selected for the national side.

Speaking to a private news channel, Ahmed Shehzad accused Mohammad Haris of 'running' a campaign to get his place back in the national side.

"Muhammad Haris hired a PR Team that ran a campaign on social media and demanded his inclusion in the national side," Ahmed Shehzad added.

He said that Haris has not performed well in domestic cricket and has only scored a 'few' runs in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine.

"Mohammad Haris scored just one fifty in the PSL 9," Ahmed Shehzad added and asked why Haris should be selected for the team despite his 'poor' performance.

He also criticized the Pakistan Crick-



et Board (PCB) for 'ignoring' deserving players who have been performing well in domestic cricket for the past 10 years.

"What should the players, who don't

have money to run a campaign, do?" he asked.

It is pertinent to mention here that Mohammad Haris was not included in

the squad announced for the upcoming series against Ireland and England.

Pakistan Squad for Ireland & England Tour

Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayyub, Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Usman Khan

Schedule of matches

Tour of Ireland
10 May - v Ireland, 1st T20I, Dublin
12 May - v Ireland, 2nd T20I, Dublin
14 May - v Ireland, 3rd T20I, Dublin
Tour of England
22 May - v England, 1st T20I, Leeds
25 May - v England, 2nd T20I, Birmingham
28 May - v England 3rd T20I, Cardiff
30 May - v England, 4th T20I, The Oval

Wapda continues winning streak in PTF Tennis Trophy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Wapda continued its winning streak in the 1st PTF Inter-Department Tennis Trophy 2024 here at PTF Tennis Complex on Saturday. On the 2nd day, Wapda continued their winning streak against SNGPL, whereas Pakistan Air Force earned victory against Pakistan Army, and gained valuable winning points in their bucket.

Once again Muhammad Abid (WAPDA) easily breezed out his opponent Ahtesham Humayun (SNGPL) in one-sided affairs 6-1 6-1, whereas in the second single Aqeel Khan (WAPDA) surprised his opponent Ahmed Babar (SNGPL) to win the match 6-2 6-3. In the first set,

Aqeel Khan comfortably built up a winning lead by breaking the 6th game of Ahmed Babar (SNGPL) and by holding the 7th game at 5-2. In the 8th game, Aqeel did not allow his opponent to settle down and broke this game and won the first set at 6-2. In the second set, Ahmed Babar tried his best to catch the pace of Aqeel Khan but failed when Aqeel broke the 8th game of Ahmed Babar at 0-40 and hit a double fault to build the lead 5-3. In the 9th game, Aqeel Khan played excellent tennis by hitting the cross court and down-the-line shots and finished the set by hitting an Ace at 40-30. In an important and crucial round-robin league match, Pakistan Air Force strug-

gled hard to win against Pakistan Army 2-1. Yousaf Khalil (PAF) turned difficult to win his encounter against the talented Abdullah Adnan (ARMY) in a straight set 6-4 6-2. In an exciting and thrilling second single between Muhammad Shoaib (PAF) and Muzammil Murtaza (ARMY) exhibited high-calibre and remarkable tennis and excellent forehand and backhand drives. In the first set, Muhammad Shoaib played an aggressive game and did not allow Muzammil to settle down beginning from the match breaking the 1st, 3rd, and 7th games and finishing the set at 6-2. In the second set both players changed their game plan and held their own

games till the score went 6-6 games all. In the 10th see-saw game, Muzammil had a chance to break the game but Shoaib not only saved the game but played an excellent game of tennis from the baseline. The match went in a tie-break in which Muzammil again took a lead of 5-3 but Shoaib again bounced back aggressively and not only levelled the score 6-6 all but kept the same pressure on Muzammil's shoulder, at this stage Muzammil hit a double fault and unable to come back. In the next point, Shoaib hit a wide serve to Muzammil which returned and landed outside the court and Shoaib won the set and match at 7-6(7). The match lasted 1 hour 35 minutes and was



officialiated by ITF White Badge Umpire Hussain Mehmood. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi President PTF in his message cherished the participating teams and wished them a successful competitive tennis extravagan-

za. He appreciated the organization and administrative arrangements of the healthy activity for the development of tennis in the country. Results: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) beat Pakistan Army (2-1), Singles-1: Yousaf Khalil

(PAF) beat Abdullah Adnan (ARMY) 6-4 6-2. Singles-2: Muhammad Shoaib (PAF) beat Muzammil Murtaza (ARMY). Doubles: Muzammil Murtaza, Abdullah Adnan (ARMY) beat Muhammad Shoaib, Yousaf Khalil (PAF) 6-3 3-6 10-5.

WAPDA beat SNGPL (3-0), Singles-1: Muhammad Abid (WAPDA) beat Ahtesham Humayun (SNGPL) 6-1 6-1.

Singles-2: Aqeel Khan (WAPDA) beat Ahmed Babar (SNGPL) 6-2 6-3. Doubles: Heera Ashiq, Shahzad Khan (WAPDA) beat Saqib Hayat, Ahmed Babar (SNGPL) 6-1 7-5.

Sunday's match schedule: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Vs SNGPL; Pakistan Army Vs Pakistan Navy.

Meeting

RAWALPINDI: Amir Khan, Shahzaib Rind meet COAS General Asim at General Headquarters on Saturday.



Photo: ISPR

Amir Khan, Shahzaib Rind meet COAS General Asim at General Headquarters

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Boxing legend Amir Khan and martial arts champion Shahzaib Rind met with the Army Chief Gen Asim Munir.

The meeting took place at the GHQ today, says Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the meeting, the Army Chief appreciated the outstanding achievements of both the players in the field of sports.

On the occasion, the Army Chief expressed confidence in Pakistan's talented young generation. The young generation of Pakistan is

endowed with immense potential, he said.

Earlier, mixed martial arts fighter Shahzaib Rind had said it was the government's bad luck that it did not support its country's heroes.

He said that if our heroes are supported accordingly, they will become role models for our youth. Rind added that the youth would get motivated when they saw their role models getting appreciated.

The martial art champion said his next target was to become the world champion and in this connection he had already started training.

PM takes notice of wheat procurement issues, forms body to address farmers' concerns

City Desk

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday taking notice of the issues faced by the farmers in selling their wheat and obtaining wheat bags, formed a committee under Ministry of National Food Security and Research to address their grievances.

Under the direction of the prime minister, the committee would take measures to address the farmers' concerns within four days.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a high level emergency meeting here to review the matters of wheat procurement through PASSCO.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Rana



Tanveer Hussain, Attallah Tarar, and other relevant officials.

In the meeting, the prime

minister expressed his concern over the difficulties

faced by farmers in obtaining fair prices for their wheat crop and directed the authorities to take immediate action to resolve the issue.

The federal government, through PASSCO, is procuring 1.8 million metric tons of wheat to ensure maximum benefit to farmers, he said.

The prime minister directed the concerned officials to personally monitor the wheat procurement process and ensure that farmers receive their due payments on time.

The prime minister emphasized that the government will not compromise on the economic protection of farmers and will take all necessary steps to ensure their well-being.

He also praised the bumper wheat crop this year.

Telcom operators refuse to block millions of SIMs amid tax crackdown

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Telecom operators are obstructing the process of disabling mobile phone SIM cards for over half a million non-filers in Pakistan, and the federal government is planning to take legal action against them, a report said on Saturday.

This decision to act against telcos and others was made during a visit by Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) headquarters, where Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan was also present, Express Tribune reported.

The FBR informed the finance minister about its plan to disable SIM cards belonging to 506,671 indi-

viduals who are not on the active taxpayer list but are required to file their income tax returns for 2023. The meeting also addressed the issue of non-cooperation by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) due to pressure from telecom operators in implementing this decision, the report said.

It was decided that the government would take action against anyone who attempts to hinder the inclusion of these non-filers into the tax net. The finance minister emphasized that the decision to block SIM cards of non-filers had the support of the army chief, and there should be no opposition to this move.

The PTA, in a news statement, stressed the importance

of maintaining a balance between the FBR's objective of disabling SIM cards and protecting the investments of telecom operators. The statement emphasized the PTA's commitment to regulatory compliance and safeguarding the interests of telecom consumers.

While over half a million SIM cards will be disabled, there will be no restrictions on individuals to acquire new SIM cards. The FBR is also developing a mechanism to unblock the SIM cards of those individuals who file their tax returns.

It should be noted that the FBR had issued notices to 2.4 million people, but in the first phase, action is to be taken against 506,000 individuals. Each person may have

multiple SIM cards, and all connections will be terminated immediately.

The finance minister was also informed about the lack of progress in bringing retailers into the tax net. The FBR's voluntary registration campaign for retailers has seen limited success, with only 75 retailers availing themselves of the scheme. Consequently, the minister instructed the FBR to initiate compulsory registration for retailers.

The voluntary registration scheme was launched by the government to bring approximately 3.2 million retailers into the tax net. However, only a small number of retailers have registered themselves with the FBR. The FBR stated that legal action would be

taken against retailers who remained outside the tax net.

During the meeting, the issue of the disputed tax revenue amounting to Rs2.7 trillion was also discussed. It was agreed that the higher courts would prioritize cases where the FBR had achieved success at the commissioner appeals and appellate tribunal stages. The government has abolished the first tier of commissioner appeals to expedite the recovery of disputed revenues.

The meeting concluded with the decision to devise a comprehensive strategy to actively pursue all pending legal cases for the early recovery of stuck-up revenue. Additionally, the fees of FBR lawyers will be increased for cases in high courts and the Supreme Court.

Musadik underlines need to boost country's exports

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik said on Saturday Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had prepared a plan under which youngsters would get jobs after completing their degrees and they would be able to create employment opportunities for others as well.

Addressing a press conference here, he said: "To implement this plan, we need some changes in the system and support from other countries in the form of investment." Imbalance in the country's exports and imports was also creating challenges, he said and stressed the need for paying special attention to boosting exports of the country.

He said that the federal



government wanted to increase GDP [gross domestic product] and to boost productivity.

Musadik Malik said the government was bringing economic changes in the country and approaching other countries to ensure sustainable development. He said that there was a need to end an atmosphere of polarization in society and sense of respect and morality should be promoted.

The minister said that the government wanted to

promote such a society in which Islamic and family values should be of prime importance, besides overcoming the problem of discrimination.

"Pakistan has deep brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia," he said and added that Pakistan wanted its development. He said the recent talks with Saudi Arabia were aimed at progress and development of Pakistan and arrival of their delegations was part of such efforts.

JI joins opposition alliance against govt

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Jamaat-e-Islami has announced its decision to join the six-party opposition alliance against the incumbent government.

"A government which came to power on the basis of Form 47 is not acceptable," JI chief Hafiz Naeem Rehman told reporters after meeting members of the opposition alliance in Lahore on Saturday.

"The country is tackling crises and everyone should implement the Constitution."

Last month, PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan announced a country-wide movement for the rule of law by a coalition of six opposition parties, under the banner of Tehreek Tahafuz

Ayeen-i-Pakistan.

The movement will hold public meetings and engage bar associations, university students and other parties for mustering their support for the campaign against the PML-N-led coalition government.

Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai was nominated as president of the alliance with consensus of the leadership of opposition parties.

Rehman was flanked by six parties' alliance President Mahmood Khan Achakzai, former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser, senior lawyer Hamid Khan, Sanaulah Baloch, JI Central Secretary General Amirul Azim, and Naib Amir Dr Usama Razi.

Equipping with essential skills vital for economic growth: Ahsan Iqbal



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday emphasized the importance of forging robust connections between academia and industry, besides equipping individuals with essential skills for achieving sustainable economic progress. In a meeting with the Animal Husbandry Committee and vice chancellors of veterinary colleges, he said that the government was committed to resolve all the issues on priority basis faced by the local veterinary institutes, said a press release.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that a major challenge facing the animal husbandry sector is aligning education curricula with the demands of the modern era and bridging the gap between academia and industry to achieve requisite skills of economic development

and social prosperity. He emphasized the pivotal role of the veterinary sciences sector in national development goals, advocating for the adaptation of veterinary education curricula to meet the standards of the fourth industrial revolution. Referring to a 7-point framework developed in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission in 2023, he urged the HEC to conduct performance audits of local educational institutions. Furthermore, he underscored the necessity of promoting high-quality research alongside conventional education to enhance competitiveness on the global stage. The minister said that Pakistan ranks fourth in the world in beef production while countries like New Zealand and Norway were famous for their cattle production. He stressed the need to improvise productivity of local dairy and poultry products to compete with the developed economies.